

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, 8th September, 1955

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

12 NOON

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Twenty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 7th September, 1955."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That this House agrees with the Twenty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 7th September, 1955."

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): May I make a brief observation? I am not opposing or questioning the allocation of time, because that point was settled by the House last time, but I am confining my observation to paragraph 3 of this Report. It is a new feature which was not in the last report. In the last Parliament you had once ruled that so far as dispensing with the Question Hour was concerned, it would require the unanimous consent

of the House, and for that I was, and am still, grateful to you. But now from this paragraph 3 of the Report, it appears that on two days, the 13th and 14th September, the Question Hour is proposed to be dispensed with. There was also a useful convention which had grown in the last Parliament: in case the Question Hour was dispensed with, those questions were either put back or forward to some other days on which there was no scheduled Question Hour. Here we will have the same facility and convenience on the 10th and 24th. I do not want to interfere with the 17th because it is an important day for discussing the international situation. It should be wholly occupied with that matter. But there is no question Hour scheduled on the 10th or the 24th. I would therefore request you in the same spirit that animated you in the last Parliament that these questions for the 13th & 14th may be put back and forward on the 10th and 24th.

Mr. Speaker: I am not quite clear as to whether there was a practice of transferring the Question Hour wholesale from one day to another. I shall have to get the matter verified. Anyway, we have to remember that we are progressing further and further, and more and more business is coming before the House. The hon. Member will see that the House used to sit for five hours. It is now usually sitting for six hours, and sometimes it has to sit for seven hours. So, we are now having a new type of convention that, wherever it is necessary to make up the time, it is a question of balance between foregoing the question hour—in which, after all, all questions are not necessarily put through and hon. Members are not also present to put the questions

[Mr. Speaker]

which they table—and the allotment of time to be taken up in the discussions in the House on the various Bills and other subjects that come for debate. But it would be seen that the Business Advisory Committee also is keen, so far as possible, not to drop the Question Hour.

Shri Kamath: That is very good.

Mr. Speaker: But, after all, it becomes necessary sometimes to make up the time. Unless hon. Members are prepared to lessen the time of discussion, how is it possible to find time? Therefore, with great reluctance the suggestion is made, and the old convention does not stand now for the simple reason that it was a convention when there was no Business Advisory Committee. Now, the Business Advisory Committee which represents the entire House takes all points of view into consideration and comes to a conclusion. The report is before the House. The House may accept or reject the report. If the House accepts the report, then it becomes an order of the House and then even the Speaker, I do not think, has got any option of going against the order of the House and substituting the Question Hour on a particular date on which it is suggested to be dropped. That is the position. The answers given, however, will go into the debate, of course, as all answers go even in the case of those questions which are not put by Members.

Shri Kamath: On a point of elucidation and enlightenment by you, are you in a position to assure the House that you still hold to the view that Question Hour is of tremendous importance in parliamentary procedure, business and life. Except for extraordinary reasons it should not be dispensed with. I am not questioning the allocation of time. I am prepared to sit for one hour longer. Do not drop the Question Hour please. Have it on some other day.

Mr. Speaker: So far as he wants to know my personal opinion, I do not think there is any occasion for expres-

sing personal opinion on this question, but it has been conceded by all that the Question Hour is a very important hour, and it is therefore that I said that, so far as possible the Business Advisory Committee is not in favour of dropping the Question Hour. But it is only when there is no other alternative that the Question Hour is suggested to be dropped, and that is in itself an "extraordinary circumstance" in the words of the hon. Member.

Shri Kamath: My last suggestion is that the 10th and 24th are blank days so far as Question Hour is concerned, and so we can easily.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will see that, if time is taken on the 24th or any other day on which there is no Question Hour previously fixed, we take one hour each day from the total time of allotment and if he considers the total allotment he will find that we are practically running short of the time. The Business Advisory Committee, I may assure him, has taken that into consideration; and therefore, finding no other way out of it, had to suggest dropping of the Question Hour to make up the time. The other alternative for the Members will be just to curtail all the debates and then of course make room for two hours. In the course of time, we will see if it is possible.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Basirhat): Could I just ask you whether it is possible, after we pass the report, to also take up the priorities which will be fixed, the sequence of the business which will be taken up so that the level of debate and the work for the rest of the session may be decided?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I think it will be possible.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: We are going to give them.

Shri Kamath: When you are satisfied that it was done in the last Parliament, would you kindly agree to this putting backward or forward the questions?

Mr. Speaker: This was done, but not in this Parliament as I said. This Parliament is marching forward and not backwards.

The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Twenty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 7th September, 1955."

The motion was adopted.

COMPANIES BILL—contd.

New clause 460A and clause 516.

Mr. Speaker: Yesterday the House disposed of the previous group of clauses consisting of clauses 424 to 555 excepting the new clause 460A and clause 516. Out of the 5 hours allocated for this group, about one hour has been taken. After the disposal of clauses 460A and 516, the House will take up the next five groups of clauses 556 to 559, 560 to 576, 577 to 585, 586 to 603 and 604 to 609, for which half an hour, one hour, half hour, two hours and half an hour respectively have been allocated. After the disposal of these groups the House will take up the next group. I propose to take all the groups together, and the consolidated time will be.....

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour)
rose—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is not in order.

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): Clauses 556 to 609 may be taken up together.

Mr. Speaker: That is what I am saying. The five groups 556 to 609 will be taken together.

Hon. Members who wish to move their amendments to these clauses will kindly hand over the numbers of their amendments, specifying the clauses to which they relate, to the Secretary at the Table within 15 minutes.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member Shri Basu wants to say something.

Shri K. K. Basu: I wanted to make the same suggestion—about the five groups being taken together.

Shri M. C. Shah: Yesterday it was circulated—I mean Clause 460A—and it may be taken up first.

Mr. Speaker: So we take up clauses 460A and 516, as they go together; first, and then go to the other groups of clauses.

Shri M. C. Shah: In regard to clause 516 yesterday I promised Shri Kamath that if possible we would have a redraft, and therefore we have proposed clause 516A accepting what the hon. Member has stated in that clause—that is 516. We have already circulated this new clause 516A and, if necessary, I will read it out.

Mr. Speaker: I believe he is moving now for taking into consideration new clause 460A and clause 516.

Shri M. C. Shah: To clause 516 there was an amendment by Shri Kamath—amendment No. 1129—and we had assured him that we accepted the principle and that we would redraft it as the language was no proper. We have tried to do that. That amendment cannot come in clause 516. So, instead of that we have circulated new clause 516A wherein all that he wanted has been embodied.

Mr. Speaker: Has that amendment been circulated to Members?

Shri M. C. Shah: Yes, we have circulated it. It may be taken up afterwards.....

Mr. Speaker: That is exactly what I was asking about. I wanted to have the position cleared. He proposes to have a new clause in place of the old one. (Interruption) Let him hear me out.

An Hon. Member: He is out of order.

Mr. Speaker: His position was that Shri Kamath had moved an amendment to the original clause No. 516.