

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I listened to the speech of....

Mr. Speaker: In the presence of Shri Kamath perhaps I might say one thing about the business of the House.

13.27 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: The House has agreed that we will sit upto the 11th December. That is settled. So far as questions are concerned, there is one difficulty. As we had not been receiving notices for the last few days and as ten days' notice is required, we cannot have any question till the 3rd December.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Then the question arises about the 4th to the 11th December. That we will certainly consider. I am sure, hon. Members would also take into account that now the House will sit at 12 o'clock from Monday, the 26th November.

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Calcutta South West): What about questions notice for which has already been given?

Mr. Speaker: They will lapse now.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Due notice was given for those questions.

Mr. Speaker: But we had this impression all along that we will be adjourning *sine die* on the 23rd November; therefore we never sent them on to the Ministries. We took the decision that questions will be sent to the Ministries after their admission and because we had known that the House will sit only upto the 23rd November, they were not sent to the Ministries. That is the difficulty why we cannot take up any questions.

Shri Radhelal Vyas (Ujjain): There was a suggestion in the lobby and there was also a talk among some hon. Members that it would be better if we dispensed with the Question Hour completely because some of the questions that were asked here did not have any bearing upon the present circumstances. You might decide that in consultation with the leaders of parties.

Mr. Speaker: That decision had been taken in consultation with the party spokesmen, but here is the objection by Shri Kamath. If all other hon. Members and the whole House agree, I will persuade Shri Kamath also to agree.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: I learn that the Leader of the PSP has already agreed to that suggestion.

Mr. Speaker: He has agreed.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: Then, I think, Shri Kamath will also agree.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): Meanwhile would it be possible that in important cases, as the rules permit, we might give notice of 'Short Notice Questions' and if they are accepted by the hon. Minister concerned, they might be answered?

Mr. Speaker: There would be no bar against them.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: May I submit that I and the House too will be very glad that you have tentatively decided.....

Mr. Speaker: I have not taken any decision.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Anyway, you suggested.

Mr. Speaker: I have only depended upon the announcement of the agreement that the hon. Minister has made that he has yielded, nothing more.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The entire House, I am sure, is one with

you and with the Government for prosecuting the war with vigour and expedition. So, time must be utilised as much as possible for the prosecution of the war and for victory. But, may I submit that the decision taken or rather the recommendation made by the Committee through the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is rather curious and strange?

Mr. Speaker: I will advise the hon. Member first to sit with his own colleague, the representative of his own party to find out the reasons that prompted them to take that decision and then come up to me. Probably that would be better.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The difficulty was that when he left this Chamber, he said that this was the only business. He said one point only will be discussed. I was busy....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should appreciate, if he had given permission to his colleague Shri Hem Barua to discuss only one matter and he had exceeded his powers to discuss the other also, he should take that up with him first and then accuse me. If his appointee or representative has exceeded his powers, I am not to blame. He should settle with his own colleague and then accuse me or the House.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am not accusing you, Sir. It is far from me. I am not accusing you at all.

Mr. Speaker: He must first consult his colleague and find out what the reasons were and then he will come to me. We will consider.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: A motion has been made. The motion was not necessary. It is not necessary. I would earnestly submit that the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, who we expect is well versed in the Rules and procedure and all that, need not have made that motion at all.

Mr. Speaker: No motion has been made, Mr. Kamath should know. There is no motion made.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He suggested, that. There is no need to suspend the rules at all.

Mr. Speaker: There is no motion for suspension of the rules yet. Why should he anticipate it? He only mentioned that these rules shall have to be suspended.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He was good enough to tell me earlier that a motion may be made.

Mr. Speaker: When he gives me that information, there is nothing now. I will not make it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He suggested that a motion may be made.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I make a submission? I did not quite catch what you said earlier. Did you suggest that in view of the fact that 10 days' notice is required, we may consider the possibility of taking up questions after the 4th?

Mr. Speaker: That was the suggestion made by Shri Kamath. I have not said that that would be done. I have taken no decision. A committee that was representative of all the parties took the decision unanimously that there would be no Question hour during the next days till the 11th. Mr. Kamath was opposed to it. But, then he realises this difficulty that because there was no notice for the next 10 days, therefore, questions could not be taken up at least up to the 3rd. Then, the question remains what about 4th to 11th. That we will see. I have asked Mr. Kamath first to consult his own colleague and then come up to me. We will see what can be done.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Consultation, I am afraid, will be necessary for us too. I am in the same predicament as Mr. Kamath. Unfortunately, we had

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

not been told that this discussion was going to include this point. We would have authorised our representative to state what our views are.

Mr. Speaker: He might also have consultation with his own representative. There is my difficulty. If we all agree that some committee might sit and the representatives of the groups are represented and they agree to one thing, then, those groups at least whose representatives are there should not raise a voice against a decision that is taken by them. If really they did not consent there, there is justification that it may be taken up in the House. But, if those representatives agreed to a decision and a unanimous decision is taken and that committee was sent there by our consent, then, normally,.....

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Did the Minister say that it was unanimous?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Or it was consensus?

Mr. Speaker: "I had a meeting with Leaders and representatives of various groups in the Opposition as also some other Members of Parliament, and discussed with them the question of duration of the present session of Parliament. As majority of the representatives of various parties were of the view that the present session of Parliament may continue upto the 11th of December as originally planned, the Government have accepted their suggestion.

This is majority.

It was the unanimous opinion of those present at that meeting that the Question Hour may be dispensed with and that the House may meet at 12 O'Clock every day for its normal sittings. This involves the suspension of Rule 12 and Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure relating to Sittings of the

House and time for Questions. I hope, Sir, you would agree to suspend these Rules....."

Offhand, I have not looked into these rules and I advised Mr. Kamath that he might take up the objection when the motion is made for the suspension of these rules, because the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs had suggested it. Now, Mr. Kamath tells me that there would be no need for suspension of any rules and no motion need be made. So far as this decision of commencing the sitting from 12 O'Clock is concerned, without having any Question Hour, that decision was unanimous. If any hon. Member besides Mr. Kamath belonging to any other group has any objection, he might also consult the representative that was there and then, of course, he might say anything.

This is during the rest of the Session from Monday next.

श्री यशपालसिंह (कैंगना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरी अर्ज यह है कि चाहे कोई कमेटी हो अथवा बिज़नेस ऐडवाइज़री कमेटी हो, अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपकी पादसं सबसे ज्यादा है और इस नाते में यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह अच्छा लगता है कि जग हमारे देश के ऊपर संकट विद्यमान है, हम यहां हाउस में बैठ कर लम्बी लम्बी स्पीचें करें और इसकी बैठकें चलाते रहें ? इस तरह से जो देश का काफी रुपया हम खर्च करते हैं आज के हालात में बेहतर यह होगा कि उसकी यहां बचत करके डिफेंस में भेजें ताकि वह चीन के विरुद्ध मोर्चा लेने पर काम आये । आज मिलैटरी डिस्मिशन लेने की जरूरत है अर्थात् बगैर देर किये तुरन्त निश्चय किये जायं ।

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: You are completely right in saying that the Members of those parties who are represented in that meeting should abide by the decision of the committee. I agree with you. But, is it not fair, I am sure you will agree with

that, when we are invited to a meeting by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, he should tell us what the agenda would be, what the issues will be? He said the duration will be discussed. That was the only issue. Otherwise, we would have advised our representative or plenipotentiary....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. If there had been a specific agenda, then the objection would have been valid that something besides the agenda has been decided. Because there was no agenda, anything could crop up there. Therefore, the hon. Member has no justification in taking exception to that. In future perhaps, he would send only a representative that represents his view.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: In case you are good enough to consider later on that there could be a possibility of taking some questions after the 4th or 5th, may I request you also to consider whether it will be possible for the Lok Sabha Secretariat to return to the Members those questions which had been tabled and which have not been forwarded to the Ministries so that we may use our discretion and eliminate those which we consider unnecessary and do our screening, and perhaps retain a few of them.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps, it would be better if the hon. Member could sit with our clerk and see this. Returning perhaps may not be possible.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): I had made a proposal in that meeting....

Mr. Speaker: I have already announced that Short Notice Questions would not be barred. That I have announced.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Ministers do not accept. They are unwilling to accept Short notice questions. Every time, I have been seeing this. It comes back saying that the Minister is unwilling.

13.39 hrs.

DEFENCE OF INDIA BILL— contd.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I listened yesterday with great attention to the speech of Shri Ranga. I was very glad to find that he had put in a very powerful plea in defence of democracy. I also felt happy that he stood for the preservation of freedom. I think that so far as defence of democracy is concerned, our country has given a very good account of itself all these years and I think, emergency or no emergency, our country would go on following the great traditions of democracy that we have already established.

So far as freedom is concerned, I think that our country has enjoyed as much freedom as any democracy in this world has enjoyed. President Roosevelt referred to four freedoms, namely freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear. I feel that so far as the defence of these four freedoms is concerned, our country has a very good record. But more than this, our country has stood for the freedom of thought, freedom of unfettered thought, and I think that there can be no better testimony to that than the number of political parties that we have in this Lok Sabha or that we have in the State Legislatures.

13.41 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair].

All these things are very dear to us. All these things are the precious heritage of every citizen of India. All these things have been kept going and kept intact by every person, by every political party, and more by the Congress Party which has the honour and the privilege to rule over this country.

But I feel that one should not look at the proposition without reference to the context. While I was listening to the speech of my hon. friend I felt