

about it, they will be able to follow more clearly. Now, ordinarily we should have finished it on the 19th May, but we thought that we should have two more days because the House knows that the hon. Prime Minister is going to Colombo for a very important conference. It is very likely that not only he may like to say but the House itself may like to know from him as to what happened at that Conference. If the hon. Leader of the House agrees and if he considers it necessary we may have some time even for a discussion on it. It is from that point of view that the Business Advisory Committee thought it necessary to extend it by a further period of two days and that is the situation which arose later, as Mr. Raghavachari will appreciate.

Now, the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs will make a statement as regards the priority of Government Bills.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT BILLS

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, on the 17th April, I promised to inform the House about the order of Government's legislative business for the remainder of the present Session. The following will be the order of Bills:

1. Minimum Wages (Amendment) Bill—it will be taken up today,
2. The Voluntary Surrender of Salaries (Exemption from Taxation Amendment) Bill,
3. The Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Bill,
4. The High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Bill,
5. Lushai Hills District (Change of Name) Bill,
6. Absorbed Areas (Laws) Bill,
7. Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Bill,
8. The State Acquisition of Lands for Union Purposes (Validation) Bill,

9. Indian Railways (Second Amendment) Bill,
10. Factories (Amendment) Bill,
11. The Companies Bill,
12. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill,
13. T.A. and D.A. of M. Ps. Bill,
14. The Prevention of Disqualification (Parliament and Part C States Legislatures) Amendment Bill,
15. The Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill (for concurrence of the House of the people for Joint Committee),
16. The Special Marriage Bill,
17. The Himachal Pradesh and Bilaspur (New State) Bill, 1954,
18. The Shillong (Rifle Range and Umlong) Cantonment Assimilation of Laws Bill, 1954,
19. The Rubber (Production and Marketing) Amendment Bill, and
20. The Coffee Market Expansion (Amendment) Bill.

The last two Bills are going to be referred to Select Committee.

Mr. Speaker: I think there are certain other Bills also which are going to be referred to the Select Committee.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: The Companies Bill and the Code of Criminal Procedure Bill are going to be referred to the Select Committee. Of course, I have already said about the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill.

श्री गणपति राम (जिला जॉनपुर-पूर्व-रचित-अनुसूचित जातियां): रिमूवल आफ अनटचीबलिटी बिल के वास्ते हमार मंत्री महोदय ने पिछले सेशन में वायदा किया था कि वह इस सेशन में जरूर लाया जायेगा और पास किया जायेगा। मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूँ कि वह इस सेशन में आने वाला है या नहीं ?

अध्वक्ष महोदय: सुनिये, सब बिल बताये जा चुके हैं। उनके अलावा कोई भी बिल आने वाला नहीं है।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह (जिला बनारस मध्य): हम लोगों की रिक्वेस्ट है कि जहां तक अस्पृश्यता का सम्बन्ध है, यह बिल अगर इसी समय आ जाता तो बहुत उत्तम होता।

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will have consultations with the hon. Minister and if the Minister is agreeable and if the House is also agreeable, I have no objection to prolong the sittings of the House for any length of time. It is for the hon. Members to consider whether they will sit after the 21st May, as I find the House is already restive and is protesting that we have extended the sittings by about 6 days more.

MINIMUM WAGES (AMENDMENT)
BILL.—Contd.

9-A.M.

Mr. Speaker: We will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri V. V. Giri on the 13th March, 1954, namely:—

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

I might say that the time allotted to this Bill is two hours out of which 18 minutes have been taken up before.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea (Serampore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, some time back I heard the Labour Minister saying something about the Minimum Wages Act in the Central Advisory Board for fixation of minimum wages, and what the Labour Minister said there goes to show that the Government has, of late, become a bit serious about this Minimum Wages Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: The Labour Minister assured us that the Government will try to fix adequate minimum wages and also a sort of regional or State minimum will be fixed. This was assuring, no doubt, but the point

is, so far as this Bill goes, we do not see any seriousness in the attitude of the Government. Had the Government in their mind such things as fixation of minimum wages and some sort of regional or State minimum, then, certainly, they would have proposed a new sort of Bill in which such things would have been incorporated. But, so far as this Bill goes, we do not find any serious attitude of the Government.

I say this, firstly, because, for a long time this Bill is pending in the House. From the Government side it is argued that it is due to the overcrowding of business here that this Bill could not be put through. But, had Government been serious about guaranteeing minimum wages to the workers then they could have arranged for the promulgation of an Ordinance just as they did in the case of compensation for lay-off etc. But this has not been done and the fixing of the minimum wage of the workers has been made to depend on the prolonged procedure of the House.

Secondly what do we find in this Bill? Extension of the time-limit has been granted. Altogether, I have calculated four years have elapsed from the original time-limit fixed. This means that the workers have been made to suffer material loss for these four years, when the workers have been legitimately demanding the fixation of minimum wages and the spokesmen of the Government of India very very categorically say that in India the workers are not yet given adequate minimum wages. This extension after extension of the time for fixing the minimum wages means that the Government is not at all serious about this vital labour demand.

The argument that is advanced in the Statement of Objects and Reasons is also not convincing. One argument is that some more time should be given for the Part B States for making complete arrangements to implement the Minimum Wages Act. Already three years have passed. Are we to