

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next Items are General Discussion on Budget (General) and Demands for Grants on Account (General). These are to be discussed together. I am told by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister that he wants the Demands for Grants on Account to be passed now.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): To whom are you addressing this question Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go on now.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The matter is being discussed with just five minutes to Private Members' Business.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, you will have to demand.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: That is not the point. You addressed a question.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): Sir, we had a discussion in the Speaker's Chamber while the Parliamentary Affairs Minister was also present. And there was an understanding generated that the vote on Demands for Grants on Account can be passed without discussion now and the rest of the time be consumed on that item itself. Mr. Kumaramangalam is present here. Am I interpreting you correctly? ...*(Interruptions)*... So Sir, there is just no point in trying to initiate the General Discussion on the Budget now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you want? Do you want that to be passed now? Unless the Government wants it, why do you raise it?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is not like that Sir. It is not a question of what the Government wants. It is a question of what the House wants.

The Government cannot move in this House without the consent of all of us. So, please put it correctly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But somebody must demand now. That is the work of the Government.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am demanding if you give me a chance. If you keep on talking, then I cannot even demand. I have been demanding. Now, there are two minutes left to the Private Members' Business. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had been in consultation with us and with the Speaker himself. This consultation has been going since yesterday. What we are submitting is we are ready, all of us are ready to pass the Demands for Grants on Account without discussion now, in the next ten minutes or so. And thereafter, the discussion on the Budget can be taken up in a more meaningful fashion starting from tomorrow morning at 11 AM and go on till Tuesday evening. So, we have got three full days of discussion and 15 hours have been allotted for discussion. I hope the Government will give its consent to this proposal.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): We have no objection at all since all the parties have been suggesting that it will give them a little easiness in regard to the guillotine timing which we will have to go through. We can have the vote on Demands for Grants on Account passed now and then we will have the discussion on the Budget completed by Tuesday evening. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, if you want to put the matter to the sense of the House, postponing the Private Members' Business by ten minutes will enable the Treasury Benches to properly

word the Vote on Accounts. You can move a Motion in that ten minutes time and without discussion, this House can pass the vote on account so that the Finance Minister does not suffer from palpitation. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: There is no problem from our side. The Chair has to put it to the vote of the House. We are waiting for the papers to come. It is an administrative exercise. You have to give the office some time.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): If you require 15 minutes, we have no objection. You can have it.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I have a proposal. At 5.30 after the Private Members' Business is over, we can take up the Vote on Account and put it to the vote of the House immediately. Then we can start the Half an Hour Discussion.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Cooch Bihar): You may adjourn the House for 10 or 15 minutes.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: There is no requirement to adjourn the House. We can take it up at 5.30 PM.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is 3 O'clock. Shall we go to the next item?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: There is something that I would draw your attention to. The mover of the Resolution regarding religious shrines, Shri Zainal Abedi is receiving letters repeatedly threatening his life for moving that Resolution in the House. We have already talked to the Speaker and we have also submitted copies of those threatening letters to the Speaker. As members of this House, we certainly need the protection of the Speaker. But we

also want to convey to the House just one point. On any subject being discussed in the House, cannot we take a view that no threat, whichever source it may emanate from, will cow down this House in discharging its duties?

These threats are in post cards, envelopes and inland letters.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have followed you. Please take your seat.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Will this message go round the country through you that nothing can silence the voice of a Member of Parliament in the House whoever he may be, whichever religion or complexion he has? Undaunted, we will pursue the point which serves the country. This message must go from the House. I want that this sentiment is seconded in one voice by all parts of the House, whether it be Right or Left. We should have a unanimous resolution. We must resolve that such threats will not silence the House and we all condemn it. This is all that I request you and all sides of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is an established parliamentary privilege that every member should have a right to speak here fearlessly and no threats can be given from anybody outside or inside the House. Therefore, his complaint is correct. I have been asked by the Speaker to convey that the member concerned should be given all protection in this respect and Government should take necessary steps in the matter.

Now, let us take up the next item.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Sir, I seek a clarification on one point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The matter is closed now. We cannot discuss everything again and again.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Sir, usually the custom in the House is that Resolutions and Bills are taken up on alternate Fridays. But I find that during the last three consecutive Fridays, the House is discussing the Resolution only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Discuss this point with the Speaker in his Chamber.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Discuss this long long time, we have this custom. I just want to know why this custom is now violated.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Let me clarify. The reason is that Bills are yet to be introduced.

the 12th July, 1991, was allotted for the transaction of Private Members' Resolutions.

The second Friday, that is, the 19th July, 1991, was allotted for the transaction of Private Members' Bills as also Resolutions. On that day Bills, which fulfilled the relaxed period of notice were introduced. The House will appreciate that the Bills could not have been taken up for consideration immediately after introduction as the ballot is required to be held to determine their *inter se* priority. The date for ballot had been announced before the beginning of the sessions in Bulletin-Part II, dated the 29th June, 1991. Therefore, on the 19th July, 1991 rest of the time available was utilised for the discussion of the part—discussed resolution on the agenda. A ballot for the Bills introduced on the 19th July, 1991 was accordingly held on the 22nd July, 1991 and the result of ballot notified in the Bulletin-Part II of that date. The Private Members' Business relating to Bills cannot be taken up today, the 26th July, 1991, due to constraints of procedure requiring Members to give notice for consideration of their Bills, which had gained priority at the ballot held on the 22nd July, 1991, within a specified period, that is, upto the 25th July, 1991. The List of Business of Private Members' Business is also required to be circulated to Members at least two days before the actual day on which the Private Members' business is to be taken up.

The Private Members' Bills will now be taken up on Friday, the 2nd August, 1991.

15.05 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

(b) Transaction of Private Members' Business

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have some announcement to be made on behalf of the Speaker. He says—

Let me explain the reason why Private Members' Bills cannot be taken up today. The first Friday was allotted for the transaction of business relating to Private Members' Resolutions, as usual. Also there was no Bill pending, as all Bills had lapsed with the dissolution of last Lok Sabha. Accordingly, the first Friday, that is,