

AMENDMENT TO CENTRAL EXCISE RULES

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): I beg to lay on the Table, under Section 38 of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944, a copy of the Notification No SRO 2108 dated the 29th June 1957, making certain further amendments to the Central Excise Rules, 1944 [Placed in Library See No S-132/57]

NAVY BILL—contd

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with further consideration of the motion moved by the Minister of Defence on the 22nd July 1957, for referring the Navy Bill to a Joint Committee

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon) Mr Speaker, Sir, in moving that the Navy Bill be referred to Joint Committee on behalf of Government, I sought to observe here the general rule that we were to deal with the main and salient principles of the proposed legislation. Owing to the considerable interest evinced in the Indian Navy and the attention that various Members had given to the study of this Bill clause by clause, the debate went much further afield and not only covered matters that are not strictly relevant to the Bill at all, but went into the consideration of the various clauses of the Bill in a very detailed manner

With great respect, if I were to pursue this procedure, I am afraid I shall tire the patience of the House. There will be opportunity for the Joint Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause and, therefore, in replying to the debate, I propose to deal with the main set of observations that were made during the debate

Government is happy to feel that the Bill has received general welcome in the House. The utmost criticism of it has been that there are some

drawbacks in it. I hope the time will never come when a spokesman of the Government will ever be able to present to this Parliament a Bill which is free from drawbacks, because then the whole purpose of debate and our procedures would stand nullified

But I am not, as the Minister responsible, prepared to say that the Bill suffers from very serious drawbacks and while I am grateful for the observations made, I am rather sorry to say that criticism of only parts of a section without reference to the other parts has led to a great deal of confusion

Now, the first general onslaught on this Bill from one or two quarters has been that this too closely follows the British Act and that it is dominated by fear complex. First of all, may I say that there is no Navy Act in Britain as yet? They will have one. Probably it is being debated now in Parliament. Ours is ahead of their prior effort. If it is contended that we should not borrow the experience of other nations in our legislation particularly the experience of British legislation, then perhaps we would immediately have to consider the scrapping of the Government of India Act, and the rules which you, Mr Speaker, follow in this House—I think, they closely follow the rules of the British Parliament

We have had to take the experience of other peoples and adapt them to our own purposes, not forgetting the social purposes of our community and not forgetting also that this is a law governing the Navy. It is not a law regulating the Hindu Joint Family? Therefore, its purpose is to maintain an efficient Navy under modern conditions, and such penal provisions as may appear in it also reflect the modern trend of opinion

Not only have we not borrowed any Act, but we have made considerable adaptations to suit our conditions and there is no reason to think that the British or any other Parliament may not benefit by our experience