

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 31st July, 1952

The House met at a Quarter Past
Eight of the Clock

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-15 A.M.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: Now, before we proceed with the business of today I have to inform the House that the Business Advisory Committee considered the question of allotment of time for the consideration and passing of the Preventive Detention (Second Amendment) Bill 1952, as reported by the Joint Committee in the background of the entire business which has to be put through in this Session. The Committee have recommended that the report of the Joint Committee on the Preventive Detention (Second Amendment) Bill may be taken up today after the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Bill is passed. Hon. Members will find it in the Order Paper that it is put in as the first consideration motion today. General discussion of the Joint Committee report and the clause by clause consideration of the Bill and the third Reading should conclude on Wednesday, the 6th of August 1952 at 6-30 P.M.

In order to give effect to the above recommendation, the Committee also has recommended as follows: There should be afternoon sittings on the 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th of August, that means from 8-15 A.M. to 1 P.M. and from 3-30 P.M. to 6-30 P.M. on all these days, in addition to the afternoon sitting on Friday, the 1st of August 1952, which is already fixed. The debate on the Prime Minister's statement in regard

to the Jammu and Kashmir State should come after the Preventive Detention Bill is put through and that will be automatically the case, because the Preventive Detention Bill will continue from day to day as the main part of the business. Then the general discussion on the report of the Joint Committee may conclude at 1 P.M. on Saturday, the 2nd of August, clause by clause discussion at 1 P.M. on the 5th of August and the Third Reading at 6-30 P.M. on Wednesday, the 6th of August. That is proposed as the allotment of time for different stages of the Bill. If this time-table is agreeable, it would mean that the House will get 39 hours for all the stages of this Bill. If the House is also agreeable, they may have an afternoon sitting today also, so that the additional time which would thus be available may be allotted for this Bill in addition to the time already indicated above. (Interruption). I am not yet asking for an opinion. I am merely stating it to the House and we shall go by the general sense.

Now, hon. Members will see that we take up this Bill, the Preventive Detention Bill, today after the Salaries Bill is put through, and the last terminus for the Preventive Detention Bill will be Wednesday 6-30 P.M., by which time all stages have to be put through. Now, the first consideration stage, as suggested, may go up to 1 P.M. on Saturday, the 2nd and clause by clause reading stage may go up to 1 P.M. on Tuesday. Now, if it is the desire of the Members to have more time for general consideration, it can be arranged, but that will mean curtailing the time for the clause by clause stage. If it is also the intention not to curtail the time of the clause by clause stage, it is possible, but that will mean curtailing the final stage. So the arrangement is that the time allotment is there up to 6-30 P.M. on Wednesday and if the House so desires, even the clause by clause stage can go right up to 6-30 P.M. on Wednesday with the

[Mr. Speaker]

consequent result that the Third Reading stage will practically be guillotined and all undisposed of portions at that time will be put to the vote of the House. It will all depend upon how the House desires to divide the time for it. The suggestions are made here so that hon. Members may consider them and then come to conclusions as to what they should do. The only definite point is that at 6-30 P.M. on Wednesday all stages of the Bill are to be completed and all the rest will be guillotined thereafter. That is what I have to say. Now, the question is...

Shri Sramnandan Sahaya (Muzaffarpur Central): Are we to take it, Sir, that the Prime Minister's motion on Kashmir will then be taken, on the 7th?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. The point, as hon. Members will see, is that if we take it up now and delay the Preventive Detention Bill, the result will be that we will not be able to send this Bill to the Upper House and then this House will have to sit at least for two or three days more after the Bill is passed. It is, therefore, desirable that we put through this Bill as early as possible and give the other House sufficient time, so that they may consider this Bill, and this House may take up the other business. That is the idea.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee (Calcutta South-East): In regard to notice of amendments, is it your decision, Sir, that you will not insist on the time-limit under rule 9?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. I will clarify it. The idea of taking up the general discussion was to give more time for the general discussion and I think the amendments, if it is desired that the clause by clause reading may be taken up at 1 P.M. day after tomorrow, will have to come in by that time, by 1 P.M. on Saturday, so that in the afternoon sitting we may go on with clause by clause reading. If it is the desire to have more time, then of course the general discussion may go on till the evening of Saturday and Members will get time, one day more practically, to table amendments. I am leaving it entirely to the desire of the House, whatever they may like to do. Then on Monday we start, but that will be the last stage. I shall not waive any notice if it is taken up on Monday.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: If we do not have an afternoon session today, (the House, apparently, is not in favour of it) it is likely that the Salaries Bill will go on for the whole of today. Then it will be better if we have general

discussion for tomorrow, Friday and Saturday and proceed with amendments on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Mr. Speaker: I have no objection. I was thinking of giving more time for general discussion, but if the hon. Members are satisfied with this arrangement, I have no objection; so that on Wednesday, I understand, the Third Reading will take place. That is quite all right. (Interruption). Let me finish. So I take it that there is no afternoon session today. We will have general discussion tomorrow and the day after and clause by clause reading on Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday also or Third Reading on Wednesday.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): Sir, for Third Reading only three hours may be allowed.

Mr. Speaker: I am trying to ascertain what the desire of the House is.—I have no objection. The Third Reading may be the whole of Wednesday or it may be from 3-30 to 6-30 P.M. Very well, it will be from 3-30 to 6-30 P.M.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: The Salaries Bill should be put through today. If it is not over by 1 P.M. we should be prepared to meet in the afternoon. Time should not be taken from the allotment for the Preventive Detention Bill.

Mr. Speaker: I would consider that that Bill can be put through much earlier, and I am prepared to take the Preventive Detention Bill even now. If the Salaries Bill is put through by one hour or two hours, we will get time. It is entirely at the discretion of Members, but if hon. Members wish to carry on the discussion tomorrow and the day after, it is better that they put to use the afternoon time in considering the amendments and all that, instead of coming again to the House. Let us sit with the determination that the Salaries Bill is finished by one o'clock today. That will be better.

Yes. Pandit Bhargava wanted to say something.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I wanted to suggest that we ought to start the third reading at 3-30 P.M. on Wednesday. That would give us three hours for the third reading.

Mr. Speaker: That is the position.

श्री जार० एस० तिवारी (छत्तरपुर-
दतिया टीकमगढ़) : पांच तारीख का रखा
बन्धन है ।

Mr. Speaker: We are not observing that as a Parliamentary holiday; therefore we shall be working. And let us not continue our detention without the law being passed.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): In view of the extraordinary interest in this Bill and the large number of speakers likely to participate in the discussion, can there be some sort of a working arrangement for a time-limit for speakers?

Mr. Speaker: There, I shall be going by the sense of the House. If the House so desires we might have a rough and ready time-limit—we shall not be very strict. In view of the limited scope for discussion now, I think a limit of about 15 to 20 minutes may be put if the House is agreeable. Leaders of parties might have more time—it may be left to them as to what time they ask for. That is how I would suggest it. The result will be that, if such a thing is agreed to a larger number of Members will get an opportunity to speak—if it is not agreed to, in spite of the days we are allotting, a smaller number will get the chance.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: The only consideration is that if it is left to the parties to allot time among themselves.....

Mr. Speaker: The parties may make their own arrangements and let me know. I shall be prepared to be guided by what the House desires in this matter.

Shri Dabhi (Kaira North): How long is this Session going to last?

Mr. Speaker: That will depend upon the hon. Members—the shorter and the more relevant the speeches, the earlier the end of the Session.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Shall we have to wait until the Preventive Detention Bill comes back from the other House?

Mr. Speaker: I think the House will have to, and taking that into consideration the other business such as Kashmir and the other two Bills which have been put in from the 7th onwards, the House may not be wasting its time. We shall see how things go. In any case this House cannot disperse before that Bill is disposed of in the other House.

Shri Veeraswamy (Mayuram—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Is it not necessary that the last date of the Session is fixed so that the Members may make their arrangements for departure?

Mr. Speaker: It is not competent for us to do so because we cannot set a

time-limit for the passage of this Bill in the Upper House. They are entitled to have their own time and they may have any time—we do not know what it is.

The Prime Minister and Leader of the House (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): May I know whether there will be any questions for tomorrow?

Mr. Speaker: No, there will be no question hour for tomorrow. In fact, hon. Members might have noticed that when I extended the Session by three days in the first instance, it was not possible to allot any time for questions. That extension is being extended again, so there is no time now to give any notice for questions.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I think, Sir, on Saturday next we are also sitting in the afternoon?

Mr. Speaker: Tomorrow there will be an afternoon sitting, the day after tomorrow and on all the days that we are sitting now.

Shri Damodara Menon (Kozhikode): You said there will be no question hour. What about Short Notice Questions, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: If there are any urgent Short Notice Questions they will certainly come in, but not the normal questions which are coming up and taking up one hour every day. Now the result of this will be that the House will be getting about five hours more. That means practically one day and in terms of the normal length of sittings up to now, that is in terms of hours, the Preventive Detention Bill will be coming up for 8½ days.

Now let us proceed to the other business.

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF MINISTERS BILL

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to provide for the salaries and allowances of Ministers, be taken into consideration."

As there is a lot of misunderstanding on this question of salaries of Ministers in this House, as I notice from newspaper comments in the country, you will permit me to make for a very few minutes some general observations. I think that the basic principle in determining these salaries should be that it should be a salary on which a Minister

*Moved with the previous recommendation of the President.