

[Shri F. A. Ahmed]

- (v) arrangements for immediate supply of fertilizers and pesticides for top dressing if it rains within the next 2 or 3 weeks; and
- (vi) formulation of a massive programme for rabi and summer production to meet the shortfall in the kharif crops

6 The stock position of foodgrains both with the Central and the State Governments continues to be comfortable and all the reasonable demands of the State Governments for their public distribution system are being fully met. At present, over 1,25,000 fair price shops are functioning throughout the country and the State Governments and Union Territories have been advised to strengthen the public distribution system in their States.

7. While the present situation would certainly need careful watching and preparedness, it should not occasion any under alarm. We are keeping in constant touch with the State Governments, and with their cooperation, we are confident of tiding over any difficult situation which may arise.

SHRI DINESH JOARDER (Malda)

The drought conditions in Bengal, particularly in the districts of Purulia, Bankura, Malda, West Dinajpur and Murshidabad are very acute. Last year, there was flood devastation which continued for three months. The people of West Bengal so affected have lost their homes, hearths, cattle and also their harvest. For the last ten months, there has been no rain particularly in Malda and West Dinajpur and people are dying in hundreds of starvation. Now there is famine condition prevailing in that district. The State Government has totally failed to cope with the situation or rise to the occasion. It has failed to give food to the hungry people, instead it is threatening them with dire consequences. In this condition, the people of Malda particularly are helpless.

MR. SPEAKER. We are going to have a general debate.

SHRI DINESH JOARDER. I draw the attention of the Central Government to say that they should take proper steps to

save the people of Malda from total starvation and death. It has been reported in the press also that the Prime Minister had told the Chief Minister of West Bengal that if there be any starvation death, the State Cabinet should resign. I draw the attention of the Prime Minister and also say that the State Government has totally failed to save the people who are dying in hundreds. In this 20th century and in this age of civilisation after 25 years of independence when we are talking of green revolution, we are still living on the mercy of the nature. If there is rain, there is flood and hundreds of thousands of people suffer, their homes and hearths and crops and cattle are washed away, if there is no rain, there is drought, starvation and famine. I draw the attention of the Central Government and urge them to take proper steps to save the people of Malda.

MR. SPEAKER. The statement is already there. We will have some discussion.

12 44 hrs

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FOURTEENTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) I beg to move

“That this House do agree with the Fourteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 31st July, 1972”

MR. SPEAKER. Motion moved :

“That this House do agree with the Fourteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 31st July, 1972”.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai) I want to draw the attention of the House to a very disturbing trend to curtail progressively the durations of sessions of Parliament. There seems to be an unfortunate consistent trend in this matter. Last year, we met for only 102 days, whereas we had gone up to 157 days at one time. The average number of days

works out to 120 days during the course of the year, if you take all the Lok Sabha sessions into account. The last budget session was only of 57 days, whereas in this matter also, the highest record has been of 76 days, compared to the last budget session, that is last year, it is five days less. And the present session of the Parliament too has been curtailed by more than one week. It is only of 22 days, in this matter, the highest record was of 31 days.

At this rate, my submission is that Parliament would be reduced in its utility, and authority, as the highest national forum, and we would not be able to give adequate expression to the demands and aspirations of the people. If this is the attitude of the Government, don't we have any protection at your hands? Is it completely the pleasure of the Government to curtail the duration of the sessions of Parliament as they wish? We just cannot reconcile ourselves to the position that it lies in the sweet will of the Government to curtail the sessions. They can of course say that only within six months we are compelled to sit constitutionally, and so we can sit for a day and then you can go away. Kindly consider this position, we certainly cannot reconcile to it. We seek protection at your hands.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, I had written to you in this regard.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : What is your observation, Sir? Shri Shyamnandan Mishra has raised a serious point.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Sir, I had written to you—

MR. SPEAKER : I have got another one from you, not on this.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : That is about the privilege motion. About this, I do not know I will just take one or two minutes; I have written to you—

SHRI K. MANOHARAN (Madras North) : What is your reaction to the point made by Shri Shyamnandan Mishra? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I always received intimation in advance from Members who

want to speak on this motion. I did not get from anyone except from Shri Mishra.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : I beg your pardon. Your assistant came to me and enquired. *(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER : On the first day; not today.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Yesterday.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, ऐसी चीजों में लिखना जरूरी नहीं होना चाहिए। जब सदन के सामने यह चीज आ गई तो वह सदन की सम्पत्ति बन गई। अब किसी एक मੈम्बर को महज इसलिए कि उसने आप को लिखा नहीं है बोलने से कैसे रोक सकते हैं ?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN : What about the suggestion made by Shri Mishra? It affects the feelings and aspirations of the Members of Parliament. What is your reaction to it ?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Sir, I would not go into the matter of the sittings of the Consultative Committees, for which I shall write to you again to raise it. But then, the decision or the agreement between the Opposition and the Government was that there should be one sitting during the session, and one sitting during the inter-session. We had nine such occasions till 1971. But you will be surprised to hear that the Leader of the House the Prime Minister, from her own Ministry, held three sittings only. The same is the number for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

About the duration of sessions, Mr. Mishra has given some figures. I would like to give some figures which narrow it down. For this session, whether you call it autumn or monsoon session, we have been having an average of 28 or 29 days. This time, it is only 22 days. And for the budget session it was 61, 61, 62; last year, it was 71. This time, it was 57. If they want to reduce the parliament's sessions to further their fascist ambitions and ideas and operate that way,—a dictatorial rule—I have nothing to say. It is up to you, because, you are one of us. If we are liquidated, you would not survive, Sir. That is why I am

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

saying that there is an ulterior purpose, (*Interruptions*) I make a concrete suggestion for you, which you may kindly consider. Before the House sits, and the day's business is decided, you should call meeting of the Business advisory Committee seven days ahead, and the decision of the Business Advisory Committee should be final and binding on all of us

Mr. Raj Bahadur is a good man socially, we understand him, but as far as the business of the House is concerned, he is just one of us, like any one of us, he does not get any precedence over any of us. You should protect our interests in the matter of the number of days, sittings, consultative committee meetings, etc. Although they have been able to get a vast majority in the House, all by fraud, we must have a bigger say in the House, to reflect the ideas of the people.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : Mr. Speaker, there are two points which I want to make. I am not prepared to accept the decisions of the Business Advisory Committee as binding on me because my Party is not represented on it.

MR. SPEAKER : You are welcome, we shall invite you.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Secondly, during the last two or three sessions, each succeeding session somehow happens to shrink. I have also been noticing simultaneously that the Government's legislative programme has been expanding every session and I think the reason why the two are reconcilable is because we allow, rather you allow, the Government to pass or bulldoze through umpteen Bills in the last day or two some without discussion, some with very cursory discussion, and some without any of us fully realising what the content of the Bill is and what its effect is likely to be. You should put a stop to this practice whereby in the last day or the last week or the last few days the Government is permitted to pass a dozen or half a dozen Bills. Then I think the Government itself will come to its senses and you will not be putting yourself in the embarrassing position of having to curtail the time.

श्री छटल बिहारी बाजवेयी : आप ने स्वयं कल अपनी अध्यक्षता में भी समय का

बटवारा किया है वह हास्यास्पद है। अगर आप सेशन का समय कम कर दें तो चर्चा के लिये समय कस लगेगा। एक घंटा बाढ़ के लिए, एक घंटा सूखा के लिए। अगर सारे देश की समस्याओं का विशद विवेचन करना है तो एक घंटे में उसके साथ मजाक भी नहीं हो सकता। मैं समझता हूँ कि श्री मिश्र ने जो मामला उठाया है वह ठीक है। सेशन का समय कम नहीं किया जाना चाहिए और हर एक मामले पर चर्चा का पूरा मौका मिलना चाहिए।

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY (Nominated—Anglo Indians) : Mr. Speaker, perhaps you have noticed that there have been several references in the Press to the effect that today Parliament has been denuded of all contents and significance and is being emasculated. It is supposed to be the symbol of our democracy. I do not want to impute any motives to the other side but apparently with the tremendous majority they have, they can treat the House with contempt. You are bringing Parliament into contempt by this. We do not get enough time. You rush vital Bills through. Look at what happened to the demands of the ministries, whole series of important ministries were just not discussed during the last session. You owe it to yourself and to us that you are not presiding over an emasculated body.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The last budget session did not last even the normal period of the budget sessions, that is 69 days which is average, not to speak of 71 days, instead of that it was cut short by another week. What was the result? A ludicrous spectacle at the end. We had a very important Bill under discussion and during the course of its consideration, every hour almost, cyclostyled amendments by the Minister himself—no less than 84 in number—were being handed out and distributed here in the House. We had no time either to read or understand them, or appreciate what their significance was. Till now we have never been told by the Government Benches what precisely they are trying to do.

This move is not an accidental thing, because it has not occurred only in the last

session, it has been happening for the last two years. Every session is being cut-short, is being abbreviated. Yesterday in the Business Advisory Committee both you and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs seemed to be very sympathetic to the idea that important issues like the flood situation, the drought situation and the power crisis situation should be discussed here through special motions, but I was amazed to find this morning in the printed bulletin that one hour has been allotted for each of these. What are we to discuss in one hour? We would rather not discuss it than discuss it like that just to salvage the conscience of somebody. Millions of people are affected and one hour each is allotted to these important subjects. We would like to know what the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is trying to do. Let him make a clean breast of the whole thing, let him lay his cards on the table. Otherwise there is going to be trouble in this House.

SHRI K.D. MALAVIYA (Domariaganj): I have every sympathy with the sentiments expressed by the members of the opposition, but I would like to request you to lay down the procedure now, to analyse the entire working of Parliament and break it up into the business aspect, the discussion aspect, the uproar aspect and all that has happened here, because we are all as anxious as the opposition to spend the maximum time on the relevant issues brought by Government before the House. But almost two hours everyday, when the session is on, in my opinion, are spent without any purpose and irrelevantly. I would request you, therefore, to lay greater emphasis on the pertinence of what goes on in Parliament, so that we may increase the dignity of this House.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN : I would request the Minister of Parliament Affairs not to rush in where angels fear to tread, to think about it three or four times and not to answer for the sake answering us. I hope that better sense would dawn consult upon him and that he would the whole Government in the matter and come out with a clean statement appreciating the views expressed by all Members including Mr. Malaviya.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : First of all let me assure my hon. friend, Mr. Manoharan that so far as rushing is concerned, I

did not do it. He rushed in to make an observation and I leave it to him at that. I think he understands what I mean.

May I assure the House that we are absolutely at one with them that all necessary time must be allowed to the House to discuss the very many important, intricate and complicated problems? We also take note of the fact mentioned by Shri Malaviya that there are uproars, demonstrations and all that. The minimum they are the better and that would give us more time. May I remind them that this year there was an election and we met as late as 13th March. If we had started in the first week of February, we would have had more time. That is a very valid point. The election was over on the 11th and we started on the 13th March and continued till the first of June. Then it was considered that members should have a respite of 8 weeks. That was done and we have met on 31st July. I have not gone into the intricate calculations that Mr. Mishra has taken the trouble to make. Even so, normally the monsoon session has been 5 weeks or at the most 6 weeks. This time also it is 5 weeks.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Only 22 working days are there.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I think it is 24. There are five full weeks with 5 working days in each week, except in one week because 15th August is a holiday.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : There are two other holidays.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : There may be other holidays. Let there be a compromise between 24 and 22; let it be 23.

So far as any attempt on our part is concerned, we are dictated by the exigencies of the situation. Some delegations are going and the Speaker will lead those delegations September ... (*Interruptions*). I need not bring in those things.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: I take strong objection to it. The responsibility is fixed on the Speaker.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : That is not my intention. I am only saying, we have cut the coat according to the cloth and the

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

both is the time. For discussion about drought, 1 hour...

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA :
How can you discuss it in 1 hour ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : Government has not fixed it. We will abide by the wishes of the House in this respect.

MR. SPEAKER : I quite appreciate the anxiety of hon. members. I myself feel that this year we have not met for as many days we were meeting in the past. You have said that the Speaker should look after all this arrangement. The practice in the past has been that the Government sends the business and also fixes the period of the sessions and my predecessors have always been agreeing to it. It is nowhere in the rules or in the past conventions that the Speaker could intervene. But I advise them. Of course, when they fix it, they do inform the Speaker that they are calling the sessions on such and such a date and the Speaker always says "Yes". They send the time-table, schedule, etc. But I will have a talk with the Prime Minister that it is much better that they suggest the total time in advance. . .

SHRI PILOO MODY : You are bypassing the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not his jurisdiction. The Speaker has also got his functions.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Would it not amount to saying that only official business should determine the duration of the session and there can be no non-official business of importance ?

MR. SPEAKER : Every Friday is there for non-official business.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : I do not think Friday alone should be there. We are bringing up so many motions.

MR. SPEAKER : In case you feel that the time is not sufficient, I think in future, if you agree, the Speaker will look into it as to how much time will be required for non-official business other than the non-official

days, because he knows which are the motions which are already pending.

Then he will make his own proposals. We will try to straighten it amongst ourselves.

For this session normally the duration is five weeks. We are short by two or three days because of holidays. What I propose is that we will sit on one Saturday. We will find another day also and thus try to make it up.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA :
No sitting on Saturday.

MR. SPEAKER : We discussed every aspect in the BAC and then we came to certain conclusions. In spite of that, some of you wanted to make a reference to it in the House, which you have done. After full discussion in the BAC, we decided that against the normal rule of one No-Day-Yet-Named Motion in a week, we will have three or more. We decided it yesterday. I am trying to avoid a convention of having two, three or more motions. I hope you will appreciate that. In future we will see we are able to follow your suggestion.

The hon. Minister referred to delegations. When delegations are invited, normally we have to send delegations. Personally I am not very fond of travelling. But I am the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Commonwealth Speakers till the end of 1973. After Shri Sanjiva Reddy, they elected me on both the IPU Executive Committee and that of CPA. So, I will have to attend their meetings till the end of 1973. If you so desire, I can resign it. Otherwise, if they invite me, I have to go. Then, at the time of the Executive Committee meeting, if a delegation visits that country then the Speaker should be the leader of that delegation and not any other member.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN : Do you want us to move a resolution to send you abroad often ?

MR. SPEAKER : Let no impression go round in the country about my visits abroad. I am there in the Executive Committee till the end of 1973. After that, if you like, I will not stand for it again.

SHRI PILOO MODY : It is not the opposition but the government side that made the charge.

MR SPEAKER : Shri Raj Bahadur should feel proud that his Speaker is the Chairman for three years of the Standing Committee of Speakers. Shri Raj Bahadur could accompany me any time he likes.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I am game for that.

MR. SPEAKER : I will try to fulfil all the promises which I have made within this time without causing much inconvenience to you. In future I hope I will have some consultation with both of them to find out, as Shri K. D. Malaviya pointed out, proper division between private business and official business so that hon. Members do not feel any grievance, which they give expression to in very strong words as our friend Shri Frank Anthony did.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : The criticism was about the last session.

MR. SPEAKER : I am thankful to you all for having brought it to my notice.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : There is a provision in the rules. Chapter IV, rule 15 says that the Speaker shall determine the time when a sitting of the House shall be adjourned *sine die*.

MR. SPEAKER : that is about the sitting of the House; not about the session.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : Most of the Ministries were discussed last time. Out of 28 Ministries only 6 Ministries were guillotined and these included Parliamentary Affairs, Supply, Electronics and Atomic Energy. Since Planning and Finance were discussed in other ways, these two were guillotined.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I put the motion moved by Shri Raj Bahadur to the vote of the House.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अक्षय महोत्सव, टाइटम को बढ़ाया जाये, एक बंटो काफ़ी नहीं है ।

MR. SPEAKER : I will consider it.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN : It is already 10 minutes past 1 O' Clock. We are going to discuss the Simla Pact. I am afraid, our

time will be curtailed. Already we have taken more time.

MR. SPEAKER : I will find the solution. We will meet at 2 O' Clock in spite of the time we take here. If you keep on talking whole of the lurch hour, I will not allow any more time for lunch. We will meet exactly at 2 O' Clock.

The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Fourteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 31st July, 1972, subject to the modification that the time allotted to items (17), (18) and (19) of the Report be suitably increased by the Speaker."

The motion was adopted.

13.12 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, I must express my gratitude to you for your kindness in allowing me to raise the privilege issue.

Two of the Members of this House were elected to the Tea Board on 17th May, 1972. On 18th May, the Lok Sabha Secretariat drafted and signed the intimation which was actually received by the Foreign Trade Ministry on 19th May.

Now, the Foreign Trade Ministry and the Chairman, Tea Board, in their anxiety which I will not disclose now convened the first meeting of the re-constituted Tea Board on 3rd June in Calcutta. In that meeting, they financed the main Executive Committee and all the Standing Committees for a period of three years, that is, for the entire tenure of the Tea Board. But Shri Biswanarayan Shastri and myself who had been elected to the Tea Board were not invited to that meeting. Therefore, we were deprived of exercising our rights.

The funniest thing is this— Yesterday, I was shown a note given by the Foreign Trade Minister. I regret to say, in my life I have never seen such an calculated, un-mixed, untruth being served before the honourable Speaker of the supreme national legislature of the country. In that, they have