

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

or interest thereon. This information given by me was based upon an earlier proposal and was not quite correct. I would, therefore, like to clarify the answer by further informing the House that what has been decided is that the quantum of the annual contribution to be made from the Consolidated Fund of India to the new fund would be determined from time to time in accordance with the overall financial position of the country.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SEVENTEENTH REPORT

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

"That this House agrees with the Seventeenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 11th February, 1958."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That this House agrees with the Seventeenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 11th February, 1958."

Shrimati Benu Chakravarty (Basirhat): I would like to know what happened to the motion regarding the decisions of the Darjeeling Rehabilitation Ministers' Conference that has just been put off. It came on the agenda papers, but it has disappeared. Since I could not attend the Business Advisory Committee meeting, I would like to know what has happened to it.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: It was placed on the agenda provisionally. Both yourself and the House are aware that it has been the convention of the House that matters like those contained in this motion are not allowed generally to be discussed on the eve of the President's Address or the

general discussion of the budget. We have always thought that such matters could always be discussed during that period. Therefore, this matter was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee and the Business Advisory Committee also came to the conclusion that hon. Members would get ample opportunity to discuss that matter in the debate on the President's Address or during the general discussion of the budget coming very soon or during the discussion of the demands of the Ministry concerned. In view of all these things, we are not proposing to bring it before the House.

Shrimati Benu Chakravarty: May I remind the House of an assurance given in the Business Advisory Committee last time? A request was made to Members not to press this, so that it can be put on the agenda paper early this session. At that time it was clearly known that the next session would be the budget session. After that only we agreed that we would not press for it last session. So, I do not quite understand how this is now being brought forward as an excuse for shutting it out from the agenda.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta-Central): Actually I found from the papers circulated that this particular motion was put down for Wednesday and then it was withdrawn. In the revised list of business, it was no longer there.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I have explained why it has been taken out. There was a discussion in the Business Advisory Committee and we also thought that in view of the convention of the House that such matters are not allowed to be discussed on the eve of the debate on the President's Address.....

Shrimati Benu Chakravarty: When did this convention come about? I have not known it.

Shri Saiya Narayan Shaha: You are also aware, because you have been associated with this House since 1934, that this has been the practice. In those days the President's Address was not there, but the general discussion of the budget was there. Now you have got not only the President's Address, but the general discussion coming up very soon within two or three weeks and the hon. Member will get ample opportunity to say whatever he wants to say on these matters.

Mr. Speaker: I will only cut this short by saying that no final decision has been taken on that yet. Otherwise it would have found a place in the minutes. There is sufficient opportunity for discussing this matter. We will then consider if sufficient opportunity has been given. If not, we shall bring it up in this session later. Therefore, it is only a question of putting it off for some time and not putting it off permanently.

Shrimati Rena Chakravartty: Am I to take it that it is not going to be put in the early part of the session and that it will meet the normal fate it does at the end of the session?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is entitled to draw any inference. It was said that there would be a general discussion when it can be raised and so on. There is no meaning in asking whether it will be endless and and so on. We are having the debate on the President's Address; let us see. If there is no opportunity to discuss it then we shall try to provide for it. I will call a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee where we will take it up. The hon. lady Member will kindly try to be present.

The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Seventeenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 11th February, 1958."

The motion was adopted.

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill. Out of 4 hours allotted for the various stages of the Bill, 36 Minutes have already been taken on the general discussion and 3 hours and 24 minutes now remain.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi may continue his speech.

Shri Raghbir Sahai (Budaun): On a point of order. I would like to know how much time will be allowed for the general discussion and how much for the clause-by-clause consideration, etc

Mr. Speaker: There is no point of order, but still let us consider. How many amendments are there? I think 22. I think one hour will be necessary for that. Therefore, general discussion will conclude after 2½ hours and then one hour in the end will be reserved both for the clause-by-clause consideration and the third reading.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi (Ludhiana): I was submitting yesterday that the Criminal Law Amendment Bill now before the House deals with that aspect of corruption which can be met by legislation and that aspect comprises of obtaining illegal gratification, monetary advantages or other advantages by misuse of power and criminal misconduct and offences of that kind.

The other kind of corruption to which attention has been drawn by some hon. Members is favouritism and nepotism. But these cannot unfortunately be met by legislation. They can only be eliminated or lessened by the creation of public opinion and pressure. The present amendment that is before the House has got a very important salutary effect, and I congratulate the Minister for having brought it forward which prescribes a minimum punishment in case of proved guilt of corruption.