

a section of employees resulting in tax evasion. Therefore, the Committee recommended that the States may within their own Constitutional rights and specific characteristics, choose to streamline the system of levy, assessment and collection of octroi and entry tax with a view to reducing the delay and tax evasion. However, no action lies on the part of the Central Government on the recommendation of the Committee, since this is a State Subject.

12.00 hrs.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Well, would you like to say something Shuklaji?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAM SHUKLA): In the meeting, Sir, that was called in your Chamber, certain discussion took place and certain understanding was reached about the business of the House. We will make a statement on behalf of the Government on the Gian Prakash Report at 4.00 PM today. And after that we can decide on what day and at what time, we start a discussion on that statement. Sir, the listed business, the Government Ordinances and the financial business should be over before the debate on the Gian Prakash Report starts. And after that the Report of the ATR, as promised, would be laid on the Table of the House tomorrow and we can fix the time and the duration of the debate on ATR to be held in the House. The RP (Amendment) Bill was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee has made certain recommendations which are under examination. Before coming here, I checked up with the Law Ministry as to whether they have given their recommendations to the PM, with the Law Minister also, on that or not. That query has not been answered but I hope as soon as I get back to my chamber, I will be able to get this information from the Minister of State for Law who is looking after that. And we will have to hold a discussion on that debate and if possible, pass it. We will try our best to cooperate and with the cooperation of the hon. Members, we would like to pass that Bill. There is no difficulty as far as we are concerned but priority, how we do that, all that has to be decided. And with your assistance and guidance. Sir, we will be able to fix the priority for these discussions. This is the understanding we have agreed and on that we will proceed.

MR. SPEAKER: I think this arrangement should be all right with us for the time being. There are some other issues which the hon. Members want to raise. I think they should have the opportunity to raise the issues.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): With regard to his statement I have to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. I will allow you. We propose to allow other Members also to raise the issues briefly and allow as many as Members as is possible to cover as many issues as is possible and, then now we will take up the business as it mentioned in the list today and will try to complete it. I think, one understanding which was arrived at was that we would like to sit late in the night also if necessary to see that the business is completed.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Thank you Sir, there were certain proposals, suggestions and counter suggestions in the discussion in the sense that I had kept my options open. I am saying that we would like to have a categorical announcement from the Government on the Floor of the House as to when they are going to bring the Representation of People (Amendment) Bill. I wanted a categorical assurance on the date and time please. I will say that there will be time from 11 A.M. to 12 Noon and you can find out from your Department what is the position with regard to Ministry of Law and so on and so forth. That assurance has not come. Only saying that it will be passed is rather vague.

Secondly, making the statement is all right. But if the statement is a mere summary of the Gian Prakash Committee Report then it is not good because the country knows what is in the Report and probably the newspapers have done a better summary than you will do. Therefore, you say what action the Government has taken or is going to take. That should be stated to us, otherwise there is no point in having a summary of what has already come out in the newspapers.

So far as the ATR is concerned, of course, we are saying that there is time till tomorrow and we would like to have a full discussion on it. We should have two ATRs—ATR on security scam and ATR on sugar scandal. Then, we have RPA Bill before us. These three are the priorities. Subject to that, I said, certainly whether we dislike or not, we have to participate in the discussion on the Bills replacing the Ordinances and for that we are prepared to sit late, so that there may not be any misunderstanding.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow Shri V.S. Rao and Shri Sharad Yadav.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): I have given a notice under Rule 222.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me have a look at it.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, it is against the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office. Please examine it.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot raise it unless I allow you to raise it. I cannot allow you to raise it unless I look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to repeat what Shri Somnathji has said but I agree with him. Discussion on electoral reforms is going on for years altogether. Two committees have been constituted for the purpose and there has generally been the unanimity of the House in both the committees. Last time a special session was convened but we could not find a way out with regard to electoral reforms in that too. During the last session, the Government said that it will definitely come up with an Electoral Reform Bill in this session and the Standing Committee had given its unanimous consent on that Bill....

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: It was not unanimously agreed upon but it was divided on lines.