

12.5 hrs.

RE: QUESTIONS

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): I am on a point of order. My question No. 309 which figures in today's list has been transferred to a distant date, the 31st March. On that, I am raising a point of order. Since I came into this House last year, after winning the ballot outside, I am sorry to say that the ballot on questions has been uniformly unkind to me. I am not lodging a complaint; nor am I ventilating a grievance. But I am making a plain, unvarnished statement of fact. Today, for the first time in one year, I have got a fairly high place in the ballot, i.e., No. 5—for the first time in twelve months—and now I was told on Friday that . . . (Interruptions)

I was told last Friday that...

MR. SPEAKER: It is because the Minister requested for further time that it was postponed.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: I was told last Friday that this question would be transferred....

MR. SPEAKER: The question has been transferred to the Commerce Ministry.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: I enquired why it could not be transferred to the day after tomorrow, i.e., the very next Commerce Ministry day. I was told that the list for day after tomorrow had already gone to the press.

Under the directions given by you, we give notice of a question three weeks before it is due for answer. Therefore, it is the Ministries which are either lethargic or lackadaisical, and they did not notice in time which Ministry was responsible for answering this question. I would request you and our young old Prime Minister to ginger up the Ministries. This question would not have been trans-

ferred so late to the Commerce Ministry, but for the fact that the Minister had discovered too late that it was not for him but for some other Minister to answer. I would urge you to take action to see that the Ministries are not lackadaisical and lethargic, but are gingered up properly... (Interruptions)

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): Sir, there are two important points arising out of what Shri Kamath has just now said.

MR. SPEAKER: Should we have a debate on every matter?

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: We are working on the basis of certain established rules and procedures, but we find that we are being denied our rights and privileges. When we give a notice, we give it minimum twenty days ahead of time and we select the days on which we expect to be on duty in the House. If a question is transferred to some other day without finding out from the Member who has asked the question, whether on that particular day, the Member is going to remain present or not merely transferring the question means that the Member is deprived of the opportunity to ask supplementaries if the question gets priority in the first twenty questions.

MR. SPEAKER: To remove the misconception, Mr Kamath was informed before transfer.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: I know, but in my case, I was not informed.

MR. SPEAKER: That question is not here.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: My question was transferred to some other date without finding out my convenience. If you transfer a question to a particular date without finding out the convenience of the Member, how can you find fault with the Member?

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Secondly, arising out of this, when a question is transferred to another day another problem comes. We are entitled to ask only five questions every day. Naturally, we ask not less than five questions. But three times it happened in this session that my questions were transferred to some other date and I was told later on by the Secretariat that this is a question in excess of five, and therefore, this is disallowed. How can this be printed?

MR. SPEAKER: We are reconsidering the rules and we shall take this aspect also into account.

12.13 hrs.

RE. SITUATION IN BIHAR

SHRI B. P. MANDAL (Madhepura): Sir, the situation in Bihar is most explosive and unless we take notice of it and take timely action. It may turn into caste riots. The situation is very grave. In view of this, I have given a notice of adjournment motion, but I will be glad if you kindly convert it into a call-attention (Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, we cannot discuss a law and order problem concerning a State on the floor of the House. This is against the rules and it cannot be done.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrackpore): Sir, casteism is raising its ugly head in Bihar. It is a matter of great concern for all of us and that should be allowed to be discussed in this House. On Monday also, I had given a notice of an adjournment motion on this and today we lend full support to it. The situation in Bihar arising out of caste politics may be discussed in this House.. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Papers to be laid.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: We cannot discuss this on the floor of this House. Law and order is a State subject.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): I have given a call attention on the situation of growing violence in the country. Benaras Hindu University is directly under the control of the Centre. Aligarh University also is under the control of the Centre. This riotous and violent situation which is growing in the country is a matter of concern to all. I would beg of you, if a call attention is not allowed, to allow us a discussion. It is a matter of equal concern even to the government. Let the situation not go out of hand. It will not be in the interests of anybody. So, what objection should you have to having a discussion on this subject in this House, when on both sides a discussion is asked for?....

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: We support the adjournment motion.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Is it not the practice in this House....

MR. SPEAKER: You would not even give me an opportunity to consider it?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I will give you an opportunity. But I want to know....

MR. SPEAKER: What a kindness on your part!

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am saying that the House on both sides are agreed on this.. (Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: What is all this? All the time he is speaking.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go on like this. Everytime some of you want to monopolise the whole House.... (Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Every time....**

MR. SPEAKER: It will not go on record ..(Interruptions)

You give a call attention. I will see.

Papers to be laid.