

[Shri A. B. A. Ghani Khan Chaudhuri]

Chairman of many State Electricity Boards, the Power Ministers and the Chief Ministers to kindly give more attention to on-going projects and not to fritter away the opportunities and the resources which are limited. There is a limitation of resources.

When I say this, I do not mean that only you give attention to on going projects. There has been grievance by very many States that the projects have not been cleared by the Energy Department to whom they have been sent for approval and they be there for a long time. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have decided, the present government has decided specially in the Energy Department that the techno-economic side of every thermal project will be cleared within less than three months. Nothing will be kept pending. But, obviously, the question of resources of which every State has a limitation has to be looked into more carefully. Here also, I say with all seriousness to all States' representatives who are sitting here today that from my department I will render all help and attention so that it does not get stuck up in the Finance Department or in the Planning Department.

Sir, the supply of coal, quality coal, is a problem which has been highlighted by many Members. The Centre has full responsibility on this and there is no doubt that there have been difficulties and I do not deny or dispute it. There are difficulties but I will not shift the responsibility to the States. It is our responsibility and we are determined to fulfil that responsibility.

With regard to the quality coal, we have paid attention to it and I hope that with the setting up of new washeries which we plan to execute early, the quality of coal will improve further and complaints will disappear. The Minister of Railways have helped us no doubt but they have not been able to help us to the extent we wanted.

So, transportation of coal is a serious bottleneck and there has been a lot of thinking over the methods of transportation of coal; may be through slurry pipeline or transport by sea has to be thought of and stepped up so that coal reaches. We have also requested them for the expansion of railways. It was our Prime Minister who had proposed a super-thermal power station near coal fields in the quickest possible time.

15.27 hrs.

RE. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: . Just a minute. At 3.30 p.m. the Private Members' Business is to be taken up by the House and at 6 p.m. Half-an-Hour Discussion is to be taken up. Government is anxious that demand have to be passed today. In that case we may have to go beyond 3.30 p.m. which can only be done by consensus of the House. The Private Members' Bill and Half-an-Hour Discussion, the timing of both the items, will be postponed accordingly.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): No compromise on the Private Member's Business. The Private Member's time cannot be impinged upon.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We are only postponing the time.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This will be a very bad precedent.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Last time it was done.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It was wrong. It should not have been done.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: We should know how much time the Minister will take. The time may be extended towards the end. (Interruptions) The members from that side have given their opinion. We want

to sit and hear the Minister, and finish with the demands. Let us take the consensus of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: How much time will you need?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I will take hardly 20 to 25 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can continue. I think the House agrees to postpone the time. We will start the Private Member's Bill at 4 p.m. instead of at 4.30 p.m.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: No, Sir. Consensus should not be of one party but of all parties.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: It is the consensus of the House.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: There are other parties also. So, the Private Member's bills' time should not be impinged upon.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What does the Parliamentary Affairs Minister say? Let him appeal to Shri George.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: No impingement on the Private Members' timing.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will go up to 4 p.m.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: You can take this up after 6-30 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is making an appeal to Shri George Fernandes:

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: As far as we are concerned, the Private Member's business is sacrosanct. I do not think you can impinge on this.

संसदीय कार्य विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सीता राम केशरी) मेरा निवेदन है कि इस को आप खत्म कर लें और इसके बाद प्राइवेट मॅम्बर्स बिजिनेस की लें और उसको पूरा ढाई घंटे

का समय दे दें। थोड़ा सा इसके लिए हाउस को बढ़ा दें।

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री (पटना) : भाषा घंटे की चर्चा के बाद आप इसको लें।

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: You can take the Private Member's business at 4 O'clock. Let it be at 4 p.m. I suggest this to the House and the business may go upto 6-30 p.m. We do not touch a minute of the Private Member's time.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I am very sorry. There should be no infringement on the Private Members' time. (Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: It is not the first time that we are doing. In the last 25 years this has been done very often with the consensus of the House.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: No. Sir, Consensus is not one-party view. Then you say by majority. (Interruptions) Consensus does not mean majority. We are all opposed—Marxists, Janata and Lok Dal.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SITA RAM KESRI): Sir, may I make a submission? I quote Rule 26:

"That last two and a half hours of a sitting on Friday shall be allotted for the transaction of private members' business:"

Last means, when the business of the Government is finished then the Private Members' Bills will be taken up.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA (Bombay North): On the Order Paper in this case it has been specifically mentioned that the Private Members' business will start at 3.30 p.m. If it was only to start after the government business concluded, then no time

[Shri Ravindra Varma]

would have been specified in the Order Paper.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: We are not relying on the Rules. Mr. Varma during his tenure as Minister for Parliamentary Affairs might have many a time moved for extension when it was extended up to 4 O' clock.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: No. No. I might have asked for extension of time but never asked for infringement of the time reserved for Private Members' Business.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: In this House during the last 25 years many a time it has been extended to 4 O'clock. So, I am not saying anything unusual.

श्री जार्ज फर्नाण्डिस: आप साढ़े 6 बजे के बाद बैठिये, आप हमारी बात क्यों नहीं मान लेते ?

श्री सीताराम केशरी: यह तो 15 मिनट में ही खत्म हो जायेगा। और अब तक तो यह खत्म हो भी जाता। हमें क्या बात है ?

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Sir, I would like to point out that Half-an-Hour discussion is very very important.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Let the House sit after 6.30 p.m.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: There will be no quorum in the House and you will not get it. If opposition does not co-operate with us, we shall not be there during the half-an-hour discussion. You will have no discussion, mind you! (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order please. Kindly listen. I don't want to say majority or minority in this. I want the co-operation of the entire House. We will now take up Private Members' Bills. It is not a victory or a defeat to anybody. Let us proceed...

SHRI SITA RAM KESRI: If you take up Private Members' business now, I would like to ask you one thing. Will you take up this discussion after Private Members' business?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would request hon. Members to consider whether we can postpone the half-an-hour discussion for tomorrow. We can have it tomorrow...

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: No, Sir. It can't be done. It has been postponed once. This is, the second time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Therefore, after 6, after the Private Members' Business, time, the Minister will reply. We will take up half-an-hour discussion at 7 O' clock. This is my decision...

SHRI BHAGAT JHA AZAD: All right let us proceed. What do you want? (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: After all, we must have a compromise. I have agreed to your point. Now you must agree to my point. I am very sorry. This is my decision. Now the House will take up Private Members' Bills

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: I am protesting against this. I am not a party to your decision. I am agreeable to have this discussion after half-an-hour discussion is over.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. Let us proceed. Now, Mr. Baitha.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: We are not a party to this. They want to scuttle this discussion. They want to scuttle the half-an-hour discussion. We protest against this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have made your protest. It is all right. You please sit down.

Now we take up Private Members' Business. Shri Baitha.