6721 Summary Regarding Revision MARCH 18, 1960Business of the House 6722 of Local Telephone Tariffs

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I will try to to carry out your instructions.

Mr. Speaker: I am happy to hear that.

Shri Tyagi: As the power has been given to the Ministry by law now it can only be withdrawn by means of an amendment to the laws. Therefore I suggest that perhaps the Ministry might choose to bring forward an amendment of the law.

Mr. Speaker: Even without an amendment he can do so.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I am sorry, My hon. frisnd has mistaken what is vested in the Government. As you vourself explained it, under the Indian Telegraphs Act we are entitled to revise the rates etc. As I have explained in my statement it will be impossible for the telephone system of this country to work unless this increase comes about for the simple reason, as I said, that no reserve fund will be available for this purpose. Therefore there is the question of revising these tariffs. Of course, hon. Members can say what they like and if they take a decision against that we will have to find out ways and means of enhancing the amount we have at our disposal. But it may mean that we may not be able to give all the telephone connections that every hon. Member wants for his friends. I get letters every day from hon. Members for giving a connection to this person or that person. That will not be possible.

Mr. Speaker: At this stage we are not going into the merits of increasing the rates. All that hon. Members say at present is that this is an indirect taxation measure. They are all agreed that some latitude must be given to the executive to increase or decrease the rates according to the circumstances. Every time the executice cannot come to the Parliament. All that is agreed. But what they want is to avoid it, if it could be avoided, after the Session commences. That is all. A convention may be established that way. Now let us proceed.... (Interruption). I will give ample opportunities to discuss the details during the discussion of Demands of this Ministry.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I would like to point out for your consideration that this is not a tax but something made for services rendered to the community.

Mr. Speaker: It is so with respect to the post offices. Postal charges are also the same thing.

Shri Tyagi: The whole tax structure is meant for services which the Government renders to the public.

Mr. Speaker: Let us not go into matter further. That applies to telegraph and telephone rates and postcards also. I am only suggesting a convention.

12.37 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business for the week commencing the 21st March will consist of—

- Further discussion and voting of the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.
- (2) Discussion and voting of the Demands for Grants in reepect of the Ministries of—

Transport and Communications. Home Affairs, Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, Community Development and Co-operation.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): May I know from the hon. Minister whether a time schedule has been drawn up about the Bill for the bifurcation of Bombay because we are interested in that? Secondly, what about the No-day-yet-named motions? None has been put down for the last two weeks.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: About the first, perhaps on the 30th of this month we are going to have that Bill introduced here for reference to a Joint Committee. About the second point raised by my hon friend, as desired by you after the demands are over we are going to provide for two No-day-yet-named motions instead of one every week in order to make up for their omission all these weeks.

Mr. Speaker: Because during the Budget Session we do not find time. In the other sessions there will be a number of No-day-yet-named motions relating to various reports that have been presented to the House.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: There are a hundred of them.

Mr. Speaker: There are a number of them. All the important ones will be disposed of during those other sessions when we are not pressed for time. I shall try to get two or three such motions put down in a week during the next session so that all the important reports may be disposed of But what we have agreed to is that after the discussion on the Budget is over two No-day-yet-named motions will be disposed of every week.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: After the Demands are over.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, after the Demands are over.

Shri Rajendra Singh (Chapra): Could we not extend the Session?

Mr. Speaker: Next item.

12.39 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS*-contd.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTIOG—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Out of five hours allotted, 3 hours 21 minutes have been taken and 1 hour 39 minutes remain. May I know from the hon, Minister how much time he proposes to take?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): One hour.

Mr. Speaker: There are about 40 minutes left then. Dr. Sushila Nayar.

12.40 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Dr. Sushila Nayar (Jhansi): I am thankful to you for giving me a few minutes to speak on these Demands.

First of all, I wish to complement this Ministry for having encouraged classical music as against film songs. Some people have made a reference to the fact that Ceylon Radio is much more popular than our own radio in certain sections. I think that not only do we need to give the people classical music, so that they can have something better than the mere film songs. but I feel that it will be a good thing if the AIR also made an attempt to enable people to appreciate classical music a little better. What I mean to say is if, along with classical music, care was taken to educate the listeners not only in the different aspects of our own classical music but also, in, say, Western classical music, a comparison of the two systems and so on, by giving selected pieces, that will inculcate the capacity to appreciate and enjoy classical music to a better extent. Some time ago, I understand that an attempt in that direction was

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.