

[Secretary]

on the 18th April, 1953, and transmitted to the Council of States for its recommendations and to state that the Council has no recommendations to make to the House of the People in regard to the said Bills:

- (1) The Finance Bill, 1953.
- (2) The Central Excises and Salt (Amendment) Bill, 1953."

✓ ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR PRIVATE MEMBERS' LEGISLATION

Shri M. L. Dwivedi (Hamirpur Distt.): May I solicit your indulgence in asking that in view of the fact that Members of this House are greatly interested in private legislation.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What about this piece of legislation?

Shri M. L. Dwivedi. I find that very little time has been given for discussion of private Bills in this House. If you go to England.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What does he want?

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: More time should be allotted for discussion of private legislation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We must sit this afternoon.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: In the House of Commons two days are allotted every week for discussing private legislation. Here we get only two days in three and a half months.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We have now passed a rule whereby half a day on every Friday will be allotted for non-official work in addition to three half hours or such longer time as may be fixed for other important work either arising out of questions or independently on any public matter of importance. I think we can utilise all that hereafter.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: We may be prepared to sit on Saturdays in case those days are allotted for discussion of private legislations.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Saturday is booked.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: In future.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Nothing like that.

✓ Shri M. L. Dwivedi: There must be some provision regarding Private

Members' legislation. They take a lot of interest in these discussions. In these discussions they will focus the attention.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members never get anything by merely springing up and saying something and inviting some decisions offhand by the Speaker. More often it goes against them.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All this has been considered. Half a day on every Friday has been allotted for non-official work. Let this experiment be carried on for some time. Let us see.

FOOD SCARCITY IN RAJASTHAN

Shri G. D. Somani (Nagaur-Pali): Unfortunately, the scarcity conditions in Rajasthan now have become almost a regular feature and during the last few years since 1948, one or the other part of Rajasthan has been suffering from these scarcity conditions. In the year 1951 there was almost a total lack of rainfall and conditions of scarcity were widespread. Last year, i.e., in 1952, certain parts of Rajasthan were suffering from famine conditions and in order to give briefly some idea of the present conditions, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to certain reports which recently appeared in the Press. I would first quote a report that appeared in the *Times of India* of 21st instant which says:

"The entire Bikaner Division, excluding the canal area, is in the grip of a severe famine. Water scarcity is acute and people are dependent on khejra tree bark for their food."

Similarly, a local paper from Bikaner, *Ganarajya*, gives a report like this:

"बीकानेर ज़िले में अकाल धीरे-धीरे एक भयंकर रूप धारण कर रहा है। लोग तूबे जैसे विषैले फलों के बीज खा कर निर्वाह कर रहे हैं। 'गणराज्य' के सम्मानित प्रतिनिधि, जो अभी, यहां के कई सर्वमान्य नागरिकों के साथ, इन गांवों का दौरा कर के आये हैं, उनका कहना है कि बच्चों का स्वास्थ्य बिलकुल समाप्त हो गया है, स्त्रियों की आंखों में पानी है और पुरुष असहाय हो गये हैं।