

Friday, August 29, 1997/Bhadra 7, 1919 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Four Minutes past
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

RE : BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a request.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : We are extremely happy that this debate is going well and there is a lot of enthusiasm among Members. In all parties there is a long list of speakers pending. I think, in this Golden Jubilee year of our Independence, nobody should go back home unhappy. Taking the sense of the House, we are also extremely grateful to Vajpayeeji, who has told us informally that he would agree with any adjustment so that Members can speak. Keeping that in view, I shall appeal to you to extend the time of the House as well as the dates of the House so that we, Whips, can save our job.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : I fully endorse his views, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much. In fact, I had very quick consultations in the morning with the leaders of the political parties, the Leader of the House, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. It has now been agreed that the House will sit today and tonight as also tomorrow and tomorrow night. The final intervention by the Prime Minister, and summing up by the Mover of the Motion Shri Vajpayee will be on Monday.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, the Whips of the Parties will speak on that day.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, let us see.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI G.G. SWELL (Shillong) : Sir, many of us have made programmes to go to our homes tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER : Those who want to go home, they could do so but should come back quickly. I must appeal to everybody that they should come back on Monday because that is the day when we would be adopting certain Resolutions.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Sir, that, you know, is not possible for me ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, on Monday, let it be completed before lunch ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot say that it will be completed before lunch, but we will conclude it on Monday depending now on the new demand made by the Whips. They are going to whip the Speaker, I do not know! Let us see. But on Monday it will be completed.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I must thank the hon. Members, particularly those who were present here throughout the night, till this morning. I have been reported that 22 members of Parliament who had been waiting to speak last night and sat up to 5.40 A.M. this morning could not get a chance to speak in spite of their being present in the House throughout the night. I would like to assure you that those Members would get priority.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the decision taken by the Business Advisory Committee is acceptable to all. As the business for the 1st has already been decided when it has to be replied, an amendment should be made that on the first hon. Prime Minister and the leader of opposition would speak between 3 to 5 P.M.

MR. SPEAKER : Practically, it will be done in that manner only.

[English]

SHRI I.D. SWAMI (Karnal) : Sir, we, who have never been orators, feel very much handicapped because of the time limit of ten or twenty minutes. Such members cannot express their views within that limit and. ... (Interruptions) the leaders' known orators take one hour ... (Interruptions) Sir, how could we express our views within such a short time? ... (Interruptions) Sir, the rules should be changed ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is a valid point. I hope, the senior Members would keep it in mind. Let us stick to the time schedule.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer) : Sir, the interest of the new Members are not being looked after ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA (Serumpore) : Sir, we were given to understand that the hon. members will confine their speeches on a particular subject. But fortunately or unfortunately, everybody is covering all the subjects.

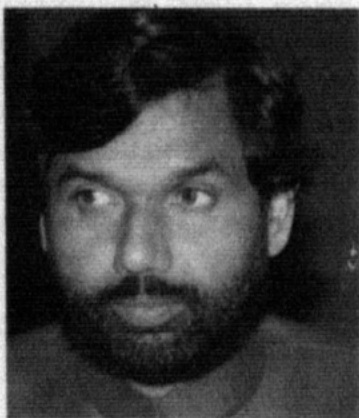
Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission before you is that if you could kindly have a talk with the Leaders of the political parties in this regard so that the members confine their speeches only on one particular subject. That will help us and the people also.

MR. SPEAKER : I will talk to them.

Now, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Leader of the House would initiate the debate.

11.10 hrs.

MOTION RE : STATE OF DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, ECONOMIC SITUATION, POSITION OF INFRASTRUCTURE, ACHIEVEMENTS AND POTENTIAL IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND STATE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY—Contd.



SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much. We were not fortunate enough to witness the moment of Independence of our country but our senior members, who are sitting here, had not only witnessed that very moment but had also participated in the freedom struggle. After 50 years of Independence, you have taken initiative for this

historic discussion to take place. The level of discussion during the last four days has been of very high standard. It is but natural to have some differences among the Members in the House but the discussion is going on smoothly. As you have just said, this discussion will be extended to the next three days, I feel that some unanimity or result will be arrived at.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that on many issues there is unanimity among the Members. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and the leader of the Opposition had given some suggestions about the smooth functioning of the House, on which there is unanimity in House. I think our democratic system will be strengthened by these suggestions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not speaking here as a Minister but as a Member. As I said at the outset, the Members will be putting forward these views as their personal views. I too want to say something in my personal capacity. India is a big country, then why it had remained a slave for such a long period? Unless we go into these causes, we will not reach a conclusion. I do not think India's economic backwardness was one of the major reasons behind it. Once our country was very well known for its prosperity. The foreign invaders came and looted this country. In fact India was a rich country. India remained slave for a long period. The main reason of our enslavement was our mental enslavement. We can make up our physical weakness but it takes centuries to make up the mental weakness. In this regard, it can be said that one of the major reasons for our enslavement was our mental slavery. Caste system is the main reason behind this. How this caste system had come into existence? The caste system had further developed into sub-caste system. Why did it happen? Many reasons can be attributed therefor. For instance, politicians can be blamed today. There is a class of politicians. Likewise, we have a class of bureaucrats, businessmen and so on. Caste system might have come into existence because people were engaged in different professions. It had a great impact on caste system. The Sikhs, Muslims and Christians are all Indians and they did not come from any foreign land. All are progeny of the same God. Guru Gobind Singh founded the Khalsa Panth and advised his followers to adorn "Kesh, Kangha, Kachha, Kada and Kirpan." This religion had not come from any foreign land. Whom had he chosen his 'Punj Payaras'? They were all from lower caste. When Muslims came from across the border to India, Islam was already there in our country. The first battle of Panipat was fought between two Muslims, i.e. between Babar and Ibrahim Lodhi. It was not fought between two Hindu Kings. When Ibrahim Lodhi invaded India, he had an army of only 1,200 soldiers. Now, the population of Muslims in India is 14 crores and their population in Pakistan and Bangladesh put together