

(iv) REPORTED POWER CRISIS IN WEST BENGAL

PROF. SAMAR GUHA (Contai): The power crisis in West Bengal has created a near catastrophic situation in West Bengal leading to closure of industrial and engineering units, and educational institutions and trade and business markets. The economic and social life of Bengal, as a result of a crisis of unprecedented dimension is almost on the verge of collapse. This crisis will spill over into labour troubles and generate unrest in the State, causing serious law and order situation.

The Central Government must intervene immediately to save West Bengal from the impending chaos and extend all assistance for tiding over the crisis.

MR. SPEAKER: I have fixed a Calling Attention on this issue tomorrow.

RE. DISCUSSION ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): Sir, as the House is aware, rather painfully aware, so far as the Demands discussion is concerned, owing to circumstances mainly or largely beyond our control we are very much behind schedule and as the dreaded doomsday, 23rd April, draws near, there is growing apprehension that more and more Ministries will be laid low by that lethal weapon—the guillotine. I think the ministers concerned will be happy but the House, I am sure, will not be happy. So, I dare say the House will agree that we must take steps to expedite the execution of the Ministry Demands. We have less than forty hours....

MR. SPEAKER: To be exact we have only twenty-five hours and fifteen minutes.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: In that case it is more dangerous. I am sure the House will agree with me, to save as many Ministries as possible, to sit daily till 7 O'clock in the evening and also one Saturday.

MR. SPEAKER: I will put it before the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: I would, however, like the Minister of Affairs Parliamentary and hard Labour—in a genuine democracy like ours Labour is not a soft portfolio—to give a firm and solemn assurance that the time allocated for the financial business till the passing of the Finance Bill will not be mis-appropriated or encroached upon or intruded into by legislative business.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): Sir, on the first part of the hon'ble Member's suggestion you have been pleased to say that you will put it before the Business Advisory Committee. On the second part where he has asked me to give an assurance that no legislative business will be introduced till the Finance Bill is passed, I can say that Government has no intention of appropriating any time that has been allotted for the Demands for Grants. If any inroads are made into this time it will not be by the government.

12.39 hrs

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1979-80—
Contd.MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION
—contd.

श्री नाथ सिंह (बीना) : परतों जब मैं कृषि पर बोल रहा था तो मैंने सिंचाई और बिजली की कमी की चर्चा की थी जिस के प्रभाव में कृषि क्षेत्र में उत्पत्ति नहीं हो सकती है और किसान की बचा सुखर नहीं सकती