

[Shri S. L. Saksena]

extended. We do want that it should be done efficiently and it should be for the good of the people. I hope the hon. Minister will take care to see that the public undertakings in his charge are run properly.

Mr. Speaker: Further discussion will stand over till tomorrow.

Shri A. C. Guha: When will it be discussed in the early hours or again at 3 o'clock?

Mr. Speaker: We are taking away so much time from official business. I am asking them to surrender one hour. We can sit one hour more.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: On some of the Bills, the time allotted has been surrendered. They did not take so much time.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members must have this idea. That is essential in the parliamentary system. Time is allotted by the Government. They are the party in power. They can carry through a number of Bills and other work. That is why a small time is allotted to non-official business. We have so managed to enlarge that time from time to time. Whatever time is taken away is taken away from Government work. Under the circumstances, I will ask him. If he is willing, if they have no other work, we will start at 3 O'Clock tomorrow; otherwise, we will start at 4 O' Clock and carry on till 6. If we start at 3, we will conclude at 5.

17.10 hrs.

INDIAN TARIFF (AMENDMENT)*
BILL

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934.

Mr. Speaker: Before putting it to the vote of the House, I must say that the Minister must have at least given me notice.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): We had no notice.

Shri Manubhai Shah: It was sent to the Lok Sabha Secretariat yesterday with all the copies of the Bills, 40 or more copies as per usual procedure.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: It was not on the List of Business.

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is always done with the permission of Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: We got it today at 3.20 p.m. I have no objection. In future at least, I should know what exactly is going to be moved.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Can we not expect that we should also be provided with copies so that we may look into it and oppose it if necessary at the introduction stage?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members are aware that a Tariff Bill will defeat its own purpose if it is circulated in advance. That is why, during the Budget also, the Finance Bill is introduced after 5 O'Clock. This must be an exception to the ordinary rule. I do not want even copies of the Bill to reach me earlier lest it be said that it leaked out of my office here. The Minister can now orally say what exactly the Bill contains.

Shri Manubhai Shah: I will speak on it at the consideration stage. That is the usual procedure.

Mr. Speaker: What is the Bill?

Shri Manubhai Shah: All these years I have been moving this kind of Bill, and at no time at the introduction stage have I said anything. The objects and reasons are given in the

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Bill. It is the usual Tariff Amendment Bill which we bring from year to year. There was one in this particular session also. I shall speak at the consideration stage.

Mr. Speaker: If it were only left to me, I will say: all right, the hon. Minister may move, I will give my consent. But the House has to accept it. Therefore, hereafter let this procedure be followed. As soon as it is moved, I must be able to distribute copies to such of the hon. Members as want it.

An Hon. Member: Before.

Mr. Speaker: At the time of moving for leave the Minister may give a summary, a gist, of what exactly is contained in the Bill, and he need not circulate it earlier.

Shri Manubhai Shah: All these years, this has been the standard practice we have followed with your permission, that we introduce the Bill at 5 O' Clock, and that too, with earlier notice to the hon. Speaker. Then it is taken up at the appropriate time for consideration. If you order any other practice, we are prepared to follow that.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: The difficulty is we do not have the copy.

Shri Manubhai Shah: You cannot have the copy. It will be now circulated.

Mr. Speaker: It is not to be distributed beforehand. I am trying to find a *via media* between the two. The hon. Minister cannot be asked to introduce the Bill before 5 O' Clock, nor circulate the Bill, as the very object of moving it after 5 O' Clock will be defeated. Possibly he is going to implement it by the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act.

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is not that. It is all coming up after 31st December. All the tariff protections and protective duties have come into
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effect immediately with the passing of the resolutions of Government. This is only to give it a proper, formal, legal shape. This has been our practice.

Mr. Speaker: Then, what is the hurry? There is no good telling me it is a new or old practice. The interests of Parliament as a whole is the main consideration.

Shri Manubhai Shah: Shall I read out.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister need not rush to any conclusion. All that I can say is, this is merely a Tariff Bill, and it has already been given effect to. This is only to give it a legal shape. Nothing turns up at 5 O'Clock. He could have as well circulated it. What damage would have occurred then? In exceptional cases where if a copy is circulated there will be a change in the market, there will be fluctuation and so on, I am prepared to allow the motion without circulation of the copies beforehand. But if nothing turns upon this Bill, why should it be introduced without notice and at a late hour?

Shri Manubhai Shah: May I submit that we can discuss it later? This has been the practice for very good reasons. The same is the practice in the House of Commons, as far as I understand, because it has a certain amount of secret value as to the particular moment at which it is introduced. It has certain market repercussions. For the last several years, since the Parliament started working, this has been the practice that with your permission, at five O' clock, when the House is about to close its business, the Bill is introduced. We have got sufficient copies to circulate to all the Members, and the consideration will be taken up after a few days, when you order.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, I shall look into that matter in greater detail, so far as the practice is concerned.

[Mr. Speaker]

So far as this matter is concerned, [I shall] now put it to the House. Hereafter, I expect—whatever might have been the practice before—that on the day when any hon. Minister is allowed to introduce a Bill late in the day which he cannot introduce during the day lest there should be market fluctuations, he must, be able to give a short resume to the House of what he is moving so that I may not take the vote of the House even for the introduction of the Bill, blindfolded. Hon. Members have got a right to vote for it or against it. Unless they know its contents in some detail, they cannot be expected to vote for it or against it. Now, I shall make an exception, if that has been the

rule before. Hereafter, this shall be the rule.

The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934.”.

The motion was adopted.

Shri Manubhai Shah: I introduce* the Bill.

17.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, December 14, 1960/Agrahayana 23, 1882 (Saka).

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.