

12.01 hrs.

MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE IN
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received two notices of motions of no-confidence in the Council of Ministers under Rule 198, one from Shri C. M. Stephen, Leader of the Opposition, and the other from Shri Hitendra Desai, Shri T. A. Pai, Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi, Shri K. Gopal and Shri K. Lakkappa. The first notice is by Shri C. M. Stephen. The motion, as slightly edited, reads as follows:—

"This House expresses its want of confidence in the Council of Ministers."

May I request those Members who are in favour of leave being granted to this motion to rise in their places? I think, there are more than 50 Members, who have stood up. Leave is granted. May I ask the Government as to when this motion can be taken up?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): On a point of order under rule 198. I was wanting to be informed whether the motion was received yesterday or today...

MR. SPEAKER: The motion was received yesterday.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): Sir, you have already given your ruling. The leave has been granted. He should have raised the point of order before. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I must first hear him. He cannot go into that, leave having been granted.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: This Government is quite competent to face the no-confidence motion. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot raise any question as regards the motion, leave having been granted. If there is any other objection, I have to consider it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Why are they scared? The Government have gladly accepted to discuss the no-confidence motion.

Sir, I invite your kind attention to rule 198(1) (b) which reads:

"the member asking for leave shall, before the commencement of the sitting for that day give to the Secretary-General a written notice of the motion which he proposes to move."

The words are 'that day'. You said, Sir, that the motion was received yesterday. The motion should have been given today.

MR. SPEAKER: No. There is no point in that.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): May I say that I was expecting this no-confidence motion for some time? At any rate it has done one good and that is, it has combined the two who were not combined. (Interruptions) It will also help me to strengthen my Party. I would like this to be taken up today because such things should not be left in suspense. I would not like to remain here for one minute longer if the No Confidence Motion is adopted. Let it be done today. I welcome it today and let it be done today.

MR. SPEAKER: There is another Motion...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am on a point of order in regard to Rule 376. I have come to know that the Prime Minister, in his wisdom, has made a statement that there will be two Reports which he proposes to lay on the Table of the House, arising out

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

of the proceedings of the Shah Commission...

MR. SPEAKER: That is not the subject matter. No, I am not allowing it. There is no point of order. That does not arise at all. Don't record.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I would like to meet the leaders of all the parties at one o'clock in my chamber so that we can settle the date and time.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): But the Prime Minister wants it today, and he is right in wanting so.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Let it be done today or tomorrow; let it be fixed for either today or tomorrow.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Idukki): May I make a submission?

Anything that is good for my country is good ultimately. Now that the Prime Minister has said that this has served two good purposes, namely combining us and combining them, as far as this unity is concerned, it is all for the good and if it has come about, I am happy about it.

Now, regarding the time of the discussion, I would like to inform the House that I had an informal discussion with the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and, when I asked him whether this would be taken up today itself, I was told that the time could be settled. (Interruptions). I am relating what happened.

As for me, the Rule contemplates that it must not be taken up on a date beyond ten days; that is what the Rule stipulates. Now, on a motion like this, I do not want to throw it upon the House as a surprise. Every Member must have time to consider this. Therefore... (Interruptions) I am not against discussing the motion straightaway. (Interruptions). Sir,

you permitted me to make a submission. It is not as if anybody is against... (Interruptions). Well, Sir, it is only now that the House has admitted the motion: it is only now that the House has given leave for introducing the motion. Certainly, we do not want to delay the discussion, but we want to be fair to different Parties (Interruptions) and I say, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs told me that they would not ask for a discussion today itself. If the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs says 'No' then the matter is different. Therefore... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Singh, please sit down. You have got to hear this: hear both the sides.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): I was surprised to hear my hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition say that I had said I will not ask for this being taken up today. A No Confidence Motion is not a light affair. It is quite certain that the Leader of the Opposition must have given anxious thought to it before he introduced or sought the leave of the House to introduce the Motion. What I told him was that it is the prerogative of the Speaker, according to the Rules of Procedure, to fix the day and time; but our Prime Minister will get up and say that we want the discussion immediately... (Interruptions) because we do not want to postpone the debate on this question. This is a very important question; we are not afraid and we want a discussion immediately, but it is for you, Sir, to fix the day and time. I did not say that we will not ask for a discussion immediately. In fact, I told him, the Prime Minister would get up and say this... (Interruptions)

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: All that I am bringing to your notice and the notice of the leaders of the various parties is this. It is not a question of convenience for the Prime Minister

**Not recorded.

or for me; it is convenience of the different parties which constitute the House also. They must have also time; Members must have time. If that is not necessary, as for me I am prepared straightway to move on to that, but I leave the entire matter to you, I am prepared... (Interruptions)

SHRI HITENDRA DESAI (Gadhra): We have no objection if the matter is taken up today.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrack-pore): Sir, it is very relevant today. The Prime Minister is here; there are newspaper reports that the Home Minister has resigned. The Prime Minister must make a statement on that matter... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: No, that has nothing to do with this. You are introducing an irrelevant topic.

SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO (Karimnagar): You have admitted this no-confidence motion. The Prime Minister said that the discussion should be taken up immediately, but he cannot force you, you will have to decide it; it is entirely your prerogative.

MR. SPEAKER: He is only making a suggestion.

SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO: The Prime Minister cannot force you.

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody is forcing me. I am merely trying to find out their opinion.

SHRI H. L. PATWARY (Mangal-dol) rose

MR. SPEAKER: You are no more 'patwari' here; please sit down. I am on my legs. It is a matter for me to decide.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Dohi Sadar): But this is the consensus of the House.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE (Mukandapuram): The Leader of the Opposition has expressed his views on this. There is another motion also, where 1115 IS-18.

the first name is of Shri Hitendra Desai. It is quite natural that the views of the other no-confidence motion movers are also taken.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already expressed his opinion.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: We have no objection to its being taken up today, because Government is in a very serious position; the Home Minister has sent his resignation. It is time for them to get... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you kindly allow the debate to go on in a proper manner. It is for me to decide one way or the other. I have understood the point; no more discussion. I am not allowing any further discussion; it is for me to decide.

Now that both sides want to have it today, we will take it up today at 2.00 p.m. after lunch. I will fix up the time and distribute it among the various parties. That will be announced.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): We want at least two days.

MR. SPEAKER: It is for me to decide.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: You must have a discussion for fixing the duration of this debate.

MR. SPEAKER: For deciding the time and how much time to be given to the various parties, the leaders of the various parties or their representatives may meet me in my chamber at 1 O'clock, so that we may decide this.

SHRI JYOTIRMAY BOSU: On four different occasions...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bosu, we are meeting at 1 p.m. and your Party can represent there.

Now, Papers to be laid.
Shri Jagjivan Ram.