

country. We could not find time to discuss this Ministry. Some motion or something the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs should find so that we can get a chance to discuss this Ministry, wherein, I am sure, every member will participate. There are certain new elements coming. Recognition has been given to a new union which has created a lot of tension.

Secondly, the telephone connections are not functioning properly. My own problem is with regard to Cochin it is a terrible thing. I demand a discussion should take place on this aspect also.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: The subjects which the hon. Members have raised are undoubtedly important, and they will be considered by the Business Advisory Committee.

12.10 hrs.

MULTI-STATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES BILL

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur): I beg to move:

"That this House do further extend upto the last day of the next Session, the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to co-operative societies with objects not confined to one State and serving the interests of members in more than one State."

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): I oppose the motion I invite your attention to Rule 303 which reads as follows:—

"As soon as may be, after a Bill has been presented and referred to

Select Committee, the Select Committee shall meet from time to time in accordance with rule 264 to consider the Bill and shall make a report thereon within the time specified by the House.

"Provided further that the House has not fixed any time for the presentation of the report by a Select Committee

See the next Proviso also which says:

"Provided further that the House may at any time, on a motion being made, direct that the time for the presentation of the report by the Select Committee be extended to a date specified in the motion."

I am sorry to say that there are certain features in this memorandum which cry for a satisfactory explanation. The Committee was constituted on a motion adopted by this House on the 15th May last year and concurred in by the Rajya Sabha on the 18th May. That is in the last budget session, it was constituted by the House and it was instructed to report to the House by the last day of the first week of the next session. That means, last July, on 21st July, 1978, they were asked to report. Then what happened? The Committee was granted—it is laughable—two extensions for the presentation of the report—first, on the 21st July. They were to present the report on that date. The first extension was granted on up to 21st July, 1978. The first extension was given upto 22nd December till just before the winter session adjourned in 1978.

Again, the second extension was given from 24th November upto the last date of this session, that is, 18th May, 1979.

Now comes the most inexplicable part of the whole memorandum—Para 3. The Committee has held 11 sittings so far. That is all right. I do not question the number 11. But please see how many were held after these two extensions were granted. The

[Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath]

Committee has held, after the first extension, two sittings and seven sittings after the second extension. That is to say this is simple arithmetic, this does not need higher mathematics— that means they have held only two sittings between May and July last year—2+7=9; 11-9=2. Only two sittings were held from the date of the adjournment of the last budget session till the last day of the monsoon session and on which date they were to submit the report. Why no explanation as to why more sittings could not be held? Two sittings only were held in Delhi. They could have done—easily three or four sittings. We, when Mr. Shyam-nandan Mishra, my colleague, was the Chairman of the Committee on Lokpal Bill, used to hold many sittings from day to day. So, Sir, this is most—I will not use the word 'atrocious' or 'outrageous'; had I been in the Opposite side, I would have used the words 'atrocious', 'Unpardonable'—'inexcusable'.

Now, Sir, they want this extension.

We, Sir, must set an example. It is high time that we had the austerity and efficiency and all that otherwise with what face can we tell the Government to be efficient when we are ourselves not efficient, when our Committee is not efficient, I am sure, you, the Chair, are equally anxious to set a good example. Our Committee should set an example for efficient and hard work.

Now, please read para 4—

"with a view to acquainting themselves with the working and existing conditions of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies and also to look into the implications of the Co-operative principles in their application to these societies..."

Now, Sir, for looking into the implications of the Co-operative principles they need not go on an all-India tour. This work could have been

done while sitting in Delhi, I read further—

"...in order to formulate their views before taking up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill"

The second part of this sentence is all redundant. They could do it in Delhi. Then further for this laudable objective—

"the Committee undertook on-the-spot study visits of various States..."

Sir, I know as per rules it is very difficult for the Committees to go on all-India tour for on the spot visits. I have been Chairman of the Petition's Committee for two years and only once I asked the permission of the Speaker to go on a visit outside Delhi. Here this Joint Committee undertook on-the-spot visits of various States. They have not mentioned the number. Further it says 'in phases'. It is a phased programme. The phased programmes consisted of three phases for on-the-spot visit. Two phases they have finished. First phase began in September 1978 after the extension was granted. After the budget session during the summer, either because of fatigue of the budget session or summer heat they did not go for on-the-spot visits. The first phase was completed from 18th to 25th September, 1978 soon after the monsoon session adjourned. The second phase was completed between 3rd and 11th January, 1979. It is a very good season. The third phase is yet to begin. I cannot understand why they could not complete the third phase at the end of January or in the beginning of February. No reasons have been given as to why the third phase could not be completed. It is yet to begin.

Now, Sir, what have they done sitting in Delhi? It is para 5—

"The Committee heard oral evidence of experts in the field of

Cooperative movement and representative of various National Level Cooperative Federations/Organisations, etc....”

They have not mentioned the number of experts. I read further—

“ at their sittings held on the 9th August, 1978, 22nd to 25th January, 1979, and 11th and 12th April, 1979.”

So, during the inter-session recess they have held only four sittings. It is most unpardonable. In the recess you had four sittings. On the 9th August you had a sitting and on the 11th and 12th April you had a sitting and these were during session. In the recess you had four sittings only, that is, from 22nd to 25th of January. How many days? I am not good at counting. These are four sittings, Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I know, if the committee sits both in the morning and in the evening, is it to be considered as two sittings or one sitting?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Depending on the sitting. If they sit twice, it is considered two sittings.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I am told 8 sittings. I was in hospital at that time.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Any other member of the committee present in the House? He was in hospital then.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have a specific amendment.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: I am stating the background. Is there any other member of the Committee now present in the House?

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore): Everybody was eager to join the committee.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: I can now understand their eagerness!

Sir, I now come to the juicy part of the whole memorandum.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How much justice would you extract out of this?

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: The Memorandum says:

“The Committee have yet to undertake third phase of the study tours of some of the remaining States and take up clause-by-clause consideration and complete other states of the Bill.”

And then it says:

“The Committee, after considering the quantum of unfinished work, felt that it would not be possible for them to complete the work and present their report by the stipulated date, i.e. 18th May, 1979.”

—That is about 3 weeks from now. And then it says:

“The Committee have, therefore, decided to seek further extension of time for presentation of their report upto the last day of the next Session.”

My amendment says:

In item 13,
For ‘the last day’

Substitute ‘the first day’.

I beg to move my amendment:

In item 13,
For ‘the last day’

Substitute ‘the first day’.

If that is accepted by the House, the motion would read as follows:

“That this House do further extend upto the first day of the next Session, the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to cooperative societies with objects not confined to one State and serving the interests of members in more than one State.”

[Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath]

I am sure my colleagues here—I am confident that my hon. colleagues on the right, left and centre—and centre includes Mr. Halder also—will agree with the amendment, in view of the facts which I have stated.

I move my amendment and I commend it for the acceptance of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The amendment has been moved.

SHRI NIRMAL CHANDRA JAIN: (Seoni): Let it be first week.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): It should be: Last day of the first week.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): Last day of the first week of the next session.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Kamath, do you accept that amendment?

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: He wants to be a little more generous, but generosity misplaced! Anyway, Sir, I accept this amendment to my amendment.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I accept the amendment by Prof. Mavalankar to Shri Kamath's amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. I will put the amendment of Shri H. V. Kamath, as amended by the amendment of Prof. Mavalankar.

The question is:

In Item 13, for the words 'last day of the next Session' substitute 'last day of the first week of the next Session'.

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will now put the motion moved by Shri. Krishna Chandra Halder, as amended. The question is:

"That this House do further extend upto the last day of the first week of the next Session, the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to co-operative societies with objects not confined to one State and serving the interests of members in more than one State."

The motion was adopted.

13.20 hrs.

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

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

[SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) REPORTED SHORT SUPPLY OF WAGONS FOR CARRYING FOODGRAINS FROM KARELI AND GADARWARA MANDIS IN JABALPUR DIVISION TO OTHER PLACES."

SHRI NIRMAL CHAND JAIN (Seoni): Madam Chairman, Kareli and Gadarwara in Jabalpur division of Madhya Pradesh are two important grain mandis. There have been regular complaints of short supply of wagons to these two mandis besides others in Madhya Pradesh. I had drawn the attention of the hon. Railway Minister to this effect on receipt of telegrams from Grain Merchants' Association, Gadarwara vide my letter dated 4th April, 1979 which has been acknowledged on 17th April, 1979. But no redress has been provided. Kareli Grain Merchants' Association have sent a detailed letter which has been filed