

[Shri Satya Narayan Sinha]

Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 4th December, 1956."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Forty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 4th December, 1956."

The motion was adopted.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, I find from the allocation of time made so far for various Bills and other items of business and taking into account some other Bills awaiting disposal and for which time allocation has yet to be made, that the time available will be considerably short of the time required for the disposal of business.

I am sure, the House has recognised that what has been brought before it so far during the session has been business of an essential character. Foreseeing that parliamentary time will be a more scarce commodity during the current session than it has been even in the past, I have endeavoured to restrict Government's programme to the most essential items.

What remains to be disposed of is no less essential than what has been disposed of hitherto. But, more time than would normally be available under our present calendar and the length of the daily sitting will be required to dispose of all the business. This is practically the last session of this House. Members are bound to be pre-occupied with other things hereafter. I would, therefore, crave the indulgence of this House for a last supreme effort to clear the decks. My calculation is that we require about 30 additional hours of work. If you have no objection, Sir, I would like to suggest that this House

may hold sittings on three Saturdays falling on 8th, 15th and 22nd December and sit one hour extra on other days up to 21st December.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: This will give us the additional time required. As it is essential that the House should adjourn before Christmas, it is not practicable to extend the session except by one day. The only way to meet the situation is through more intensive work. I shall be grateful, Sir, if you take the sense of the House about my proposals.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Bairhat): May I, Sir, as a Member of the Business Advisory Committee, bring to your notice that none of these things was placed before the Business Advisory Committee which met a few days ago? This is totally wrong for the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. According to the convention which has grown in this House, all questions of allocation of time and allied matters are first placed before the Business Advisory Committee and then brought before the House. Therefore, I think it is only right that this proposal should not be put before the House just now. It should be put before the Business Advisory Committee, they should consider it and then the matter must come up before the House.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): I support the suggestion made by Shrimati Renu Chakravarty. You, Sir, presided over the last meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. No such suggestion was put forward by the hon. Minister who attended.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I did not attend.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Another hon. Minister was deputising for him. There was not one suggestion like this. This matter should be discussed. We should know exactly what is the programme and what is the priority. Then we will be in a

better position to advise the House as a whole. All sections will be represented there. I think it is far better to keep this pending.

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): Sir, I submit that these Bills are taken up in the House according to the suggestion of the Business Advisory Committee. Once the programme of the sittings of the House is scheduled, I submit, as the previous hon. Speaker Shri Mavalankar also said, that we must stick to the programme and not alter it every day by extending the session, etc. In any case, we are meeting once more. That may be the last session. If any more Bills are left over, what is the difficulty in considering them then. Everybody is not pre-occupied; Members may attend a session of Parliament and sit for two or three days more and pass these Bills, rather than sit for extra hours and extra days now.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): I think it is high time that the House cried halt to this planned planlessness of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Government as a whole. I know, he is not wholly to blame in this matter. But carrying as he does the onerous the ponderous portfolio of Parliamentary Affairs, I think he has, in the scheme of things prevalent here, to bear vicariously much of the odium and criticism which should be addressed to other Ministers. That cannot be helped. In the last session, you will recall, you assured the House that either the House sits one hour longer every day or on Saturdays: not both. We do not get time to work at home in that case. That is the difficulty. According to your suggestion, it was agreed that the House sits every day one hour longer, but not on Saturdays. Moreover, regarding the last suggestion made by the Minister that the House must adjourn before Christmas,—I have got all respect for my Christian friends,—but is it absolutely necessary?

Shri Frank Anthony (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): Of course.

Shri Kamath: Is it the convention that we must adjourn before Christmas? Can we not have two holidays in-between for Christmas and adjourn later? The adjournment before Christmas should not be sacrosanct. Christmas must be a holiday no doubt. All these matters, I submit, must go to the Business Advisory Committee and not be sprung as a surprise on the House by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. I would therefore appeal to you to defer this matter for consideration by the Business Advisory Committee, and then it may come before the House with the recommendation in this respect by that Committee, not today.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I have no objection if the matter is brought before the Business Advisory Committee, but I would like to submit that the allocation of time that I have referred to in my statement was decided by the Business Advisory Committee. I have calculated according to the decision of the Business Advisory Committee and therefore I have pointed out the time available taking it that the House sits to the scheduled date 21st December. This is pure arithmetic and nothing else. We have gone by the decision of the Business Advisory Committee, but I have no objection to the reference. Hon. Members must also realise the abnormal circumstances I have referred to. I have not said Members would like to go as early as possible to their constituencies because of their elections.

Shri Kamath: You may.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Not only that. This has been our convention that we do not sit beyond Christmas. If the House wants to sit after Christmas, it is for the House to decide. All that I say is during this session we have got to put through all these Bills.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: We have in the Business Advisory Committee again and again requested the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to

[Shrimati Renu Chakravarty]

place before us more or less tentatively the total business that is coming before the House this session. No new Bills are being proposed. It is only natural that we should know at the Business Advisory Committee meeting what will be the time allocation required. I see absolutely no urgent necessity for having brought forward this sort of a proposal before the House without bringing it before the Business Advisory Committee.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: How many times should I make this point clear that the time allocation has been decided by the Business Advisory Committee? On the calculation of the time allocated by the Business Advisory Committee I have made this statement.

Mr. Speaker: We have heard enough. So far as this matter is concerned, the hon. Minister says that he has calculated the time for all the Bills which the hon. Minister wants to place before the House and get through in this session. He must have calculated, and it is a question of arithmetic according to him. Anyhow he is willing that we may find ways and means to get through this work even without the extension. That is what evidently the hon. Members feel on the other side, that if the Business Advisory committee meets, it may take stock of the situation and then try to find out if in the time already allotted all this matter cannot be finished, and if necessary, of course, they will be willing to sit or make other suggestions.

So far as tomorrow is concerned, I would like to have a sitting tomorrow. Let us see for the other weeks. If tomorrow passes, even if we should come to the conclusion that tomorrow will be necessary, we would have lost tomorrow. Tomorrow we shall meet and then let us consider tomorrow afternoon at 4 O'clock. Let there be a meeting of the Business

Advisory Committee from 4 to 5 p.m. In the meanwhile the hon. Minister will place before the Business Advisory Committee any further Bill or any other matter which has to come before the House in this session, so that we may have a comprehensive view of the whole business, and then try to adjust the time.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): What will be the time for tomorrow's sitting?

Mr. Speaker: Of course, normal, as usual 11 to 5.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Eleven to four. There is no Question Hour.

Mr. Speaker: If there is no Question Hour, then we again one more hour.

The Minister of Finance and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): May I make a submission? I have got a National Development Council meeting to attend to which all the Chief Ministers are coming. Tomorrow I shall be most of the time there. I am suggesting if the Chair is pleased, it might not take up the discussion of the Finance Bill tomorrow and on Monday.

Mr. Speaker: I have the least objection, but is there sufficient work for tomorrow?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Other things we will take up.

Mr. Speaker: Very well.

BANKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL.*

The Minister of Finance and Iron and steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Banking Companies Act, 1949.

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