

16.54 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, the House has to consider three important measures, viz., (i) Sugar (Special Excise Duty) Bill, (ii) Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill and (iii) Mineral Oils (Additional Duties of Excise and Customs) Amendment Bill, on the 17th and 18th so that these Bills are considered and returned by the Upper House on 21st and 22nd December. It has, therefore, become essential that further discussion on the food situation may be taken up after the conclusion of the above three Bills, i.e. on Monday. I hope the House will appreciate the position and approve the taking up of further discussion on food situation on Monday.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These Bills have to be passed by both Houses during this session. We have just begun the discussion on the food situation. Hon. Members can study the statement made by the hon. Minister today and they will be better prepared on Monday.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Originally, 16th was fixed for food debate. Now, because of the Delhi Land Ceilings Bill, we started the discussion late. Now if we delay it again for a further period . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Will any harm be done if we take it up on Monday? The only view that has been expressed on behalf of the Government is that those Bills would have to be completed within this session, because the other House has also to consider them and send them back to us. That is the difficulty.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: That is all right. We accept it.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Government business has always priority over any other business.

Shri Nath Pai: May I know whether the discussion of the report of the Pay Commission, which has been scheduled for 4 o'clock tomorrow has also been changed?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: No.

Shri Nath Pai: What is the reply?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: It will be taken up at 4 o'clock, as announced.

Shri Tangamani: About the discussion on the Pay Commission Report tomorrow, the time allotted . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a different thing. Now Shri Dwivedy.

16.56 hrs.

MOTION RE: FOOD SITUATION—
contd.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Members of this House who were present when we were discussing the food prices on the last occasion must have observed a great difference today. The difference is not because the difficulties of the situation have been removed, or because the prices have really gone down, or because the production has increased; the difference is that we have now a new Minister. Then we had a Minister who was bidding good-bye. Here is a Minister who is slippery and clever. During the period of his ministership he has already headed three Ministries, and this is the third Ministry that he has come to. And I know what he is going to do in this Ministry—not that a new policy is going to be evolved, nor that he is actually going to give us more agricultural production. What I feel is that whereas the other Ministers had been a little bit timid and had not the capacity to come forward with policies, this new Minister is working deliberately for the reversal of the policies that have been decided by the Government of India after many many years of experience.