

12.33 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE
MEMBERS' BILLS AND
RESOLUTIONS

Twenty-eighth Report

[English]

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH
(Tumkur): Sir, I beg to present the
Twenty-eighth Report (Hindi and English
versions) of the Committee on Private
Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.33 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Fifty-Ninth Report

[English]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR
RAWAT (Agra): Sir, I beg to present the
Fifty-Ninth Report (Hindi and English
versions) of the Public Accounts
Committee on Action Taken on 27th
Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on
Procurement of Defective Imported
Parachutes.

12.34 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thirty-Eighth Report

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL
(Chandigarh): Sir, I beg to move:—

"That this House do agree with the
Thirty-Eighth Report of the

Business Advisory Committee
presented to the House on the 1st
March, 1994."

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That this House do agree with the
Thirty-Eighth Report of the
Business Advisory Committee
presented to the House on the 1st
March, 1994."

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr.
Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the fifth
item of 38th Report of B.A.C.—

[English]

"The Committee also recommend
that the discussion on the final act
embodying the results of Uruguay
Round of multi later trade
negotitations may be taken up on
Staurday, the 19th March, 1994."

[Translation]

It is an extended date and a
Saturday. The Dunkel proposals which
have come in the form of a final act, have
created commotion all over the country....

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All the more
reason for you to be present in the House.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA
(Midnapore): That is true, but you have to
do justice to the subject.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: That is the concluding day. Two days time should have been allotted for that...
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The House will be half deserted. You cannot do justice to the subject like that.

MR. SPEAKER: The problem is we have a time-bound business to transact and that is why we were struggling to find time to complete the business which is to be transacted. It is time-bound, statutory and they are constitutional obligations. Ultimately, it was decided at the suggestion of the hon. leaders of different parties that let us take it up on 19th. We agreed to it. Supposing it is not convenient, we can take it up later on also.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The last date for signing is 15th of April. So, how can it be done like this?... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Please listen to me for a minute. On 10th of this month, the negotiating team will go there for finalising the issue. The agreement is likely to be signed on the 15th of April. The Session will be adjourned on 18 and the date, which you have fixed, is 19th. It is my humble suggestion that the discussion on this subject be held on 22nd and 23rd of March.

MR. SPEAKER: You, please start it on 19th. If more time is required, we will look into the matter later on.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I could not complete my submission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand this. You have been a member of the Business Advisory Committee; you are also invited there. Such matters cannot be discussed on the floor of the House. That is why, we take your advice and we decide. Once we receive the advice and decide, and you again raise it in the House, then the matter has to be finally decided on the floor of the House. If you really have some objection, if you want more time for that, and if the House agrees to that, I shall have no objection to that. But you cannot have the cake and eat it also. If this is an important matter, if the time is fixed and if you need more time, let us decide it, but at a different forum and not here.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is correct that we could not attend the meeting but Shri Srikanta Jena was there. It was decided that the whole debate be held on 19th. Later on, many Hon. Members told me that they have their programmes fixed elsewhere on Saturday and hence they would be unable to attend the House on that day. It is a serious matter. Therefore, I request your honour to reconsider it. It will not look proper if only those Members remain in the House who are going to speak. The debate should be meaningful and effective. This is the opinion of all. It will be better, if some way is evolved.

MR. SPEAKER: It is true that you want a discussion on this subject. It was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee that this matter can be discussed during the discussion on President's Address, or during general debate. Moreover, a discussion on foreign trade is going to be held here. By and large it has been agreed that besides these three occasions, it would be difficult to hold another discussion on this subject because there is no time. I would talk to you in this regard later on.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): I had submitted an amendment to B.A.C's list of business last time and had stated that there were three occasions when it could be discussed. You are well aware of this fact that regarding the final draft of the Dunkel Proposal which has come in the format of the final text, Japan, probably the highest beneficiary of the world, has announced publicly that its Parliament has so much business on its hand throughout the year that it cannot spare time to discuss it during this period. It has told that it can give its final verdict only in February next year. Different countries have different views to give their consent on it. It has been stated in the GATT that various countries could give their consent keeping in view their various methods. A country like Japan has decided to hold a national discussion on this important document in February next year. There may be difference of opinion on this issue. The differences openly came to surface in the House. These differences will remain in future also. They will remain outside the House also. But it is not known for how long this decision will remain in force. Discussion has already been held on this document when its draft was in its initial

stage. But now it has been changed. We have two drafts. I have got the final text from Parliament which is going to be signed. We did not get the Dunkel draft. There was only one copy of the Dunkel draft in the Library, whereas the total number of Members of both the Houses is 795. We have made our opinion after going through the final draft. But opinion of the Government is different on it. Therefore, the final text should be discussed elaborately. We should be given opportunity to present our views on it. It should be discussed for full two days.

MR. SPEAKER: I have no objection.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: You can allot 21st and the 22nd for this purpose before the adjournment of the House ... (*Interruptions*). The only difficulty is that Members have already chalked out their programmes. You may fix any date for this purpose in the last week of March... (*Interruptions*). Since it is to be signed on the 15th April it is of no use to hold discussion after that date. Let time take its own course. Our opinion and that of the Government are different in this regard. Then the battle will be settled in streets. I am talking this seriously. I am not joking and there is lot of tension and difference of opinions. You know it better than anybody else. Since you have taken keen interest in the outcome of the negotiations and other related matters, you know better all about this. I, therefore, would like to request that the date for discussion be fixed either in the last week of March or in the first week of April because, the Marrakesh meeting will start on 11th, and the agreement will be signed

on the 15th. Therefore, one day before of after its commencement a discussion should be held so that the opinion of the country is known before the Indian delegation is sent there. There is difference of opinions in the world. As you are aware that after the formation of NAFTA, wide-spread gun battle started in Mexico. There is total revolt there. The Prime Minister of Japan was compelled to apologise before his countrymen on this subject and he accepted that whatever had been done was wrong. He accepted it, though at the same time he asserted that there was no other alternative. Our Government also keeps on repeating that there was no other opinion. But atleast America or the world must understand that the Government of India is going to do it out of compulsion and the entire nation is against it. America must know this.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, alongwith you, Shri Sharad Yadav and some other hon. Members have also suggested that a different programme should be chalked out. I would discuss it but presently let it go. If you want to alter the programme and if it is the general opinion, it will be chalked out after eliciting the opinion of all Members. But today let it go as it is.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Thank you very much, Sir. But no technical point should be raised at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: What sort of technical point?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: In the sense that as the report has been endorsed today, therefore, on the 19th....

MR. SPEAKER: You can change the report in the House at any time. There cannot be any objection.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): What is being decided? Will it be discussed on the 19th or not?

MR. SPEAKER: Today the report is being submitted in the present form. I will call you and discuss it later on and if something new is decided, we will look into that.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Then leave the discussion on 19th.

MR. SPEAKER: No, Vajpayeeji, let it go. If it becomes necessary to change it, we will do it. But it will not be proper to leave it incomplete. It will be done according to your wish.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you must be remembering the circumstances in which the Business Advisory Committee yesterday decided that the House may sit on 19th.

MR. SPEAKER: You yourself had submitted and you got it fixed.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Yesterday an opinion was gaining ground that it would be difficult to spare time as lot of business is to be cleared yet. Then consensus for 19th was arrived at. However, if two sittings are necessary then it would be difficult to fix a sitting for 20th. Members are opposed to sit on 19th itself. Now if another date is to be fixed, then will the House be sitting between the intervening recess?

MR. SPEAKER: Then it could be disposed off when the House meets again.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
The House can discuss at the earliest on 16th April, but by that time it will be already signed.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I submitted that if the discussion is scheduled for a later date it will be meaningless. That's why 19th has been fixed.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, I want to make two submissions and not one. First is this, I argue for having it for two days just because of this reason that there are already different facets in favour of discussing Dunkel Draft which have been said by the hon. Minister. I want to draw your attention to this. It has so many facts that one Member for each party would not be adequate to speak on Dunkel Draft. Therefore, more than two days or at least two full days would be required to discuss this. That is one point.

I agree with the suggestion that either it can be debated on Monday and Tuesday or any two days between the adjournment of the House on the 18th and its re-assembling.

MR. SPEAKER: You apply your mind to the schedule and let me know.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, I have another point also.

MR. SPEAKER: I would be very happy to get your advice.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, I have another point.

(Interruptions) The other point that I am trying to make is, I was accidentally...

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not throw the baby in my lap. You may decide yourself.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, when you called the meeting of the leaders of different parties, I did suggest that instead of Saturday, we can fix on Monday and Tuesday. But, BAC in its wisdom did not agree to it; it is okay. I have the other point here. I see the heavy schedule on the 18th. It is an abstract proposition. Some of the ordinances there, are very important and they would be hotly debated. There is also an ordinance on mines and minerals. Friday is a 'Private Member Day'. On 19th, discussing them is impossible.

I remember your commenting in that meeting that all Ordinances can be discussed in the second leg of this session.

MR. SPEAKER: I was wrong on that point. I must confess. Constitutionally, it is required to be done. I have looked into the Constitution.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: In the first leg of the session?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I am sorry for having made that comment. When I looked into the Constitution, probably it was necessary.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Well, Sir, it is fine that sometimes you are wrong. That puts us in an advantage.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, if you feel happy, I am always wrong for you.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Apart from that, if on the 19th we are not sitting, on the last day, we do not sit till 10 p.m. Therefore, such a huge business cannot be disposed of on that day.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the point you are making? Let it be very brief.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: On 18th, all these cannot be disposed of.

MR. SPEAKER: You apply your mind and give me the schedule. I will consider it along with other Members' suggestions.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you as well as the leaders of the various parties have already put forth their viewpoints. We urge you once again to convene the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee to fix dates for the sittings.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is correct. I accept Mr. Paswan's suggestion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am putting it. Even if it is necessary it can be changed.

That which you decide can be changed by you also.

The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-Eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 1st March, 1994."

The motion was adopted.

12.47 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to Expedite the Expansion Programme of National Aluminium Company in Orissa

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): Sir, the National Aluminium Company has been facing serious financial crisis ever since that public sector undertaking got itself involved in the stock-market. The expansion programme has been inordinately delayed on this account.

The original estimated cost of NALCO's expansion programme was Rs. 970 crore. The Public Investment Board had approved this investment last year. But the proposal remained pending with the Central Government till the end of January, 1993. The proposed expansion programme was to be undertaken at Damanjodi in Orissa. The increase in capacity of the alumina plant and mines was included under the expansion and modernisation plan. There was absolutely no problem of resources as NALCO was to bear the cost from its fund. But it is learnt that the Ministry of Mines could not complete the requisite formalities in time. The cost has now escalated to Rs. 1,096 crore. In a meantime, the Ministry of Mines has approved the establishment of