

12:11 hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION FOR 1964-65

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Budget Estimates of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 1964-65 under sub-section (3) of section 44 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act 1948. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2452/64].

12.19½ hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT)

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

"That this House agrees with the Twenty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 4th March, 1964."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That this House agrees with the Twenty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 4th March, 1964."

Shri M. R. Masani (Rajkot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is one feature of this Report which I am sure many hon. Members have noted with some concern and that is, that for the Finance Bill only 12½ hours have been prescribed. Now, Sir, everyone knows that this Finance Bill differs from all its predecessors both in its bulk and contents. It goes into 88 pages and there are 65 clauses which are of a very complicated and technical nature. As one hon. Member mentioned yesterday, apart from the Budget proposals, it changes so many

provisions of the permanent law of this country, the Income Tax Act. This would involve a large number of amendments and it will have to be considered clause by clause. Altogether 12½ hours is completely inadequate. In fact, in the original programme which was published giving the dates, 17½ hours were prescribed but for some reason the Business Advisory Committee has found it necessary to eat into that time.

Normally, I would have moved for referring back the Report to the Committee, but I am happy to say that a way could be found by which these 5 hours could be restored and the total made up to 17½ hours. If the House would agree to sit on Saturday, the 18th April, which is acceptable, I believe, to a large number of hon. Members of the House, then a cut of 5 hours in the time allotted for the Demands for Grants will not be necessary. Therefore, I would appeal to all hon. Members to be good enough to co-operate. Let us work a little harder in the interest of the country so that the Finance Bill can be properly discussed without referring the Report back to the Committee or cutting out 5 hours from the time allotted for Demands for Grants which otherwise we will have to do.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): There is another little lacuna with regard to the contents of this statement placed before the House. At the earlier meeting that we had with the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, it was agreed, because it was for the first time in the history of our Parliament, that there might be, unless there are some very strong reasons to the contrary, a discussion, either formally in the House or in a Committee, on the Demands for Grants in respect of Rajya Sabha Secretariat and the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Last year, for the first time after ten years or more, the House discussed the

Demands for Grants in respect of the Department of Parliamentary Affairs, and a good parliamentary convention was established. I have every confidence that under your able direction and guidance the Lok Sabha Secretariat is functioning very well, but we must lay down traditions in this Parliament, and it would be very desirable if not imperative that Parliament should discuss the Demands for Grants in respect of everything that comes before it, whether it be this Ministry or that Department or the Secretariat of this Parliament.

Mr. Speaker: Who would give a reply to that?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I invite your attention to article 96 of the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker: Who would reply to the debate?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: That is why I said that it was agreed with the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that a committee of the House will go into these Demands relating to the Lok Sabha Secretariat and Rajya Sabha Secretariat. The Committee will sit with you at a time convenient to you and it will discuss the Demands for Grants in respect of the Lok Sabha and also the Rajya Sabha. I hope this will be acceptable to the House and also to you, Sir, and a committee would be constituted, representing all the parties and groups in the Lok Sabha, to consider and look into these demands for grants in respect of the Secretariat of Parliament because the article makes it imperative. We have not done it so far.

Mr. Speaker: All right. I have heard him.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Jalore): May I know the principles which govern the Business Advisory

Committee in allocating time, more particularly by asking the House to sit on all Saturdays? Is it because of the emergency we want to save certain expenditure? If so, why do we not sit on all Saturdays? Why is it that in the budget session when we are discussing the demands for grants of the Ministries we are asked to rush through? We should be able to sit for another three or four days beyond the scheduled date. If, on the other hand, the suggestion is that the Parliament should work harder and it should devote longer hours in view of the emergency, let us know the principles which are guiding the governance of business in this House. Now the principle is not understandable to me. If you ask the members to sit an additional half an hour every day and the whole of Saturdays, according to my understanding, we cannot discharge our functions very effectively.

Mr. Speaker: I might just point out that this allocation of time was done by agreement between representatives of all parties. I was not present in that meeting. The representatives of all parties met with the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and came to this understanding.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): We agreed to have three days for the Finance Bill, that is, 15 hours and not 12½ hours.

Mr. Speaker: I am now only answering the point about sitting on Saturdays. The Committee agreed to this. If the House wants it and comes to a decision by agreement, there ought not to be any harm in sitting on Saturdays. When we want longer time for discussion, we have to find out time and sometimes we have to sit on Saturdays. There is no harm in it. It is not a valid argument to advance that either we should sit on all Saturdays or no Saturday at all. It has been agreed to by all parties to sit on two or three Saturdays. One

[Mr. Speaker]

more is now being added by Shri Masani because he wants longer hours for the discussion of the Finance Bill. So, it is for the House to decide whether it agrees to that or not. What is the view of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I am entirely in the hands of the House. As you know, Sir, the allotment of time was decided in consultation with, and with the consent of, the representatives of all groups, once with me and a second time with you. If the House wants to have another 5½ hours and sit on a Saturday, Government will have no objection.

Mr. Speaker: Then I will put it to the House.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I respectfully submit that as you were not present in the Business Advisory Committee, I am only asking for a clarification. I am not objecting to anything.

Mr. Speaker: The allocation of time is recommended by the Committee and approved by the House.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I am not disputing the agreement. I am only seeking a clarification. What are the principles which govern the discussion, deliberation and decision of the Business Advisory Committee? If you were not present at that meeting, let somebody else explain to us, because I do not think this is the way in which it should be done. I have put forth my difficulties.

Mr. Speaker: He can come and discuss with me all the details. Regarding the principles that guide us, the most important principle is to arrive at unanimity where all parties agree. That is the greatest principle that we follow and we try to achieve it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: While you are on this subject, may I submit

that under the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, 1931 the Finance Bill must reach the President within sixty days of the presentation of the Bill. Since it was presented on the 29th of February, it should reach him on or before 29th April. So, I suggest a way out to help my hon. friend, Shri Mathur, for whom I have every sympathy. I suggest that the Finance Bill might be passed by this House on the 22nd instead of on the 21st. There is plenty of time afterwards for the Rajya Sabha to consider it before sending it on to the President.

Mr. Speaker: That is not agreed to. I put it with this amendment of Shri Masani that so far as the Finance Bill is concerned instead of 12½ hours it might be 17½ hours and we might sit on the 18th April (Saturday).

The question is :

"That this House agrees with the amended Twenty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 4th March, 1964."

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): I want to propose an amendment.

Shri Speaker: Now it is too late.

The motion was adopted.

12.21 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET 1964-65—GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd.

Mr. Speaker: We shall now take up the General Discussion on the General Budget. Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey was on his legs.

श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय (सलेमपुर) .
 माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, कल मैं सदन के सामने यह निवेदन कर रहा था कि देश एक संकट-कालीन अवस्था में से गुजर रहा