

Speaker]

- (3) Shri M. Kalyanasundaram—3rd to 5th September, 1973 (Eighth Session) and 12th November to 20th December, 1973 (Ninth Session).
- (3) Shri Virendra Agarwala—18th February to 31st March, 1973 (Tenth Session).
- (4) Shri Mohan Swarup—18th February to 30th March, 1974 (Tenth Session).
- (5) Shrimati Maya Ray—18th February to 14th March, 1974 (Tenth Session).
- (6) Shri A. K. Sen—18th November to 22nd December, 1973 (Ninth Session) and 18th February to 12th March, 1974 (Tenth Session).
- (7) Shri Pravinsinh Solanki—22nd November to 22nd December, 1973 (Ninth Session).
- (8) Shri Eramo de Sequeria—21st November to 22nd December, 1973 (Ninth Session) and 18th February to 16th March, 1974 (Tenth Session).

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee may be granted?

HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Members will be informed accordingly.

12.30 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. JUNIOR DOCTORS' STRIKE IN DELHI HOSPITALS

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH): Mr. Speaker Sir, in reference to the views expressed by Hon'ble

Members from all sides of the House, and following a request that I received for a meeting from the Junior Doctors, discussions were resumed on the 6th March. These discussions, which I conducted personally, were protracted and covered several days, but were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and a general desire to try and reach a settlement so that the present unhappy situation could be brought to an end. Although towards the end of the discussions it did appear that a settlement might be possible, an agreement could not be reached. In view of this I regret having to inform the House that the situation has once again reached a deadlock and the entire exercise has proved infructuous. I am not burdening the House with details of the discussions because in the course of the prolonged talks a number of proposals were discussed. At every stage, however, it had been made quite clear that there would be no commitment on either side until the whole package was tied up and duly ratified by the concerned authorities.

While Government has shown unprecedented patience in this matter, I must reiterate that this strike is completed unnecessary and unjustified. Government has a responsibility to try and ensure a fair deal for the Junior Doctors, and we have made a genuine and generous effort in this direction. However, Hon'ble members will agree that we have a vital and wider responsibility to ensure the normal functioning of our hospitals in the interest of the general public. This responsibility we intend to fulfil.

MR. SPEAKER: No questions please after the Minister's statement.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): I have written to you.

MR. SPEAKER: No questions can be asked after Minister's statement. You are having discussion on the General Budget. You can speak on that.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: 76 days have passed..

MR. SPEAKER: It is much better you change your rules..

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: If necessary we shall do that..

MR. SPEAKER: The rules say that there shall not be any questions. I am not left with any discretion at all. I invite your attention to the rule and you are doing it deliberately again and again.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: 76 days have passed, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Cannot you honour your own rules? Please honour your own rules. I cannot go away from the rules please.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: 76 days have passed. 2½ months have passed, Sir, and the Government stands on prestige.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta—North-East): In spite of the fact that the letter of the rule says that after the Minister makes a statement no question can be asked unpteen times in your time and previously also exemptions have been allowed. Today you yourself were not aware that the Minister was going to make a statement. It was only at the 11th or 12th hour he brought it here. I am not contesting your right to allow him to make a statement. We want to hear the statement not merely for the pleasure of it, or that Dr. Karan Singh's voice is delightful to listen to. We are concerned with the substance of what he says. Certain facts given to the House have disturbed us.

MR. SPEAKER: We can have discussion later on.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: I do not want a discussion just now but what

I am submitting is that Dr. Karan Singh has his responsibility to the country to look after the health of the citizens.

MR. SPEAKER: You can have a discussion separately if you want.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: I wish the Minister gives a more positive statement letting the country know the steps he is taking to have a settlement with a cordiality to which he made a reference, and I wish he makes a more positive evaluation of a situation which is causing so much anxiety.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): May I say something?

MR. SPEAKER: You are forcing yourself on me!

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: We have heard both sides of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: You can do anything but, do not put the question to the Minister.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: This Government has not been able to solve the problem of the doctors. This has been going on; in U.P. the strike of engineers is going on. Here the agitation by doctors is going on. You will please refer the entire case to the Committee of this House. Let a small Committee be formed for the purpose to find out what is wrong with this. I would only request that this matter should be settled immediately.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, the doctor's strike is 2½ months' old. They have been made to undergo such hardships and, at the same time, the people suffer to whom we are supposed to give medical assistance. They suffer for the past 76 days for want of medical assistance.

MR. SPEAKER: You raised this question and I asked the Minister to make a statement on it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I want to submit to you and not to the Minister. You will be kind enough to settle this matter. Eviction and other notices of the punitive nature are served on these doctors. I want that the period of absence should be treated as leave for the purpose of continuity of service. There should be no victimisation of doctors. I shall come to your Chamber and see even for twenty times. You must be kind enough to do something for these junior doctors who have been on strike for 76 days. And for these 2½ months patients just come and go from the Wellington Hospital without treatment. It is most unfortunate that in the capital this sort of thing should be allowed to go on. The Government should not stand on prestige. You be good enough to intervene in the matter. One observation from you will mean a lot for us and the Government to compel them to come forward to do something. I am telling you that this is not a good thing. Let the Government not stand on prestige.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know why this interpretation of rules should come to me. I cannot interpret it. Somehow or other I tried to accommodate one or two hon. Members. By and large, in the matter of procedure, if I were to do something, how can I do it? I am really shocked that he said nothing at all in these five years.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I never gave this sort of proposal to you in these five years.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): I think Prof. Mukerjee has made a point. The Minister has made a statement which says nothing beyond what we have already read in the papers. When the Minister comes to Parliament, we expect him to tell us something more than what we have read in the papers. We want to know why the negotiations have failed. Why did they not succeed? We expect him to inform us more about all these things.

MR. SPEAKER: If you are not satisfied with this, we shall fix some time for this.

SHRI PILOO MODY: The Minister should be asked to make a statement which more informative.

MR. SPEAKER: I asked him to make a statement.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): The Minister says....

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mavalankar, I was very happy that you were not feeling tempted. Don't feel tempted. Kindly sit down.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Sir, the Minister says that the Government have made genuine and generous attempts in this direction. The statement does not say what the facts are. How are we to know about that?

MR. SPEAKER: One Member got up. I allowed him. Now another one gets up and wants to say something. Don't proceed here in this House like this everytime. Now I call Mr. Ganesh.

12.39 hrs.

GUJARAT BUDGET, 1974-75

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is aware of the difficult situation. (Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER: You simply present it.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I am reading it out. The House is aware of the circumstances in which the administration of the State of Gujarat was taken over by the Centre.

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly don't do it. You just present it. No speech need be made. Just mention the item that: