

Thursday, August 28, 1997/Bhadra 6, 1919 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the entire banking industry is at a standstill.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: 1.3 million employees are on strike for two days.

MR. SPEAKER: Not now. In the course of the debate, somebody can mention it but not as a special case.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

11.01 hrs.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am to inform the House that a large number of Members of Parliament met me yesterday expressing their desire to participate in the debate. I had quick consultations with some of the leaders of the political parties. So, we will sit tonight as long as it is required in order to enable all the Members to participate in this debate.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada): It will be another Midnight Session!

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. It has to be beyond midnight.

For your information, Shri Grikanta Jena, our Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, has kindly agreed to organise dinner for all the Members here.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): But he is not arranging for our breakfast tomorrow.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah): Instead of Midnight Session, can you not extend it up to Saturday?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: On Saturday and Sunday, there are two meetings of the SAARC.

MR. SPEAKER: The choice was to extend it by one day more or sit during the whole night. Many leaders of the political parties have already fixed up engagements for Saturday. So, it was decided that instead of extending the session by one day, we will sit for the whole night.

11.03 hrs.

MOTION RE: STATE OF DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, ECONOMIC SITUATION, POSITION OF INFRASTRUCTURE, ACHIEVEMENTS AND POTENTIAL IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND STATE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY—*Contd.*



SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO

[*English*]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO (Berhampur): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am indeed very grateful to you. We are all grateful to you for having given us during these few days this very rare opportunity of discussion something which, somehow, has not been discussed in the spirit in which it needs to be discussed. And I see that the days are prolonging; the hours are prolonging. Therefore, the urge to speak is getting increased every minute. So, I expect that we will end this session with something meaningful, something that is actionable apart from what we express as our opinion. We come to certain tentative conclusions in regard to what needs to be done immediately and also in the medium term.

I have chosen a subject which, I think, has not been touched upon so far but which is of great importance to the world in general and, therefore, to India and to each one of us. I shall not repeat what has been said because that is