

12.22 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, I have already addressed a letter to you that due to some very urgent engagements the Prime Minister is not in a position to take up the discussion on the Joint Communique in the Lok Sabha during the first half of the sitting tomorrow. I have, therefore, to request you that the Private Members' Business may be taken up after Question Hour tomorrow and the discussion on the Joint Communique be taken up at 3 P.M.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): The Joint Communique is going to be discussed in the Rajya Sabha also. Would that mean that it will be discussed there first?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: The discussion there will be after the discussion is over here.

Mr. Speaker: I think the other day when it was suggested that we might have a discussion, the Prime Minister said that it would not be possible for him to be present here on the 27th and 28th—and even on the 29th possibly—on account of prior engagements. But he agreed to the 29th. I think the House will now agree to this; there is no inconvenience.

Several Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The discussion will be taken up at 3 P.M.

12.23 hrs.

DELHI PRIMARY EDUCATION BILL

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by Dr. K. L. Shrimali on the 27th April, 1960, namely:—

“That this House concurs in the recommendation of Rajya Sabha that the House do join in the Joint

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Committee of the Houses on the Bill to provide for free and compulsory education for children in the Union territory of Delhi made in the motion adopted by Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th April, 1960 and communicated to this House on the 16th April, 1960 and resolves that the following members of Lok Sabha be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee, namely, Shri Amjad Ali, Shri M. Ayyakannu, Shri Chuni Lal, Shri Shankarrao Khanderao Dige, Shri V. Eacharan, Shri Aurobindo Ghosal, Shri Kanhu Charan Jena, Shri Nemi Chandra Kasliwal, Shri Chhaganlal M. Kedaria, Shri N. Keshava, Shri Baij Nath Kureel, Shri Nibaran Chandra Laskar, Shri N. B. Maiti, Shri Ram Chandra Majhi, Shri Jiyalal Mandal, Shrimati Minimata Agamdas Guru, Shri R. Govindarajulu Naidu, Shri C. Krishnan Nair, Shri P. K. Vasudevan Nair, Shri Naval Prabhakar, Shri Ram Saran, Shri Devulappali Venkateswar Rao, Shri Bhola Raut, Shrimati Renuka Ray, Shri Birbal Singh, Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva, Shri Shraddhakar Supakar, Shri Shiva Dutt Upadhyaya, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Balakrishna Wasnik.”

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—contd.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Sir, with regard to the previous item, you just now announced that the discussion will be taken up at 3 P.M. Could it not be taken up at 2.30 instead of at 3?

Mr. Speaker: If hon. Members get on to the other business immediately after 12 o'clock, I shall start it at 2.30.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Which, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants that the discussion on the Joint Communique may be taken up at 2.30 instead of at 3 o'clock. I said I have

[Mr. Speaker]

no objection provided we conclude the previous work at 2.30. We do not generally proceed to the other business immediately after Question Hour. We always take half an hour or so over many other points. And, possibly, tomorrow being the last day the hon. Members may find some matter or other.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Sir, apart from that, the Prime Minister will not be free before 3 o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members themselves would not be prepared to take it up at 2.30.

Now, we shall proceed with the other business. I think the hon. Minister was in possession of the House. He may continue.

DELHI PRIMARY EDUCATION BILL—contd.

श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री (गुडगांव) :

अध्यक्ष महोदय आन ए व्वांग्ट आफ आर्डर सर, यह परम्परा कहां तक न्यायसंगत है कि जो विधेयक पहले राज्य-सभा में प्रस्तुत हो उसे फिर लोक-सभा में लाया जाय और उसके म्यान पर क्या यह ठीक परम्परा नहीं होगी कि पहले विधेयक लोक-सभा में लाये जाये और उसके पचात् वे राज्य-सभा में जाये?

Mr. Speaker: Does it involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): I think the matter was considered yesterday and the Deputy-Speaker had given a ruling.

Mr. Speaker: Does this contain a recommendation? There is a financial memorandum also.

Yesterday the matter came up. Though I held that there is not, technically, any objection, I would like a convention to be established, as far as possible, that wherever expenditure from the Consolidated Fund would be

necessary as a result of the provisions of the Bill, that Bill may be introduced in this House. Of course, the the other House is competent to have all the Bills other than Money Bills and Financial Bills under article 117(1) introduced there. But, with respect to Bills involving expenditure from the Consolidated Fund also I would like that there should be a healthy convention established. I am only mentioning it to the hon. Minister. Whatever has passed is past. It may be observed for the future.

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: Sir, I was explaining the special features of this Bill. I had already explained that after the scheme was prepared and the parents were notified that they were under an obligation to send their children to schools and after a census of the school-going children had been prepared, attendance orders will be passed. And, unless the attendance authorities were satisfied that there was reasonable excuse for non-attendance of the children of school-going age, the parents would be prosecuted.

Under clause 8 it has been suggested that if the parents did not send their children to schools in spite of the attendance order, they may be prosecuted under clause 12 and they are liable to a fine not exceeding Rs. 2; and, if they continue to contravene, additional fine of 50 nP. per day of absence may be imposed, the total amount of fine, however, not exceeding Rs. 100.

On the face of it, it may appear that in our country this may be an unnecessary hardship on parents. But, at the same time, unless parents realise that they will have to pay a penalty compulsion cannot be effective.

In fact, if we look at the statistics today, we find that there is a great deal of wastage in elementary education. Sixty per cent. of the children who join schools do not complete even the elementary stage. And, if we