

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THIRTY-FIRST REPORT

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR
(SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA):** Sir, I
beg to move:

"That this House do agree with
the Thirty-first Report of the Busi-
ness Advisory Committee presented
to the House on the 7th March,
1979."

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That this House do agree with
the Thirty-first Report of the Busi-
ness Advisory Committee presen-
ted to the House on the 7th March,
1979."

Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: What is
happening to the Lokpal Bill? Why
is there no mention about that?
Then, what has happened to the Anti-
Defection Bill? Why are these Bills
not coming up? We want an expla-
nation from the Minister; he owes an
explanation to the House with regard
to these two Bills.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
(Hoshangabad): I submit, Sir, that
this Thirty-first Report of the Busi-
ness Advisory Committee is the pivot
on which the business of the House
will revolve for the next six weeks,
till the 26th April....

MR. SPEAKER: If I may tell you,
this is settled by the leaders of all
Parties.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
I know, Sir; I know the composition
of the Business Advisory Committee.
What I am going to submit is vital to
the effective functioning of the Lok
Sabha, the supreme legislative forum
in the country. I am sorry to note
that the time allotted to various Mi-
nistries has shown a tendency to fall
during the last so many years. That

is all because Parliament, the Lok
Sabha, is not in session for as long
as it should be. Your predecessor,
the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha,
Dadasaheb Mavalankar, once ruled
or observed that for the effective func-
tioning of Parliament—you, in your
wisdom also referred to this matter
in your Madras lectures recently—
the Lok Sabha should sit for at least
seven months in a year; and I am
glad to know that the Prime Minister
in a communication to my hon. col-
league here, Shri Asaithambi—he has
sent copies there of to all Members
I believe, I have got a copy of the
letter which the Prime Minister wrote
to Shri Asaithambi....

MR. SPEAKER: What is it we are
now on?

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
Please be patient.

MR. SPEAKER: I am always pa-
tient. So, don't worry about that.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
Because this BAC Report is a vital
report which will hold the field for
the next six weeks or more.

The Prime Minister wrote to Thiru
Asaithambi as follows, I quote:

"There are ample opportunities
during the seven months of the year
in which Parliament is actually in
session to discuss all these matters."

Now, it does not need higher mathe-
matics to work out the period during
which the Lok Sabha is in session:
Three months Budget Session, six
weeks monsoon session, six weeks
winter session; in all, six months, and
not a day more.

I was given to understand—I do
not wish to reveal any secret any
State secret, governmental secret—
that this particular session, because of
the heavy agenda before it, was
scheduled to commence earlier there...

[Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath]

was an idea, a plan, to summon it earlier on the 12th February or about that

MR. SPEAKER: You seem to be knowing things more than I do.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Not always. At times some Ministers tell me some things which are not secret.

It would have been better. Therefore, as suggested by Dadasaheb Mavalankar in 1955 or so—and I am sure you will subscribe to what the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha, your predecessor, said in those days, I take it that you are also of that view in the light of the lectures that you delivered in Madras recently—all these difficulties would be resolved if Parliament, the Lok Sabha, sits for seven months in the year—three and a half months for the Budget session, seven weeks for the monsoon session, seven weeks for winter session. Alternatively, three months Budget session, two months monsoon session, two months winter session.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):
How much time with the masses?

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
We are always with them.

The time allotted to the Ministries can then be increased that way.

Please look at the time allocation. I would not say it is ridiculous because all parties have agreed to that, but what logic or wisdom is there? The Defence Ministry, you will agree, the House will agree, is one of the most important Ministries today particularly in the global situation that is developing, but the Defence Ministry seems to be the Cinderella of the Ministries here. Only four hours for

the Defence Ministry's demands. Out of that, I am sure the Minister will take at least 1 1/2 hours, if not 2 hours.

MR. SPEAKER: We are cutting into the Defence Ministry's time now. If you take away this time, this also will not be available.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: That way, so many things are happening in the House. Time is valuable and important for all of us. That is why I want an increase in the session time to seven months in the year. I hope you will agree to that and see that it is done during your time. It will be a significant achievement.

MR. SPEAKER: I think it is addressed to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: It depends upon your pleasure, your strength too and your wisdom and I am sure God has given you great strength and wisdom to carry out that very vital reform Lok Sabha, seven months a year, not less than seven months in a year. That should be the key word, watch word; that should be the guiding line for the Lok Sabha.

In regard to this matter, you want the Finance Bill to be passed by the 26th of April and the guillotine, that deadly, lethal weapon in your hands will descend on the ministries on the 23rd, according to para 3 of this report; the guillotine, that ancient, French-revolution weapon is still being used here and will descend on several ministries on the 23rd April 1979. Why? This is because of the provision in the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act 1931 as amended by an amendment of 1964 which increased enhanced the period from 60 days to 75 days. Is there any earthly reason or heavenly reason as to...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
Guillotine is connected with the heavens.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
 ...why this period of 75 days should not be increased to 90 days..... I do not see any logic or reason. Why it should not be increased to 90 days. If this is accepted then there would be more time given to the ministries' demands as well as the Finance Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Unless there is an amendment to the Act, you cannot raise the period from 75 days to 90 days. This is not the occasion for moving the amendment.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
 That is why I suggest to the government that they should bring forward an amendment. I am told that the 1964 amendment was repealed and therefore it is 60 days. It should be increased to 75 days. Why can it not be increased to even 90? Government should give an undertaking that they would bring forward a Bill to amend that Act, I am sure you will agree with me, the whole House, right left and centre, will agree with me that it should be amended. It cannot be amended straightway; a Bill could be brought and passed in one day; there is no difficulty about it. Government should bring forward a Bill. If it is done then the guillotine need not descend upon all the ministries. So many ministries were beheaded last year by the guillotine. I am sure the same history will repeat itself and many ministries will be beheaded this year as well guillotines this year also. It is very unfair to Parliament, and to you and to the people. The people are our masters in a democracy. Dr. Ambedkar said that the people are the masters and we here are their servants. It is unfair to the people/unfair to you unfair to the government". I am sure one Minister agrees with me,

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: No minister should be kept on par with Marie Antoinette.

MR. SPEAKER: Evidently Shri Dandavate does not want his ministry's debate to be completed today.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
 He is thinking of Marie Antoinette who was the French Queen at the time of French Revolution.

One last word.

MR. SPEAKER: Still one more?

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: The general discussion on the general budget has been allotted only 15 hours. When the Railway Budget was allotted 12 hours, don't you think that the general discussion on the general budget should be allowed at least 18 hours. I know the House is the master of the situation; any time the House can extend the time even later when the budget is taken up. I would therefore ask the Government to keep these two things in mind: amendment to the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act so as to extend the time from 60 to 75 or 90 days so that the House will have more time and the wider question, that the House, the Lok Sabha should sit for at least 7 months a year, so that in this long budget session of 3 or 3 1/2 months, we can have a brief interlude of 10 or 15 days, if that is possible. I am not insisting on that: Let it be continuous. But if the House is so willing, sc-minded, we can have a brief interlude for 10 days in this long budget session, so that the House can be vigorous and alert.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): We will feel refreshed.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
 Even my younger friend agrees that we will feel refreshed.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN (Arkonam): He is the son of the first speaker.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
 That, of course, everybody knows; I do not have to remind the House about it.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about lunch hour?

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: I do not insist upon that.

MR. SPEAKER: You allow yourself to be provoked by other interventions.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: I make these proposals I do not know how the Minister from Ranchi reacts to them. I am sure he also has got these things in mind but as Minister, he might say something different from what he might have said as the Rt. Hon. Gentleman from Ranchi. He might not fully agree because he is Minister now. Otherwise, he would have agreed.

श्री सरनेल बिक्रम (शाहजहांपुर) : अध्यक्ष जी श्री कृष्णाजीन जी कल पधार रहे हैं हमलोगों को इनविटेशन मिले हैं उनकी रिस्वीब करने के लिये। मैं भी रसद कार्य मंत्री जी से पूछू कि वह हमारे लिये एक बस का इंतजाम कर दें जो हम वहाँ से जाय और वापस ले आये।

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR (Secunderabad): I felt a little concerned that no time has been allotted for the Ministry of Law and Justice.

MR. SPEAKER: Because there is justic always.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: My hon. friend, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu, referred to the Lokpal Bill and the Anti-defections Bill. This question has been raised earlier—perhaps in the last week—and I did say in answer that the Government's intention is to bring forward both the Bills. As far as this report is concerned as my friend, the Rt. Hon. Gentleman from Hoshangabad pointed out, it deals primarily with business to be transacted in relation to the budget and the Demands for Grants and the time to be taken for them. The hon. member is fully aware that every year the practice is that the whips of different parties and groups sit together with the Government Chief Whip and discuss and decide on the

priorities that are to be accorded to the different ministries and the time to be allotted for discussion. It is true that one often has the feeling that it is a Herculean task to discuss the functioning of a ministry and the policies of a ministry in the course of four or five hours. I can therefore, understand the hon. members' feeling that the time allotted to the different ministries is not as much as they would like it to be. However, hon. members are also aware that we have to transact business within the time that is available to us. Taking all these matters into consideration, all the groups felt that this would be a reasonable apportionment of the time that we have and a reasonable listing of priorities for discussion this year.

The hon. member from Hoshangabad made two suggestions. One is about the amendment to the Act. He is very much concerned with the guillotine. He is concerned with two things above all. One is the World Government, and the other is saving heads and ministries from the guillotine. As a student of history, he is well aware that sometimes when royal heads have had to roll under the guillotine, monarchs have been very keen to protect their beards protesting that they have not sinned against the people.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Beards have remained; heads have gone! Long live the beards!

MR. SPEAKER: Beards are, of course, more important than heads; The question is....

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: I asked about 7 months session.

MR. SPEAKER: About that he cannot straightway say anything. That is a matter to be discussed.

SHRI HARY VISHNU KAMATH:
Let him consider it.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 7th March, 1979."

The motion was adopted.

12.46 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) REPORTED THEFT OF STEEL WORTH ABOUT RS. TWO LAKHS FROM THE PREMISES OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

श्री श्रीमत् प्रकाश त्वाणी (बहुराष्ट्र) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, समाचार पत्रों के अनुसार दिल्ली में जवाहर नाल में एक विश्वविद्यालय में बन रहे एक नये पुस्तकालय से लगभग 2 लाख रुपये के मूल्य का 86 टन स्टील गायब हो गया है। आश्चर्य इस बात का है कि आफिस से उस स्टील से संबंधित कागजात भी गायब है। इससे लिङ्ग होता है कि इस चोड़ाले में अधिकारी बहू आफिस के कर्मचारी भी शामिल हैं। बिना सत्यान में इस प्रकार के चोड़ाले का होना लज्जा की बात है, सरकार को इसकी तुरन्त जांच करनी चाहिये और दोषियों को दंड देने की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिये।

(ii) NEED FOR PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL ALL-WEATHER SHIP FOR THE PEOPLE OF LAKSHADWEEP

SHRI P. M SAYEED (Lakshadweep): Sir, I want to mention the following under Rule 377.

Acute hardship is faced by the people of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep for want of conveyance to carry and stock in the Islands the essential commodities and other materials. At present only one all-weather ship to carry passengers and cargo to and from the Islands is available. This problem was further complicated on account of the VIP visits to the Islands during the season, the result being people who are to reach the mainland and Islands are stranded; in fact, even the seamen in Minicoy who are wanting to go to Minicoy are stranded. In

order to store essential commodities in the respective Islands and to clear the backlog and the passengers, the existing all-weather ship is unable to cope up and hence the present crisis.

I, therefore, want through you to call upon the Government to arrange an all-weather ship forthwith so as to ease the acute hardship faced by the people of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

12.50 hrs.

**RAILWAY BUDGET, 1979-80—
GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd.**

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up further discussion of the Railway Budget.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): Sir, I am happy to be able to participate in this general discussion on the Railway Budget. May I say at the outset that, listening to most of the speeches which I the pleasure of doing in this debate, I carried the impression that, instead of dealing with some of the major aspects of railway administration and railway management, many of us, perhaps inevitably, seem to go into comparatively minor issues of a train stopping at a particular station or water not being available at a particular station and so on and so forth, with the result that within the limited time—we just now from Shri H. V. Kamath's long drawn out remarks heard how difficult it is for us to get enough time for each Ministry—it is difficult for us to deal with major questions of policy within the time allotted to us. So, I am really wondering whether we should not evolve some kind of a device whereby the discussion on the Railway Budget can be divided into two parts—one for general discussion and the second one for every Member to mention the requirements of his constituency.