

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, 8th September, 1954

The Lok Sabha met at a Quarter
Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-20 A.M.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.

PRESENTATION OF ELEVENTH REPORT

Shri Kasliwal (Kotah-Jhalawar): I beg to present the Eleventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

COIR BOARD

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of subsection (3)(e) of section 4 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953, this House do proceed to elect in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one Member from among themselves to serve on the Coir Board."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in pursuance of subsection (3) (e) of section 4 of the

373 LSD.

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Coir Industry Act, 1953, this House do proceed to elect in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one Member from among themselves to serve on the Coir Board."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and withdrawal of candidatures, and for holding election, if necessary, in connection with the Coir Board, namely:—

Date for nomination	Date for withdrawal	Date for election
11-9-1954	14-9-1954	16-9-1954

The nomination to the Board and the withdrawal of candidature will be received in the Parliamentary Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose.

The election, which will be conducted by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in Committee Room No. 62, First Floor, Parliament House between the hours 10-30 A.M. to 1-00 P.M.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

CHANGE IN TIMINGS OF SITTINGS

Mr. Speaker: Before the House proceeds with the next business, namely, the further consideration of the Bill to provide a special form of marriage in certain cases, for the registration of such and certain other marriages and for divorce, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, I have to make

[Mr. Speaker]

an announcement in view of the discussions at the Business Advisory Committee to adjust the business of the House. It was considered necessary by all concerned that the House must sit longer hours, because otherwise, the legislation and other business of the House will continue to be progressively in arrears.

There was a lot of discussion about the timings of these sittings, and there were different views expressed, but ultimately some particular view was advanced, and the matter was kept over to have the reactions of the hon. Leader of the House. He has been consulted.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Hazari-bagh West): Not of the Members of the House?

Mr. Speaker: The Members of the House, through the Business Advisory Committee, had expressed themselves. As this concerns the government business and the expedition with which it is carried, it is but natural that the spokesman of the Government should be consulted. His reactions have been obtained.

With the concurrence of the Members of this House as also the hon. Leader of the House, I am announcing now that the House will be sitting from day after tomorrow—tomorrow is a holiday—from 11 A.M. till 5 P.M.—this will give six hours—without a break for lunch. That means, the sitting of the House continues, and whosoever wants to have lunch will have to arrange for himself either in the Parliament House or outside.

But in this connection, I would like to invite your attention to one convention in the House of Commons. I would, therefore, put it to you that if the House agrees, we may adopt that convention and establish a convention that the House shall not be counted between 1 P.M. and 2-30 P.M. There is no count for that period. (*Interruptions*).

But if on a division taken on any business between 1 P.M. and 2-30 P.M. it appears that 50 Members are not present, the business shall stand over until 2-30 P.M. the same day or the next sitting of the House, as may be convenient, and the next business shall be taken up. The point is that no question will be decided finally which requires a vote of the House between 1 P.M. and 2-30 P.M. if 50 Members are not present, that is, the number of the quorum.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): Unless it is the unanimous decision of the Committee, I think the better course would be to sit from 12 NOON to 6 P.M.

Mr. Speaker: The Committee was, of course, unanimous but is never pressed on this particular point. The question of 12 NOON to 6 P.M. was also considered, and when I announced this, the proposition of 12 NOON to 6 P.M. is not altogether ruled out. The point pressed at present was that as the day is getting shorter, it is better that we adjourn earlier by the end of the day than sit longer hours so that Members may be left some time free for their evening engagements. The other consideration was that some more time may be left in the morning to attend to their business, and from that point of view 12 NOON to 6 P.M. would be better. But this point is open and if Members express a desire that we should sit from 12 NOON to 6 P.M., the Chair will have no objection. (*Interruptions*.)

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): We may have 12 NOON to 6 P.M. with one provision, because it becomes difficult to maintain quorum, that the provision or convention that you have suggested is accepted for the period between 5 P.M. and 6 P.M. Then we shall have easy progress.

Shri Gidwani (Thana): It will be better to sit from 12 NOON to 6 P.M.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): I would submit that we should not accept this proviso about not counting for 1½ hours, because the main idea is that we should get through the arrears. If we are not to have a quorum between those hours, I am sure the same difficulty that we experience during discussion of Private Members' Bills and Resolutions will come up and we shall be postponing, again and again very vital decisions. Actually, the time gained will be lost in another way.

Mr. Speaker: There seems to be a misapprehension on this point. It is not that the House is not functioning and it shall not be counted. If anybody raises a point or some question has to be voted upon and if there is no quorum, then votes will not be counted; the House will proceed with other business. That is the point.

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): In other words, quorum will not be questioned. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr. Speaker: I am requesting Members just to develop a convention. Our Constitution provides for a quorum and I would not like to go against the provisions of the Constitution. Therefore, I advisedly said that we might try to establish this convention.

As regards the other points of Mr. More, for having this kind of thing—the House not being counted at later hours—I am afraid it is difficult to agree with him, because we agree to this procedure between 1 P.M. and 2-30 P.M. as it is lunch time. There is no such thing as between 5 P.M. and 6 P.M., but we may see whether we can have half an hour or three-fourths of an hour for tea time when the House will not be counted. Some such thing might be there.....(*Interruptions.*) It seems the inclination is not to accept it. So for the present, how do we agree—between 12 Noon and 6 P.M. or 11 A.M. and 5 P.M.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): As I ventured to put it to you yesterday, I am entirely in your hands and in the hands of the House. Whatever time is fixed, we shall adapt ourselves to it, even though it might not be wholly convenient. Only one thing I would submit, that is, that between these two timings, if it is 11 A.M. to 5 P.M., it might continue to 6 P.M. also occasionally. I see no reason why Members should not continue to sit till the end of the sitting; I do not think it is right or fair for Members to absent themselves when important work is at hand.

Mr. Speaker: So this closes the question. The House will sit from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M., and if need be, up to 6 P.M. I assume that there is an agreement on this point by the House and the time is settled.

Several Hon. Members: Yes.

Dr. Rama Rao (Kakinada): On a point of order, Sir. By raising this question of not taking quorum into account, are you not interfering with the Constitution? Can we do that?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member did not hear me when I was on my legs. The difficulty in this House is that Members are talking among themselves on their own questions when discussions are going on, and then they put in something by way of a point of order. I said that I did not wish to go against the Constitution. I therefore said that we might establish a convention, and not a rule of this House going against the Constitution.

Shri Vallatharas (Pudukkottai)
rose—

Mr. Speaker: Even now, if there are 40 Members in the House, unless the attention of the Chair is drawn, the House goes on. It is perfectly valid according to the Constitution.