

letters that we have received welcome the decision of the Select Committee. I am happy the Committee gave a unanimous report. There was no question of any minute of dissent. Shri Bharucha and Shri Masani took a leading part in the Select Committee deliberations and their viewpoints were fully met by the Committee. I commend the report of the Select Committee to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to regulate dividends on preference shares of certain companies, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are no amendments to the clauses.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 7, clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 7, clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as reported by the Select Committee, be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as reported by the Select Committee, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.59 hrs.

MOTOR TRANSPORT WORKERS BILL

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the welfare of motor transport work-

ers and to regulate the conditions of their work, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

Hon. Members must have gone through the report of the Joint Committee placed on the Table of the House on the 5th December. I would briefly refer to some of the more important changes made by the committee. The original Bill did not provide for any target date for enforcement. It has now been recommended that the new law should come into force in all States by 31st December, 1961. Its scope has also been widened considerably. It would now cover every motor transport undertaking employing 5 or more workers instead of 10 or more, as originally provided. The State Governments have also been given power to apply it to such undertakings employing even less than five workers.

15 hrs.

Originally, there was provision for classification of motor transport services into three distinct classes, namely, city services, long distance passenger service and long distance freight service. This classification has been done away with and uniform hours of work and spread-over have now been prescribed for all classes of services.

Daily and weekly hours of rest have been fixed at 8 and 48 respectively, while the spread-over is not to exceed 12 hours in a day. As regards split duty, the number of spells of duty have now been reduced from 3 to 2.

For effective enforcement of law the powers of the inspectors have been enlarged to enable them to stop a vehicle and seize documents etc., if necessary.

Another modification made by the Committee relates to exemption. Power has been given to State Governments to exempt supervisory and managerial staff and also part-time workers from the provisions of this enactment. They will, however, have to send to the Central Government an advanced

[Shri Abid Ali]

copy of the modifications granting such exemption.

A large number of memoranda and representations were received from employers' and workers' organisations and also quite a few of their representatives appeared before the committee to give evidence. All that was taken into consideration and on that basis a report has been submitted. To begin with, a large number of amendments were proposed but, during the course of the discussions, the differences were considerably narrowed down and the report which has been placed here is, fortunately, almost unanimous. Sir, I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved.

"That the Bill to provide for the welfare of motor transport workers and to regulate the conditions of their work, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

Shri Braj Raj Singh.

श्री ब्रजरज सिंह (फिरोजाबाद)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय,

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He might continue his speech the next day, as we have to take up the next item now.

15.02 hrs.

**MOTIONS RE: PUBLICATION ON
THE PUBLIC SECTOR INDUSTRIES
AND PUBLIC SECTOR UNDER-
TAKINGS**

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motions moved by Shri Harisri Chandra Mathur on 13th December, 1960, namely:—

- (i) "That this House takes note of the Publication on the Public Sector Industries, laid on

the Table of the House on the 9th March, 1960."

- (ii) "That the question of placing public sector undertakings on sound basis in regard to their forms, organisation, parliamentary control and the financial principles which should govern them, be taken into consideration."

Shri Mahanty. There will be a time-limit on speeches.

Shri Mahanty (Dhenkanal): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at least in one aspect the public sector has overdone the private sector, and that is in its hyper-sensitiveness. The public sector is today so hyper-sensitive that if anybody voices any criticism, however constructive it may be, the attitude is "don't touch me" or "those who are not with me are against me". That seems to be the mental equation in the mind of the public sector. Therefore, I am a little hesitant to offer my views and comments on the functioning of our public sector and I hope and believe it will not be misunderstood.

Now, according to me, the public sector is not a socialist luxury. It has got a role to play and it has got an objective to fulfil. According to me there are two criteria which are important in considering the working of public sector undertakings, and they are, No. 1, its contribution to our Plan resources and, No. 2 its attitude, its behaviour, its demeanour as an employer in the country.

Coming to its contribution to our Plan resources, during the Second Plan I believe all our thousands of crores of investment must have brought us a paltry sum of Rs. 4 crores or 5 crores. I believe that is the figure, because no figures have been given to us. Coming to the Third Plan, Sir, the draft outline has mentioned that the public sector's contribution is about Rs. 440 crores, out of which Rs. 140 crores will be contri-