

13.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till twenty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(5) Increase the time allocated for Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1981-82 by 2 hours."

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Twenty-seventh Report

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND
DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKA-
TASUBBAIAH): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 9th March, 1982."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Next item:—Notice of Amendment by Shri George Fernandes.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Mu-
zaffarpur): I beg to move:

"That in the Motion,
add at the end—

"Subject to modification—

- (1) Drop item (vii) Communications; and substitute in its place, in the order of priority, Labour.
- (2) Increase the time allocated for 'Labour' to 10 hours.
- (3) Reduce the time allocated to External Affairs to 6 hours.
- (4) Increase the time allocated to Agriculture and Rural Development to 12 hours and to Health and Family Welfare to 7 hours.

Sir, as you will have seen from the Resolution of the Report of the Business Advisory Committee, the External Affairs Ministry gets 10 hours while—well, I am not particularly enamoured of that—the Labour Ministry, which firstly figures at item 11 in the list of 26, have been allocated only 4 hours. Sir, we are currently in the 'year of productivity'. There is a lot of discontent among the workers. The Textile workers' strike in Bombay is not getting resolved. There are E.S.M.A. and the National Security Act. Only last month, almost every worker had been told that if he should ever again discuss in terms of freedom, then he would attract the mischief of the National Security Act and the ESMA. The Government is currently concerned with negotiating or not negotiating with the Joint Consultative Machinery and they are impounding the Dearness Allowances of the employees. The Prime Minister earlier, during this year, had said that she was to designate this year as one which is to be called as the "Year of Productivity". That was the slogan and none of these is reflected, particularly in so far as the proposal to have a discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Labour Ministry is concerned. I would, therefore, want that the time allocated for Labour must be increased from four hours to ten hours. I am suggesting dropping of Communications. The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs had called a meeting of party leaders. I was one of those who attended that meeting. In that meeting, it was agreed that Communications would not figure.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You were also once Minister for Communications.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Yes, very briefly; I wish I was there for a longer time.

We agreed at that point of time that no discussion on the Demands for Communications would be taken up. Even if Communications figures—because I am told, there are Members who are very keen to have a discussion on this—then, I do not think, in the scheme of things, it should attract the kind of priority that has been given to it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your party had a say in this matter in the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am now speaking as a Member of this House. I have had no say, and when I had my say, my say was that Communications need not be there. The Minister and everybody who had assembled there had accepted this proposal, but now I find that Communications is not only listed,—it has got priority over labour and it gets 50 per cent more time than labour. This is totally lopsided.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: But you took part in the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I did not. If I had, I could not have possibly moved this amendment. As Deputy-Speaker, you know the rules.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Because you were in the P&T, you do have soft corner for them.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Then, there is a ten-hour debate for External Affairs, while Defence taken only five hours. I am not going to discuss whether it should be five hours or less there, but I would suggest that you reduce the time that you have allocated for External Affairs and transfer that time to Agriculture and Rural Development, which gets only ten hours. This morning, we were discussing the question of cotton prices, and during the one hour that the Calling Attention motion took, a simple question like cotton prices could not be properly disposed of. I perso-

nally believe that this is one area along with Labour, where the House needs to have a very thorough discussion. I, therefore, suggest that the time that you take away from External Affairs should be added on to this. After all, what are you going to discuss in External Affairs? Our relations with our neighbours, I presume. I do not think, there is anything beyond that that you are going to discuss.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North East): The less said about that, the better.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: You are doing everything possible so that the relations go off the track.

Then, for Health and Family Welfare five hours have been allocated. I have suggested that 2 hours that you take off from External affairs should be added on to this.

Then, the Supplementary Demands. The Supplementary Demands are for a sum of Rs. 1881.66 crores, which is a sizeable amount of money. Are we going to dispose of this excess expenditure that the Government has incurred or is in the course of incurring, the entire question, in two hours time? This House is not able to dispose of simple questions like the cotton prices even in an hour; the JNU's question that figured in the morning took half an hour. But here is a question of Rs. 1881 crores excess expenditure, than what you had asked for last time. The entire budget, the manner in which you formulated your proposal seems to have gone wonky. You are coming now and saying that you have spent or are in the process of spending more. Two hours time is totally inadequate for this and my proposal is that it should be at least doubled to four hours.

I commend my amendment to the vote of the House. (Interruptions).

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: My Deputy-Speaker, Sir.... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nobody has given any notice. (Interruptions).

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Nobody knew that I was moving an amendment. (Interruptions).

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): On a point of order. Not that I want to impose a debate, but we do not want to lose our right. According to Rule 290, if an amendment is moved, there can be a debate; even the limit of half an hour is put. Limit on every Member's speech has been put as five minutes. Anyway, I do not want to exercise that, but I want to see that our rights are protected.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Nobody told me that he was moving an amendment. Not even you told me that.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Half-an-hour is given only to the Member who has given a notice.

MANY HON. MEMBERS: No, no.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Sir, these are the recommendations made by the Business Advisory Committee. You have very rightly pointed out that all the political parties are represented on that Committee. About the priorities, the date for discussion for various Demands will be fixed in consultation with the Ministries concerned. It is for the Government to arrange which Ministry has to be taken up at what time. That was also stated clearly. The general demand from the Members was that we can bring in more demands to be discussed. For that we said that some time could be saved if the 'lunch hour'

during the discussion on demands, when the Budget is taken up, is given up. And even if some more time is required, it was agreed that we can sit beyond 6 O'Clock for an hour. So, this was the arrangement made.

Sir, it is the Business Advisory Committee which has allotted the time. Normally whatever the Business Advisory Committee decides, it is approved. But whatever suggestion is made by the Hon. Member in this regard, will certainly be borne in mind. But this priority is not priority here. It will be decided upon in consultation with the Minister concerned which Ministry will be taken up.

More demands are now being brought in because Members wanted more demands to be discussed, so that they may not face guillotine again. That was the general consensus and that was also the opinion of the Speaker.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: We don't want to send Shri Makwana to the guillotine.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put the Amendment moved by Shri George Fernandes to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 1 was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 9th March, 1982."

The Motion was adopted.