15679 Motion re: Flood Control Projects in Second Five Year Plan

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

Sir, I may also add, in connection with Starred question No. 1054, answered on the 23rd August, 1955, Shri K. C. Sodhia asked my colleague a supplementary question whether there were any factories other than Messrs. Atul Products Ltd., manufacturing dyes in India and my colleague replied, "Dyes are not being manufactured by any other factory besides this firm". The correct position, however, is that there are other factories manufacturing dyes in the country. I regret the error that has crept into the earlier reply and seek your permission to correct that answer and substitute it by the following:

"There are other factories manufacturing dyes in the country."

MOTION RE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS IN SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion on the Motion regarding Floods Control Projects.

Out of the 5 hours allotted for this Motion, about 21 hours have been availed of yesterday. This would mean that the discussion on the motion will conclude by about 3 P.M. today when the motions for reference of the Inter-State Water Disputes Bill and the River Boards Bill to Joint Committees will be taken up for which 2 hours and 3 hours have been allotted respectively.

Shri Hathi will continue his speech.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Shri Asoka Mehta (Bhandara): May I point out that we seem to be behind our time table by more than 4 hours and the last item that we have to consider is the discussion on the Agricultural Policy for which 10 hours have been assigned. But, at this rate, I do not think we shall have even 6 hours —perhaps less than 6 hours—left for its discussion. So, I would suggest that either that discussion be postponed to the next Session or some other way adopted because it is an important subject and, naturally, the House would like to have a full 10 hours discussion. I do not know how we shall get 10 hours.

Mr. Speaker: Is it likely that this business may be taken up in the next Session?

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I cannot promise because the next Session is going to be a very short one. Unless we know the position of the legislative business, it is not possible to say anything definite. We shall try all that is possible. There are about 6 hours and if we sit till 6 o'clock today, tomorrow and the day after, it will give us three more hours and it will make 6 plus 3, 9 hours. I do not know if hon. Members will agree; tomorrow there is non-official business for 21 hours and this is more or less non-official business.....

Several Hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; let him be heard.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Not that I say that you must agree to it, I am only throwing a suggestion, just to make up the time. That can be foregone if all are agreeable. But, so far as the next Session is concerned, I should make it perfectly clear. I had a talk with my hon. friends opposite yesterday also and I made it clear to them outside the House that it is not possible to make any commitment.

Mr. Speaker: May I know the probable length of the next Session?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: One month.

Mr. Speaker: Unfortunately, there is not much time, because Dewali is coming from about 15th or so and 21st is the first Monday after Dewali. It will go up to the end of December, about the 22nd or 23rd, whatever it may be, because Christmas comes after that. So, our time is limited in the next session. It is only one month and I can well appreciate what the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has

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said-that he cannot commit himself today, though, of course, all attempts will be made if it is the desire of the House to have this discussion postponed to the next Session. Personally, I should have no objection, but, then, we must always look to the contingency of the discussion being postponed again, because in the next session we may not find time for this and the session after that will be the budget session and possibly everything will be crowded out. (Interruptions). I am not taking opinion by voices now. The other alternative would be that the House sits longer for three days now, we have foday, tomorrow the 30th and the day after, that is the 1st October, which is the last day.

Shri Asoka Mehta: We will not be able to do it this Session because we have not here budgeted for the Companies Bill; I am afraid it will come up before this House again.

Mr. Speaker: If there is time, the Companies Bill may, but other things which were arranged should not be crowded out just by taking in something which was not planned.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: We will have about 8½ hours if we sit for these three days, an hour longer.

Mr. Speaker: I think a tired House will not like to sit much longer hours just at the fag end of the session when everybody is eager to leave the House.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): You have noticed how the hours after five are being utilised in this House. Almost every day after five o'clock, there was no quorum and the quorum bell had to be rung several times and the House had to be adjourned much before six o'clock. That contingency will always be there, especially at the fag end of the session. It is, therefore, desirable that we postpone this to the next session. Further, ten hours have not been found out even then, but only 81 hours seem to have been found out. To have a full and satisfactory discussion on this very important agricultural policy we do require not probably ten hours but more than that. In those circumstances I would seriously suggest that the matter might be taken up in another session and I support the view of my friend, Shri Asoka Mehta.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): May I earnestly request you to consider another possibility? Instead of sitting every day one hour longer, can we not repeat the precedent of the last Parliament when we had an all-night sitting up to ten. The day after is the China Day and we may have to go there. Tomorrow, if the House can have dinner here, we could go up to nine or ten o'clock (Interruption).

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: The House will have no objection if the hon. Member stands dinner.

Shri Kamath: Yes, a co-operative dinner!

Mr. Speaker: Let us think about this problem a little more seriously. I think the alternative proposal would be that we sit for two hours instead of one hour a day longer today and tomorrow which will give us 4 hours. There is one more day and there is no question hour on the last day.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: That has been taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Let us not spend time on this as we are taking up the time of the House. The alternative seems to me to be that as we want to have ten hours in all, under the arrangement suggested of sitting one hour longer each day, we get only 8½ hours...

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Bilaspur): Tomorrow the Question Hour may be suspended (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Let not hon Members go on speaking simultaneously, because I am not going to decide any point unless I hear everybody. There is a strong opinion, and I think wellfounded, against dispensing with Question Hour and I have stated also in this House that unless the Business Advisory Committee considers all matters—and it only recommends suspension under exceptional circumstances,—requests for suspension of the Question Hour should not come

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[Mr. Speaker]

in. So, that is not now a matter open for us to consider. The Question Hour will be there. The only proposal is to sit for longer hours. It may be done for two days or three days, whatever the time may be,—till 6-30 or 7. But the proposal of sitting all the night and serving dinner here does not appeal to me. Anyway the Members cannot have the dinner in the House itself. It may be in some other parts of the building and if that is so, they will not be able to attend the meeting here. So, that is out of question. I think we shall sit longer.

Shri Asoka Mehta: Up to 7 o'clock. Mr. Speaker: Even up to 7 o'clock, I do not mind.

Shri N. E. Muniswamy (Wandiwash): Cannot we start an hour earlier?

Mr. Speaker: No, that is not possible: The House sits up to 7 P.M. today and tomorrow. We will take up the next item of business. Shri Hatm will continue his speech.

MOTION RE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS IN SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): Yesterday I was replying to the points raised by the hon. Member, Shri Barman and I was dealing with the point as to how co-ordination between the various Ministries has been ensured.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

tions that have been set up are represented. There are the representatives of the Railway Ministry, the Transport Ministry, and the Agriculture Ministry for the purpose of forests, soil conservation, etc., and thus there is no reason to hold that the works will not be co-ordinated. The other points raised by the hon. Member were rather in the form of complaints. He said that the villages were neglected and only the towns were preferred for the purpose of flood protection works.

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Shri Barman (North Bengal-Reserved-Sch. Castes): It is not my complaint but the complaint of the

people of the rural areas. Shri Hathi: It is the people's complaint expressed by the hon. Member here, but I must submit that there is no intention whatsoever of neglecting any area here or any area there, whether it is a town or a village. The only question is that works have to be started and priorities have to be decided. There are various factors which would decide priorities. T would not say that nature of damages or the loss of life, because that priority is constant, whether it may be a village or a town. The loss of life is priority No. 1. So that is a constant factor. Then there are other variable factors also and these variable factors are not limitations. The limitations may be physical limitations; the limitations may be technical limitations. There may be certain works which could be carried on with the data available and without having recourse to further investigations and further surveys. There may be other works where it would not be possible technically to start the works unless you have got sufficient data with you and there may also be certain emergent works.

There were several towns-some in his own constituency, some towns in Assam where we find that it was a case where emergent measures should be taken in order to protect the towns. The protection works in Bengal had been able to afford the protection that was sought to be given to these towns. In Assam three town protection schemes were undertaken and we know that one of the most emergent works that we have had to undertake was with regard to Dibrugarh. As I said, there are technical limitations, limitations of personnel also, and other limitations. It is not possible to cover every part at the same time. Priorities have to be decided and given to the various towns. I will not take up the time of this House by mentioning the feelings and situation that was created at Dibru-