

[Shri Braj Raj Singh]

discussion was scheduled to be held on the 1st March, 1960, but, for want of quorum, it fell through.

Direction No. 19 reads thus:

"When half-an-hour discussion under sub-rule (1) of rule 55 is interrupted for want of quorum or when there is no time for the Minister to give a full reply to the debate, he may, with the permission of the Speaker, lay a statement on the Table of the House."

Does it mean that the Minister can delay the laying of the statement on the Table of the House by as long a period as fifteen days? This discussion was held on 1st March, and to-day is the 16th March, which means that full fifteen days have elapsed. I understand that the meaning of the Direction perhaps is that the statement should be laid then and there on the Table of the House. Fifteen days should not be required for the laying of the Statement.

Mr. Speaker: The direction says that when there is no time for the Minister to reply, he may, with the permission of the Speaker, lay a statement on the Table of the House. But does it say that it should be laid on the Table of the House then and there. Hon. Members are aware that when there is a half-an-hour discussion, the hon. Minister comes prepared to speak. But if he has to reduce it to writing and lay it on the Table in the form of a statement, it will naturally take some time. From the 1st of March till now, the hon. Minister was evidently preparing for the debate on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Education.

Therefore, it is no good hustling hon. Ministers. If they do it a little too quickly, then hon. Members take exception to it on the ground that sufficient material is not placed before the House. If they take time to inform the House, then it is said that

it is too late. It is a rather difficult position. Let them not be hustled. They are all our people and they must have time.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Shall I take it that the hon. Minister was not ready to reply to the half-hour discussion raised by me on that day? If the House had not adjourned for want of quorum on that day, the hon. Minister would have had to reply to the points raised by me. That means that all the material was with him. He only wanted to get it typed so that it could be laid on the Table.

Mr. Speaker: There is nothing in this. If an hon. Member himself was asked to put in writing what all he says, I am sure he will take 15 days (Interruptions).

12.13½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

FIFTY-NINTH REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Bhatinda): I beg to present the Fifty-ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.14 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE AGENCY AND THE HINDUSTAN ORGANISERS (PRIVATE) LIMITED

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The reported agreement signed by the Soviet Foreign Trade