

[Mr. Speaker]

I shall do this. Let us sit till 5.30 P.M. today, and the Minister will be asked to reply on the next day. Thus, we shall have 4½ hours today, and half an hour or one hour more next week—let it not be included in these 5 hours. I shall give only half an hour to the Minister. That way, it will be extended.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

PUBLICATION BY P.I.B. OF ANSWERED STARRED QUESTION BEFORE BEING ORALLY ANSWERED

Mr. Speaker: Shrimati Renu Chakravarty brought to my notice yesterday, and tabled also a motion yesterday or the day before when she raised the matter in the House, that a question which was originally tabled as an unstarred question had been admitted as unstarred; subsequently, it had been converted into a starred question, and it was put down for answer on the 23rd inst or so; later on, after it was admitted as a starred question, it was postponed to the 31st inst. But, notwithstanding the postponement, the Press Information Bureau have announced in their bulletin or in their hand-outs of the replies the reply to this question also, which was not given on that day, but which was intended to be given on a later day, to which the question had been postponed.

This matter was raised as a breach of privilege. The Principle Information Officer was written to regarding this matter, and he has sent an apology. He came on his own; as soon as he read these proceedings and heard of this—the Press Information Bureau have got their representatives here—in the Press gallery—he came of his own accord to the Secretary and gave this letter to the Secretary. It reads thus:

I should be grateful if the following submission may kindly be placed before the Speaker:

On the 23rd July, a press release of an answer to unstarred question No. 182 which had been printed on the Order Paper for 23rd July had been made by the Press Information Bureau on the basis of material received from the Ministry of Rehabilitation that morning.

It is with great distress that we have learnt of the fact that the subsequent change of the unstarred question from the printed list for 23rd July to 31st July had escaped the notice of the officer responsible for the release. The circumstances under which the copies containing the Minister's answer for the 23rd July were received in the Press Information Bureau on the morning of that day, had unfortunately not suggested the possibility of any change in the order of questions.

It is learnt that the Ministry of Rehabilitation are also taking steps to make amends for the omission to warn the Press Information Bureau about the change in the date of answer. Nevertheless, the responsibility of the Press Information Bureau cannot be minimised.

A close check is kept during question hour in regard to questions both for variation, if any, in the oral answer and whether or not the question has been reached. It is extremely regretted that equal care in regard to last minute variations in the printed list for unstarred questions was not taken in this case. Orders have, therefore, been issued to officers handling Parliamentary questions to handle both starred and unstarred questions with equal vigilance. With great contrition, the Press Information Bureau would beg to assure you, Sir, that there will be no repetition of such a lapse in the future. In view of this, I am sure the House would not expect me to proceed in this matter further but accept what has been stated; and I am sure a responsible officer, as he gives an assurance, will not commit similar mistakes in the future.

The matter is dropped at this stage.

Shri V. P. Nayar (Quilon): What about the Rehabilitation Ministry? It appears from what you have read out that the Rehabilitation Ministry is also to be blamed

Mr. Speaker: As for the Rehabilitation Ministry also, in view of what has been stated by this one officer—it is not that a 'bundle' of officers should come here—the Rehabilitation Ministry, I am sure, will take note of this fact and act according to it. If, in spite of it, they commit a lapse, a similar one, next time, the hon Member is alert, and he can always bring it to the notice of this House

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up discussion of the Demands for Grants Nos 47, 48, 49, 50 and 119 relating to the Ministry of Health. As the House is aware, 2 hours have been allotted for the Demands of this Ministry

There are a number of cut motions to those various Demands. Hon Members may hand over at the Table within 15 minutes, the number of the selected cut motions which they propose to move. I shall treat them as moved if the Members in whose name, those cut motions stand are present in the House and the motions are otherwise in order.

Personally, I am in favour of allotting the largest amount of time for the Ministry of Health, but somehow the Sub-committee which sat over this matter—it has given 101 hours for the entire Budget—has been a little frugal with respect to the Health Ministry. All the same, it is not for me to decide that, it has been accepted by the House.

I shall give preference, first of all, to doctors, then to lady Members and then to others

Shri Kaswara Iyer (Trivandrum): What about lawyers?

Mr. Speaker: I shall call Shri D. S. Raju first

DEMAND NO 47—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 7,66,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Ministry of Health'"

DEMAND NO 48—MEDICAL SERVICES

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 2,26,43,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Medical Services'"

DEMAND NO 49—PUBLIC HEALTH

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 5,35,30,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Public Health'"

DEMAND NO. 50—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 60,56,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Health'"

DEMAND NO 119—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,89,68,000 be granted to the

*Moved with the recommendation of the President