

[Shri. H. N. Bahuguna]

India, the appropriate collection rates in those countries and the transit share of India will be settled by mutual negotiations between all parties concerned on well recognised International practices already followed for other relations. Pending such negotiations the agreement provides for transit service being made available by India on terms which will involve no changes in existing accounting procedures between India and the concerned countries to or from which transit service is made available by India.

Telex

The question of providing telex service between India and Bangladesh as well as between Bangladesh and other countries via India is also under negotiations and an agreement is likely to be reached very soon between the two countries on terms broadly similar to that for Telephone Service.

The new agreement is effective from 1.4.1972.

12 33 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. CHANGE OF DATES FOR ELECTIONS TO FINANCIAL COMMITTEES

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :
I beg to make a submission that the
dates fixed for nomination of candidates,
withdrawal and election to the Financial
Committees of the Lok Sabha have, for
certain unavoidable reasons, to be extended.
I crave your permission to request the House
to agree to it. I have consulted the leaders
of the Opposition also.

MR. SPEAKER : What dates do you
propose?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I propose that
the dates may be extended, and we shall
mutually settle them

MR. SPEAKER : I think the House
should have no objection.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond
Harbour) : The proper procedure would
have been to convene an emergent meeting
of the Business Advisory Committee, and it
should have been fixed there.

MR. SPEAKER : This matter does not
concern the Business Advisory Committee
at all.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : It does.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a question of
mutual consultation and you have agreed.

The motion is that the Speaker be autho-
rised to fix the revised dates. I hope all of
you agree.

HON. MEMBERS : Agreed.

12.35 hrs,

RE. ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR DIS- CUSSION ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS OF MINISTRIES

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :
I know that the Members are very keen to
speak on the Demands of the Ministry of
Agriculture, and I also appreciate that you
have been very careful to see that the time
fixed by the Business Advisory Committee
should be observed and not extended. But
in this particular case, may I request you
either to place the matter again before the
Business Advisory Committee or kindly
extend the time by two hours?

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday we saved
about two hours. As the Minister of Com-
munications had already taken half an hour, I
thought he would be concluding immediately
after Lunch, but I was surprised that he went
on and on and got one hour more, which is
sort of beating the record. The total time
for the debate was 1½ hours, and the Minister
took more than 1½ hours to reply. That was
very surprising. I tried to save time and
then add it to the Demands on the Ministry
of Agriculture, so that all of you could be
satisfied.

The Business Advisory Committee gives
its report and that is approved by this House,
and the time schedules are very tight, but
when Members are keen to speak on the
Demands of a particular Ministry, they
forget the following Demands, and the result
is that at the end of the session you do away
with the Lunch Hour, you extend the session
by one hour, without Saturdays. That is not
a very healthy practice.

I do not mind it this time since the Minister himself has come forward with a suggestion to extend it, but it should not be a regular practice in future. I am going to stick to the report of the Business Advisory Committee strictly.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : As it is, the Home Ministry's grants will come at the fag end of the day, and it will help those who are going to speak on those Demands if you can give a clear indication.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : The Home Ministry's Demands may be taken up tomorrow

MR. SPEAKER : Agreed.

12.37 hrs.

CENTRAL SALES TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO SELECT COMMITTEE

DR. HENRY AUSTIN (Ernakulam) : I beg to move :

"That this House do appoint Shri Muhammed Sheriff to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 in the vacancy caused by the death of Shri M. Muhammad Ismail."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do appoint Shri Muhammed Sheriff to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 in the vacancy caused by the death of Shri M. Muhammad Ismail."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Now that the time for the discussion on the Demands of the Agriculture Ministry has been extended, we should get more time so that one more member from our party may speak.

MR. SPEAKER : We will revise the allotment of time to the various opposition parties according to the extended time.

12.38 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1972-73-Contd. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER : We will now resume the discussion on the Demands of the Ministry of Agriculture. Shrimati Jeyalakshmi.

***SHRIMATI V. JEYALAKSHMI** (Sivakasi) : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Agriculture Ministry.

At the outset I would like to request the hon. Minister of Agriculture that, if I am critical about the performance of the ministry, it should not be misconstrued as my making allegations. Solely motivated by the desire that, so far as Agriculture is concerned, the money allocated for developmental schemes should be utilised in full and at least in the next year there should not be such huge savings in the Demands.

Under Demand No. 25—Agriculture, there is a saving of Rs. 77.11 lakhs during 1971-72. A sum of Rs. 1.02 crores has not been spent under Demand No. 26 during 1971-72. The allocation under Demand No. 28—Forest—has been under-utilised by Rs. 25.20 lakhs. In the Community Development Department, a sum of Rs. 2.25 lakhs has been saved under Demand No. 30. During 1971-72, there is an unspent amount of Rs. 1.40 lakhs under Demand No. 31. During 1971-72, the expenditure on Capital Investment in Agriculture under Demand No. 115 is less by 8.55 crores.

I need not elaborate my contention that the sums allocated under these Demands for developmental schemes in Agriculture have not been spent in full. The Ministry has enumerated certain cogent reasons for the shortfall in expenditure. I would like to pin-point some of them for your information.

For the saving under Demand No. 25, the reasons given are that due to late starting of certain cattle breeding farms and also due to non-filling of vacant posts in the regional centres of agro-economic research there has been this shortfall. Apart

* The original speech was delivered in Tamil.