

12.07 Hrs.

MINES (AMENDMENT) BILL

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION
OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRI R. N. SHARMA (Dhanbad):
I beg to move:

"That this House do further extend upto the last day of the current session, the time for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Mines Act, 1952."

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA (Bangalore): Sir, I have been seeing for the last few weeks that several Committees are asking for extension of time. It has become almost invariably a habit. I do not think it would be right for us in this House to blindly and in a routine manner grant extension of time. I do not know the reasons. If the reasons are made known to the House, I can very well understand that the Members will be able to judge whether the extension of time asked for is deserved or otherwise. I feel a little sad that it is the House that constitutes the Committees under your direction, Sir, and they are not able to function on the basis of efficiency and punctuality.

SHRI R. N. SHARMA: Sir, the Minister in-charge wanted the Joint Committee to get some extension of time as he has to get some sanction from the Cabinet. ...

MR. SPEAKER: What for?

SHRI R. N. SHARMA: ...for some of the amendments which have been proposed by the Joint Committee.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): That is not a valid reason.

MR. SPEAKER: No other reason?

SHRI PILOO MODY: Sir, I think, this is wrong in principle that the work of the Joint Committee should be

held up because the Minister in-charge wants to consult his Cabinet colleagues. I think, in principle, a Parliamentary Committee decides *suo motu* by itself what legislation should be and it is not something that requires the concurrence or the acceptance of the Cabinet. This is setting a very unhealthy practice in a parliamentary democracy. You, as the custodian of the House, must do something to stop this immediately and make the position clear to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: On this matter, when they want extension of time, they just inform the Speaker that they want extension of time because of certain reasons. Normally, I do not check it. In future, it would be much better, when any extension of time is sought for, to give reasons in brief in a memorandum, so that the Members also may know the reasons.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begu Sarai): It should be brought to the notice of the Speaker as to what are the reasons for it.

MR. SPEAKER: They do give reasons in brief. What I say is that, in future, the reasons should also be given, in brief, in a memorandum so that the Members may know what are the reasons, so that the House may also know as to what is the reason for this.

Also, may I tell you that I am going to discourage extensions, specially these days when we have decided that unnecessary extensions and unnecessary tours should be avoided. (Interruptions) Certain Committees have started going out when they have no business outside—they want to go out perhaps to see on the spot as to what is going on—like the House Committee or the Petitions Committee; similarly, there are many other committees also. Their main business is in this Parliament House. The House Committee is concerned with allocation of accommodation; now they also go out....

SHRI JYOTIRMAY JOSHI (Diamond Harbour): We have never gone out. I have always objected to it.

MR. SPEAKER: I also object to it. Many Committees of the States also come here.

SHRI PILOO MODY: There is one more point. Very often meetings of committees and select committees cannot be held because there is a desperate shortage of rooms.

Many times we had agreed to meet on certain dates but were told later that no room was available. You have given a directive that we can meet only in the premises of Parliament House. But the availability of rooms presents a problem. You may please look into that, Sir. That is very often the main reason for the delay in the submission of reports by select committees.

As far as this particular issue is concerned, where leave is being sought for extension of time, you have not given your ruling about the reason advanced.

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that, in future, besides bringing it to the notice of the Speaker, they should also briefly inform the House.

SHRI PILOO MODY: I am asking about this particular reason.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA: I am thankful to you, Sir, for the information you have given. Would it be possible for you to direct your Secretariat to send a circular to all the members showing how many committees have asked for extension of time, how many times and for what reasons?

SHRI PILOO MODY: Are you accepting this particular delay?

MR. SPEAKER: Normally extension is given. He has given the reason.

SHRI PILOO MODY: It is the reason I am objecting to. That is wholly unparliamentary. I do not think that, in this particular case, for this particular reason extension should be granted. And I would like you to take a vote so that I would have the opportunity of voting against.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): In this particular case, I definitely know the reason. Our members are also there. We wanted to move certain amendments. Many members wanted to move certain amendments. If the Minister incharge or the Chairman of that particular Joint Committee accepts that he would consider those amendments, Heavens are not going to fall. Extensions have been granted in respect of company affairs and taxation laws and nobody objected to that.

MR. SPEAKER: Unfortunately, the Chairman is not here. The other member is caught—he is only deputising for him.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA (Domarganj): Normally what I felt was that the Minister should not make the committee go on postponing the deliberations. But I do not understand how this matter becomes unparliamentary. In this case sanction may be given subject to the condition that he should make a note of that and that they should give full freedom to the committee.

SHRI PARIPOORNANAND PAINULI (Ichri Garhwal): The Minister was present in the committee representing the Government. There were certain issues which needed decision and he wanted to consult the Ministry.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA: I requested that a circular be issued to the Members to show how many committees have asked for extension of time and for what reason. We want to have a full picture. That was the request that I made.

MR. SPEAKER: So far as your request is concerned, the information you have asked for is of a general nature. It will be supplied to you by my office. That has nothing to do with this.

The question is:

"That this House do further extend upto the last day of the current session, the time for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Mines Act, 1952."

The Motion was adopted.