

Shri Meghnad Saha (Calcutta North-West) *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: I do not think it requires any arguments at all. The question is very clear. It is admitted that no information is given. It is only pleaded that it was unintentional, a technical breach which should be excused. I think nothing would be lost if I refer the question to the Privileges Committee. Let it consider it and let it make its own recommendations about all the circumstances in which the arrest took place. And then it will be for the House to consider as to whether it was a technical breach, whether it should be excused or should not be excused. The Privileges Committee may make its own recommendations. *Prima facie*, on the facts, I think it is a clear case to go to the Privileges Committee. And the question, of course, of punishment or otherwise on merits will be a matter for the House. So I refer this question to the Privileges Committee.

INDIAN PORTS (AMENDMENT)
 BILL

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Ports Act, 1908.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Ports Act, 1908.”

The motion was adopted.

Shri L. B. Shastri: I introduce the Bill.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)
 No. 2 BILL

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1952-53 for the purposes of Railways.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1952-53 for the purposes of Railways.”

The motion was adopted.

Shri L. B. Shastri: I introduce *the Bill.

GENERAL BUDGET—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Mr. Speaker: Before I call upon the hon. Minister for Education to reply to the debate, I wish to be clear about the discussions today. I understand that the discussion will take place about the cut motions in respect of the Commerce and Industry Ministry. There are a number of cut motions. I am not placing them before the House at the stage I have got a list of the agreed cut motions. The hon. Minister in charge of Education will reply and then the debate will go on.....

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): We can meet in the afternoons.

Mr. Speaker: Not in the afternoon. I am very clear on that point. I do not propose to allow any sittings in the afternoon, unless it is absolutely the unanimous wish of the House. Even one man can dissent. It is too much for all of us. That is my inclination and it is therefore that I say that, if the House is unanimous on that point, I am entirely at the discretion of the House. I do feel that it can never be unanimous. If it is not unanimous but only substantially agreed, it cannot be agreed to. So the point that I had in view is that unless, at some point, we decide to finish the business within the time each day, we shall have to follow up by saying that the reply will be given the next day. At some time or some place, we must come to a dead wall. That is the position. Whether you want it today or you want it on some other day, I have no objection at all. It may be for the hon. Members but ultimately I do not want to have any request made that the period given or the time allotted should again be extended. (*Interruption*). That is a different matter. I do not know whether the time should be extended in that manner, unless it is on account of extreme necessity. Apart from considerations of the industry and the inconvenience to the staff, our claim is that we live for all, and the staff also has to be taken into consideration; it is overstrained and over-worked. Therefore, I was going to say that we also must cultivate the habit of putting our remarks in a short period instead of

*Introduced with the previous sanction of the President.