

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

the information is to be sought for from the States and that will take some time. Unless that is received, it is not possible to place it before the House. I can only ask the Government that, if it is possible, later information might also be collected from the States and brought before the House so that the debate might be effective in so far as the latest incidents also are concerned.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): They will do it slowly and it will take a long time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then it is for the House to replace the Government! If the Government says that it is not possible to get that information, that is, information after that date, we cannot compel it to do it. We can ask the Government to furnish information up to the latest date that it is possible for it. I am doing that. I am asking the Government to try to obtain figures, as far as possible, up to the latest date. This is all that can be done.

Shri S. S. More: As far as the Bombay State is concerned, I may bring it to your notice and to the notice of the House that the latest figures were given by the Chief Minister by the end of March. Those figures...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then we should not have any apprehension because I am asking the Government if it has got that information, and it will place it before the House if it has got that information.

The Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): There is no need for argument, for your wish will be carried out and we will try to supply the latest information as far as it is available. It may be, of course, that it is not comprehensive in the sense of covering every State, but such as we can get, we shall place before the House.

Shri Kamath: I shall make an earnest request to you that you will kindly ask the Government not to try to supply but to supply that information. With tele-communications they can contact every State and ask them to supply the information at once. It is an evasion of responsibility not to supply it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now we shall proceed to the next item of business. The hon. Member will realise that Government may have some difficulties which

may not be apparent to us. I have asked the Government to supply the information up to the latest date that they have in their possession. That is all what can be done just at present.

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta South-East): May I draw your attention to another matter with regard to what is appearing in the Order Paper? After the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We will take it up later; the hon. Member may wait for some time.

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILL

Secretary: Sir, I have to inform the House that the Travancore-Cochin Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1956, which was passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session was assented to by the President on the 10th May, 1956.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

FOURTH REPORT

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): I beg to present the Fourth Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

STATES REORGANISATION BILL

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): I beg to move:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the States of India and for matters connected therewith be extended up to the first day of the next Session."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the States of India and for matters connected therewith be extended up to the first day of the next Session."

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): I would request you to ask the Minister to throw some light on this matter. To my mind, this appears to be rather very important. As you are well aware, there has been considerable wobbling on this matter and, therefore, I should like to know whether the 10th July is really a firm date. In the first place, to say that the Lok Sabha...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not the 10th July, but it is the first day of the next session.

Shri Kamath: You might recollect that about the report that was to have been presented today, there has been considerable wobbling on this matter. Therefore, I would like to know whether this date will be the finally firm date or there will be further postponement. I do not know whether the Minister can say anything definite about it. But the other aspect of the matter is whether Government has drawn up a schedule for the passage or progress of the Bill, and cognate matters, that is to say, a Bill for instance connected with the Bengal-Bihar problem. Will that be done by way of amendment of this Bill or will another Bill be introduced in this House in this session?

Lastly, the House has come to know—we have no official information however—that the Prime Minister will be away for about a month or five weeks from the middle of June and is expected back here about the 23rd July. That is the Press report. May I know whether the Government is planning to go ahead with this Bill without waiting for the home-coming of the Prime Minister? I do not think so as this is an important measure. They will have to await his return home before they take this up.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All the things that have been stated by the hon. Member are very important, but for the present we are not concerned with when the Prime Minister returns; we are only concerned with when this Bill is to be taken up. I feel that it would not be for the Minister alone to tell us when the Joint Committee would conclude its deliberations. It should rather be for the Chairman, and even he cannot anticipate whether he would be able to finish it within a prescribed period or not. The Speaker can only ask the Joint Committee and its Chairman to speed it up. I do not think it is for the Minister to control those proceedings or to get it finished within

a particular period. It would be rather for the Chairman whether he would be able to conclude it by a particular period or not.

Shri Kamath: May I know the reasons for the postponement now asked for?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is because the Joint Committee has not finished its deliberations. That apparently is the reason. What else can it be?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: You, Sir, are perfectly right in saying that it is not for me to indicate definitely and precisely when the Joint Committee will finish its labours. I was informed by the Chairman that this matter was considered by the Joint Committee and the Joint Committee were of the opinion that they might not be able to finish their labours by the end of June. I do not suppose it is their final commitment. It was the general view of the Joint Committee. The report may be presented to the House on a relatively early date in July. That is why the 10th of July was fixed but the proper form, I believe, is 'the first day of the next session'. It may be a few days this way or that way.

As for the other programme in regard to this, I am sure that my colleague, the Home Minister, who is the Chairman of the Joint Committee, when he comes here—he is away for three or four days—will inform the House and take it into his confidence fully about this matter, as well as, I hope before we break up in this session, about the broad approach to the question of dates for the next elections.

Dr. Rama Rao (Kakinada): May I point out that the Joint Committee has given up sitting some five or six days ago? It is not as if it has been meeting till yesterday or the day before and still not being able to complete the task. We want to know what came in the way of the Joint Committee proceeding with the work.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The difficulty has not been perhaps appreciated by the hon. Member. The Chairman of the Joint Committee is not present. He can explain what difficulty he had or why it has not met for four or five days, as the hon. Member alleges. We can make those enquiries when he comes. Perhaps he would make a statement himself on these points.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: (Calcutta North-East): I would like to recall to you what some of us said a few days ago in regard to the announcement we were expecting today, the 14th of May. We were pretty positive that the Joint Committee would come forward, asking for an extension of the period, for submitting report. It was pointed out in the House that this delay—perhaps unavoidable delay on the part of the Joint Committee—would have certain consequential effects in regard not only to the fate of the SRC Bill but also in regard to the entire schedule for the general elections which are impending. On the last occasion it was said that the opposition had very strong feelings in regard to the schedule of elections and the elections being held according to the schedule as propounded. We had a feeling that the way things were going, the schedule would have to be disturbed. That may be right or that may be wrong; that is a different proposition. But, we have a right to know from Government as to what the exact position is.

Apart from the SRC Bill, which is obviously being delayed, there is another matter in regard to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. There is a fresh order which has been placed before the House for the purpose of its approval. All that, I am told, would take considerable time. Altogether, the indications appear to an outside observer to be that the entire schedule of the elections is going to be disturbed and they are going to be postponed. The other day the Prime Minister has said that the Government intends to proceed with the schedule as so far announced but that, of course, there may be certain unforeseen factors supervening. Today we ought to be in a position to find out from Government whether so far any unforeseen factor has supervened and whether the country would be told at least in as quick a time as possible that the schedule for the elections had been decided. As far as we are concerned, we would not like to be a party to the disturbing of the schedule so far announced. That is why we want the Government to place all its cards on the table as soon as possible.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Either I have not understood the hon. Prime Minister rightly or perhaps the hon. Member was not very attentive. I feel that he has

made it clear that, when the Home Minister comes, he will make a statement on the points that the hon. Members want. So, we can wait for three or four days. All this information is likely to be given by him when he returns. Am I right?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir; you are right. On the last occasion when this matter was raised, I said that the Government was anxious to adhere, broadly speaking, to the dates for the next general election. So far as I know, no precise schedule was drawn up. Broadly, it was in the early quarter of the next year. We are anxious to keep to that date. Now, we are trying to work out, in consultation with the Election Commissioner, these dates so that, broadly speaking, we may inform the House about it. It is our intention to have the elections in the early part of the next year. I cannot indicate the exact month. It may vary by a month or so but it will be within the period allowed by the Constitution. That is my point. These dates would be announced. The present dates for the meetings of the Joint Committee would be fixed keeping in view the fact that we have to finish this work in time for the elections.

Shri Kamath: May I request the Prime Minister to tell the House whether he is not anxious to be present here when this Bill is taken up?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That he can do privately if the enquiry he wants to make is whether he will be present or not.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): Having regard to the importance and the vital issues which will have far-reaching effects, it will be desirable for the Prime Minister to be in this House when we discuss this matter. Certain difficulties have not yet been solved. We are still hoping that they would be solved with the guidance of the Prime Minister. Therefore, his presence would be very much desirable, when we are finalising this matter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The desire has been expressed and the Prime Minister will think over it. I shall now put the question.

Shri Kamath: He must speed up his home-coming.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the States of India and for matters connected therewith be extended upto the first day of the next Session."

The motion was adopted.

CONSTITUTION (NINTH AMENDMENT) BILL

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): I beg to move:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be extended up to the first day of next Session."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be extended up to the first day of next Session."

The motion was adopted.

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION BILL.

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta South-East): Before we proceed to the business of the House, I want to draw your attention to a matter in connection with an item mentioned in the Order Paper, namely, the Life Insurance Corporation Bill. In order to facilitate the debate, the Select Committee decided to lay the evidence on the Table of the House. The evidence has been circulated. On a perusal of the evidence, it will appear that it refers to memoranda, etc. submitted by the respective parties and without receiving them, it will be incomprehensible to those who could not attend the Select Committee meetings. Therefore, may I request you to see that the memoranda, etc. presented by the parties, may also be published and circulated among the Members of the House?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What has been said by the hon. Member is correct. They have not been circulated. That was done according to the decision of the Select Committee. His suggestion will be conveyed to the Speaker who shall decide whether the memoranda also shall be circulated. He is arriving today. Perhaps he may give directions so far as this is concerned.

TRAVANCORE-COCHIN BUDGET

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We will now take up the discussion on the Travancore-Cochin Budget for 1956-57. The time-limit on this along with the other stages, Appropriation Bills, etc. is six hours. Now, would the hon. Members like to divide this time between general discussion and discussion on cut motions, or would they like to grapple with the cut motions straightaway?

Shri Punnoose (Alleppey): May I suggest that you may be pleased to look into the time-schedule and find out whether it is possible to allot one more hour for debate on these Demands? Irrespective of party considerations, we feel very strongly that more time should be granted to this subject. In that case it would be possible to set apart one hour for cut motions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are two things that we have to consider. There is a half-an-hour discussion at six o'clock today. If that can be postponed to some other day, we can have that half an hour as well. Then, if the hon. Members are anxious to have some more time, we will have to sit a bit longer. I have no objection to that. If the hon. Members so desire we can sit up to half past six today.

Shri Punnoose: I am sure, Sir, that this House being the only custodian of democracy in that part of India will be pleased to sit half an hour more on this subject.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So, if we sit up to half past six with this subject, we will have one hour more. I wanted to know whether hon. Members would like some part of it to be allotted for general discussion and the rest to deal with the cut motions. May I know whether the