

[Shri B. G. Mehta]

manner required by sub-rule (2) of Rule 243 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty Members from among their number to be Members of the Committee on Estimates for the year 1956-57".

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (2) of Rule 243 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty Members from among their number to be Members of the Committee on Estimates for the year 1956-57".

The motion was adopted.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Shri V. B. Gandhi (Bombay City—North) : I beg to move :

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 242 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen Members from among their number to be Members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the year 1956-57".

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 242 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen Members from among their number to be Members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the year 1956-57".

The motion was adopted.

MOTION RE ASSOCIATION OF MEMBERS OF RAJYA SABHA WITH PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Shri V. B. Gandhi (Bombay City—North) : I beg to move:

"That this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that they do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of this House for the year 1956-57 and to communicate to

this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that they do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of this House for the year 1956-57 and to communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha".

The motion was adopted.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala, Bhatinda): I beg to move:

"That this House :—

(1) agrees with the Thirty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 9th May 1956; and

(2) recommends to Rajya Sabha that they do join in the Committees on the Second Five Year Plan proposed in the said Report and communicate to this House by the 14th May 1956, the names of Members of Rajya Sabha on various Committees".

The Report has been circulated to hon. Members of this House and all of them know what it contains. If you will permit me, I will explain it.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: It was considered that the subjects in the Report of the Plan would be so varied and so vast that it would not be possible to discuss them thoroughly here in the House. Moreover, whatever period we might fix for discussion of the Plan, and however long it might be Members will not be able to contribute usefully and effectively to every subject that is contained in it. I am sure there would be complaints against the Chair that some Members have been left out and have had no opportunity to express their views.

So it was considered necessary that we might break up into different Committees where hon. Members would have full opportunity of giving their views and discussing them thoroughly.

There would be choice for every Member to elect to any of these Committees. Every Member shall be required to give two preferences. Lest there might be a large number electing to serve on one particular Committee and there might be a shorter number for the other, this choice might be obtained from the Members, so that they might be divided into Committees and the Committees might have almost equal numbers, if not exactly equal numbers.

Then there would be *verbatim* reports. The subjects would be discussed thoroughly and the views of the Members would be made available to the Members of the House when the Report is discussed here. Every aspect of the Plan would be discussed. Members who are particularly interested in different subjects shall have full opportunity to contribute their best. The whole House would be in possession of the views of those Members who have gone into those subjects so thoroughly.

So there would be a useful discussion when we take up discussion of the Report here. Then even a shorter period that might be fixed would be more useful. That is why we have resorted to this idea. I hope hon. Members would agree that this would be a better method of doing it.

**Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad):** This innovation is welcome and I am sure we will be able to take the fullest advantage of it. But I would like you to clarify, or I would request the hon. Mover to clarify, one or two points in this connection.

Firstly, it is said in the Report that four different Committees will function. The hon. Mover had just said that every hon. Member would be asked to give two preferences. That is also a good suggestion, I believe, so that, first of all, we can avoid a rush to one single Committee, and secondly, all the aspects of the Plan might be fully investigated by these Committees. But I would request you to tell the House whether these Committees will meet when the House is sitting. I personally am sure—and I am sure many hon. Members will agree with me—that it is difficult for some of us to serve two masters.....

**Shri Chattopadhyaya (Vijayavada):** Even to serve one is difficult.

**Shri Kamath:** .. the House and the Committee. I find it very difficult to serve these two masters. As my hon. poet friend says, even to serve one master is difficult, though here, there is no master and we, I am sure, are all equal in this House.

I would, therefore, request you to see that these Committees do not sit when the House is sitting. I do not know how you can manage it, but a way will have to be found. Now we are sitting from 10-30 A.M. to 6 P.M. If we have night sittings and our hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs co-operates with us as regards night sittings of the Committee, we can certainly be grateful to him and attend those meetings.

Now, for instance, there are two big Bills, the Life Insurance Corporation Bill and the Representation of the People Bill, in which most of us are interested. If these Committees meet when these Bills are debated in the House, it will be difficult for us to decide whether to remain here or to go there. Then there may not be quorum in the House with all the Committees sitting. How can we have quorum?

The second point is about the proceedings of these Committees. My hon. friend, the Mover, said that *verbatim* reports would be prepared. Is the House to understand that *verbatim* reports will be prepared and these *verbatim* reports will be sent to the House later on? I do not know whether they will be available to us.

**Mr. Speaker:** They will be in the Library and will be available to Members.

**Shri Kamath:** Then are we to understand that the rules regulating the procedure of the Committees meetings will be the same as the rules that apply to discussion and debate in the House? If the same rules apply, it will, I think be rather improper and irregular to have *verbatim* reports because we might have some informal chats here and there across the table, and it is not proper to have *verbatim* reports of those things.

I would request you to throw light on all these matters.

**Shri Bansal (Jhajjar-Rewari):** With your permission, Sir, I would also like to seek clarification on one or two

[Shri Bansal]

points. The first is as to how will it be possible for some of us to serve two masters as my hon. friend, Shri Kamath has stated. But, even supposing the difficulty is overcome, I would like to know as to whether these Committees will be just discussing the Plan or will adopt certain resolutions. Because, if the latter course is adopted by these committees of the House, then the difficulty will be this. One Member can be only on one committee. I do not know how these committees have been divided and what subjects they will be studying. But, supposing there is one committee which is going to discuss the resources portion of the Plan and there is another committee which is going to discuss the social objectives. It is not possible for me to forecast what will be the composition of these committees, but, it is likely that only one view may be predominantly represented on a particular committee, in which case, if that committee adopts a certain resolution on that subject, then, it may not reflect the collective viewpoint of the whole House. Therefore, I would like to know whether the idea is to have general discussions in these committees or whether these committees will be authorised to adopt certain resolutions on the subjects that will be discussed by them.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** I am sorry I did not make it clear in the first instance. I ought to have done it. No decision shall be taken in those committees and no resolutions shall be adopted there. The views that are expressed will be available for the benefit of the Members. Even if a majority has one view and there is a minority that has a different view, both the views will be reflected for the benefit of the Members, so that the House might know what views were expressed there. There need be no fear of any decision or resolutions or anything of that sort that might bind the Members here. They will be free to express their own views and they will also have the benefit of the views that have been expressed there when they would be thoroughly discussed. This is one thing.

So far as the point that my friend, Shri Kamath, has raised is concerned, it is for you to decide. I can only say this much that this is a new experiment—an innovation as has been expressed by my friend Shri Kamath himself—and we are trying and we shall have, perhaps, to make some new rules or

modify some of the existing ones. It would be for the hon. Speaker to regulate the sittings of these committees. For the present also our Rules do admit of certain things which these committees can do. But, Shri Kamath has not taken objection to the legal or procedural aspect. He has only said that it ought to be convenient for the Members to meet. I do agree with him that it may not be convenient to sit when the House is sitting. But, when we see that it will be more useful and effective for a discussion in this House, we shall have to find out the ways and means as to how we can do it without the least inconvenience being caused to the Members. It would be for you Sir, to regulate that.

**Dr. Rama Rao (Kakinada):** This proposal is welcome; but I want to know whether the Minister at least will reply in the full House so that other Members who are not in a particular committee may know the Minister's difficulties and offer suggestions and other things as far as the proposals are concerned.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not expected that these committees should supersede the decisions of the House. For some time past, I have been seriously considering as to whether a method could be devised by which, at least on particular matters, the attention of the Members could be focussed, so that they can sit round a table and exchange their views both formally and informally across the table. It would be possible for the Members to make the Minister accept their views or for the Minister to convince the Members to accept his views. In all cases where there is practically unanimity of opinion, the Ministers will carry the House with them and those Members who take a different view may also have an opportunity to express themselves. Many differences could be ironed out sitting together.

Regarding the procedure of these committees, I should say we are now making an experiment. I wanted to have such a device even for Budget discussions. We know the Budget estimates are scrutinised in the Estimates Committee and elaborate recommendations are made. But, as yet, we have not devised a method by which the recommendations of the Estimates Committee may be taken up by the House and implemented during Budget discussion. I would say that the House may go into a committee of the whole House

so far as the Budget is concerned, divide itself into various sub-committees (Shri Kamath : Next year), God willing, and sit together and ask the House to implement their decisions and so on. But, that is not the current problem; we can look into it later on. But, we wanted to implement it for the Plan which requires greater attention, looking into and working out the details of figures and so on. One section may have reaction upon another section also. So the procedure in these committees will be both formal and informal. All those matters which hon. Members want to be recorded will be recorded. Whenever a particular discussion goes on, if any Member wants to say something aside and does not want it to be taken down, it is open to him to state that it is to be 'off the record' and need not be taken down. Otherwise, the whole thing may be reported.

**Shri Kamath:** On a point of clarification, I want to know whether before a Member opens his mouth to speak he should state whether it should be off the record or not?

**Mr. Speaker:** He may do so at any particular stage. He may go on speaking so that it is recorded and if at any particular stage he does not want to have it recorded, he may say it is 'off the record'. I do not want to tie down the hands of Members. Let them have a free discussion with a view to arriving at a conclusion. Only those matters which they want to be put before the House will be recorded.

**Shri Punnoose (Alleppey):** It should apply to the Ministers also.

**Mr. Speaker:** Whatever any hon. Member wants to go on the record will go. I want this to be effective so that they can sit together and discuss the matters. At the same time, the benefit of their discussion should be available to the House. But, where they do not want a particular matter to be communicated to the House because it is formal, it need not be recorded. I think I have answered both the points.

As to when the meetings of the committees should take place, of course, I am not in favour of....

**Shri Asoka Mehta (Bhandara):** What will be the time-table? I think we are likely to get the report on the 15th or 16th. We want at least a day or two to go through the report.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** If the hon. Members want, we shall have two or three days.

**Shri Asoka Mehta:** The report of the committees will be likely to be received on the 15th or 16th and on the 22nd we are likely to take it up here. You should fix the time table in such a way that we get some time to go through the report. The committees should not meet very late nor should they meet very early.

**Mr. Speaker:** Between the 15th and 23rd, there will be as many as 9 days. The first two days the Chairmen of the committees may sit together and discuss what time ought to be allowed for the hon. Members to go through the report, and at what time the committees should meet for discussion. It should suit the convenience of the Members. If they want more time for study, the meetings may be put off or if they want to start even one day earlier, they may do so. Entire freedom is given to the Members.

Regarding the holding of the meetings of these committees, they shall be held at all times subject to the convenience of the Members. I will leave it to the Chairmen. If any particular Member takes enormous interest in a particular subject and if he feels that it may not be possible for him to contribute much because of the timings it is for the Chairmen to accommodate such Members. Certainly, the committee would like to hear the views of such a Member. It is not as if the committee would do things in absentia, that is, in the absence of any particular Member when he is going to contribute sufficiently. I would request the committees to give due regard to the wishes of the Members and I would ask the Chairmen of these committees to take all these points into consideration. If they want to hold the meetings late at night and if they want even the cafeteria to be open, and try to cater to their needs, subject however to payment, that can be arranged also.

**Shri Kamath:** I would only make an earnest request that these committees should not meet during the question Hour, but they may meet after 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

**Mr. Speaker:** During the Question Hour I would like the House full and no committee ought to meet then—however important it may be. That is

[Mr. Speaker]

our desire. Very often I have to ring the quorum bell and I want to avoid it. Subject to these things, the committees will get along.

So far as the Minister's reply is concerned, I am sure the Minister will give as full a reply as possible on the floor of the House whatever might be the discussions outside in those committees.

The question is :

"That this House—

(1) agrees with the Thirty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 9th May, 1956; and

(2) recommends to Rajya Sabha that they do join in the Committees on the Second Five Year Plan proposed in the said Report and communicate to this House by the 14th May, 1956 the names of Members of Rajya Sabha on various Committees."

*The motion was adopted*

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members who are desirous of participating in the work of these Committees will kindly give their names to the Parliamentary Notice Office indicating their preferences for the Committees on which they intend to serve, by 3 P.M. on Monday, the 14th May, 1956.

#### THIRTY-SIXTH REPORT

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

"That this House agrees with the Thirty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 9th May, 1956."

**Mr. Speaker:** I think it relates to the Insurance Bill.

**Shri Kamath:** I would like to remind you, Mr. Speaker, and the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs also that today is Friday....

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister is doing that today.

The question is :

"That this House agrees with the Thirty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 9th May, 1956."

*The motion was adopted.*

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):** Sir, with your permission, I would like to make an announcement regarding legislative business for the week commencing 14th May, 1956.

In addition to the business included in the List of Business for the week which has already reached Members, the Appropriation Bill in connection with the Demands for Grants for Travancore-Cochin State will be brought forward for introduction, consideration and passing.

It is also proposed to introduce during the week a Bill to amend the Income-Tax Act, and bring it forward for consideration and passing. This is an emergent piece of legislation which was not foreseen when on the 4th May I made a statement on the order of business for this month.

**Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad):** The advance List of Business which has been circulated shows that the Travancore-Cochin Budget will be taken up on Monday, the 14th. How much time has been allotted for this?

**Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam):** Six hours.

**Shri Kamath:** Only six hours. May I make a brief request to you that the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill should be taken up on Monday and after its conclusion, the Travancore-Cochin Budget may be taken up on Thursday.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will ask them to consider this. The hon. Member has made a suggestion.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta South-East):** May I have a clarification? The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has also indicated that there will be another Bill, the Income-Tax (Amendment) Bill which will be introduced and will be put up for consideration and passing. What would be the priority of the Bill? Because several items are given in the List of Business which has reached us, what will be the priority of this Bill?

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** It is a very small piece of legislation, perhaps containing one clause. The Bill will be introduced on Monday and Government propose to give over-riding priority to the Bill.