

can take adequate measures or suggest some measures to Government.

With the powers now proposed to be given, my fear is that Commission will not merely frame its report on the basis of its observation, but it will also try to collect some evidence, and try to make its file perfect.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Is the hon. Member concluding within the next two or three minutes?

**Shri Heda:** No, I would take some more time.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Then, he may continue tomorrow. Now, we shall take up the Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill, 1960.

15.02 hrs

INDIAN POST OFFICE (AMENDMENT) BILL

**The Minister of Transport and Communication (Dr. P. Subbarayan):** I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, be taken into consideration".

This measure is needed because we are changing from the ordinary tola to metric measures. What we have done is to equate the tola to the gramme. A tola is equal to 11.66 gms. but we are making it 10 gms. because it will not make much difference; in all the letters that we have seen being used, we have found that nobody generally uses more than 10 gms. So, this conversion would not send up the revenues, as people anticipate; it may send up a little, but it would not compensate for all that is needed.

As a matter of fact, a post-card which costs only five naye paise now actually causes a great deal of loss. It causes nearly Rs. 2 crores of annual loss to Government. But all that we

anticipate by the measures which we are now undertaking to translate tolas into gms. is that it will lead to a gain of only Rs. 40 lakhs, which I do not anticipate really, because when the accounts are finalised, it will be found that the gain is much less than anticipated. That is the reason why this Bill has been brought forward.

This is a very simple Bill, and I hope that there would not be much objection in having this Bill passed into law.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, be taken into consideration".

Now, Shri T. B. Vittal Rao. The hon. Member should be as brief as the hon. Minister.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam):** The hon. Minister has been brief because of something else.

Whenever this kind of conversion is done, we always find that advantage is taken of it to increase the rates and earn more revenue. As the hon. Minister himself has said, one tola is equal to 11.66 gms, whereas he is making it equal to 10 gms. actually. This means that the people will be called upon to pay much more than they have been paying so far.

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** I would like to point out to the hon. Member that if he wrote on four sheets of paper, then they would not even come to 10 gms. Therefore, there will be really no gain to Government, as he anticipates.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** There will be a loss of Rs. 2 crores on post-cards also.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** The hon. Minister is arguing out the point that a post-card costs much more actually. We know it very well, that a post-card costs much more than what it

[Shri T. B. Vittal Rao]

is priced at, because of the cost of handling and other things, but that is being sold at such a low rate because it is a public utility, and it is a necessity for the people.

But one thing that we have been urging upon Government is to stop the businessmen from using these post-cards for their business purposes. It is very easy for them to purchase these post-cards at the rate of five naye paise each, print on them and then use them for their business purposes. If they were to purchase their own post-cards and print on them and then affix the stamps, their cost would go up, but the cost to the exchequer could be brought down. We have been urging this all along, but nothing is being done about it.

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** I would like to point out that it will be discrimination under the Constitution.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** How can there be discrimination? I only want that it should be regulated. The post-card is meant for a particular purpose, namely, the communication of information from one person to another, but the businessmen do much more than that. Why should they not purchase their own post-cards, print on them and then affix the five naye paise stamps on them? By selling these post-cards, Government are not really subsidising the people so much as they are subsidising the businessmen. If Government are serious about it, they can easily stop the use of these post-cards by businessmen for their business purposes, and if that is done, the earnings of the Post and Telegraphs Department will really go up at least by 20 per cent, which means so many lakhs of rupees increase in revenue, and that would be of great benefit.

Of course, anybody will understand very easily that a tola is being made equal to 10 gms and it is easy for calculation purposes, but I would request the hon. Minister not to take

advantage of this and try to get a little more revenue. If he really wants to increase the revenue, then the solution which I would suggest, as I have been saying just now, is to stop the businessmen from using these post-cards for business purposes. Let them have their own cards and then affix the stamps on them.

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** I am not convinced by the arguments of my hon. friend Shri T. B. Vittal Rao. The point is that the post-cards are printed for the public as a whole. Of course, we are taking into consideration the poor man . . .

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Public is not exclusive of businessmen.

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** That is what I am saying. As a matter of fact, the post-card is really meant for the poor, and they use it a great deal. As a matter of fact, not merely businessmen but even private persons use the post-card and get into it as much matter as they can. So, my hon. friend might as well argue that we may restrict the number of lines or the number of words or the number of sentences that may be used in a post-card. That, of course, might make the businessman not adopt the post-card, because the number of lines will be restricted, and since he has got business to do, he will naturally use the letter. No doubt, that is a matter to be considered. But, to say that they should print their own cards and affix the stamps etc. would be an impossibility, because the post-cards are meant for the public as a whole. When we put our post-cards on sale, any person who is a citizen, or even a person passing through India can use a post-card by purchasing it. He is entitled to use it. That is the reason why this is not being done. When we produced the post-cards printed with the stamp on it, we are thinking of the poor no doubt. The price of it becomes less for him, because if he has his own postcard and he has to affix his own stamp on

it, the stamp would not cost more than 5 nP but the post-card will cost a little to him. So we will be really taxing the poor man in order to prevent businessmen from using the post-card. That is all I can say about it.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, be taken into consideration".

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** There are no amendments. The question is:

"That Clauses 1 and 2, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 1 and 2, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill*

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** I move:

"That the Bill be passed".

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

*The motion was adopted.*

15.12 hrs.

#### MOTION RE. SPORTS IN INDIA

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee** (Calcutta-Central): I beg to move:

"That the present situation of sports in India, with special reference to our loss of Olympic supremacy in hockey, be taken into consideration."

I should say at the beginning that I consider it a rather appropriate time for discussing this Motion because it

was only yesterday that the first cricket test match between India and Pakistan in the present series concluded. And I would like to take this opportunity of offering a welcome to Fazal Mahmood and his men, particularly because Pakistan, after all, is a younger brother to us, and Fazal Mahmood and Haneef Mohammad have already won for themselves a position among the all-time stars in cricket. It is only proper that on this occasion we accord to our friends from Pakistan a most cordial welcome.

Perhaps we do not have to learn many things from Pakistan, but at least in regard to cricket, we can learn something of the cohesion, concentration and devotion which they have displayed. Our team, luckily, is captained by the youngest cricketeer in India who has ever been in charge of a cricket team. I wish that the better team wins in the series.

At Rome where the Olympic games were staged, we lost the hockey crown which India has proudly worn for over 30 years. Ever since 1928 when hockey was included for the first time as an item in the Olympic games, India has been the champion. In 1928—I am very happy to recall—our hockey team was captained by our friend and colleague, Shri Jaipal Singh. Perhaps the playful grace which we notice in our friend even as a parliamentarian is due to the large role that he has played in the development of sports in this country. In Australia, we met the great cricketeer, Constantine, who has become a Minister in the West Indies. Perhaps like Constantine, Jaipal Singh might well degenerate into being a Minister. But I do not propose to stand in his way. I wish him godspeed.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I hope the hon. Member has no such aspirations.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Perhaps I might claim that I am ascetic enough to have no such aspiration.

**Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri** (Nabadwip): He is a Professor.