

12.04 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Twenty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 20th August, 1958."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Twenty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 20th August, 1958."

The motion was adopted.

12.05 hrs.

MOTION RE FOOD SITUATION—
contd

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume discussion on the motion regarding the food situation in the country which was moved by Shri Ajit Prasad Jain on the 20th August and the subsequent motions Nos. 1 to 8 moved thereto yesterday. Out of seven hours allotted to this, 3 hours and 17 minutes now remain, excluding the time taken after 5 P.M. yesterday. Pandit Munishwar Dutt Upadhyay may continue.

Some Hon. Members: The time may be extended.

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): I feel very strongly about this problem. I request that the whole day may be allotted.

Mr. Speaker: We sat for an hour more yesterday; from seven it has been increased to eight hours. Which are the States from which representatives have not spoken so far?

Some Hon. Members rose—

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Bombay State is important.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Eastern U.P.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the desire of the House that we should extend the time?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): We are in your hands. You have always one hour at your discretion. You can give that.

Mr. Speaker: I extend the time by one more hour. That will come to 9 hours. That will mean the whole of this day. The hon. Minister will take the last hour, from four to five. So, we will carry on with this for the whole day.

Pandit Munishwar Dutt Upadhyay (Pratapfarh): Does it mean that the time for each speaker is also extended?

Mr. Speaker: No; the time-limit is 15 minutes each.

Pandit Munishwar Dutt Upadhyay: As I was submitting yesterday, the crisis in respect of food in our country has become a normal feature of our life and we can very well imagine the gravity of the situation when the crisis has to become a regular feature. Scarcity of food has been persisting for a number of years in our country, but the position this year appears to be the worst. The prices have gone very high, probably higher than the price we had in 1953, the worst year in respect of prices.

Figures are, of course, there. But from my own experience, I can say that in my own constituency wheat was selling at 1½ seers a rupee, i.e. less than 2 seers a rupee, pulse was selling at 1½ seers a rupee. I do not know if the position has improved during the last few days, but that was the position when I left my constituency. I find that the hon. Minister also admits that this is really the