

Shri S. A. Mehdi: I had requested permission for this correction as soon as the mistake came to my notice.

Mr. Speaker: Ordinarily, when a statement is made by the Minister in the House, the Ministry should look into it and see whether there is something that needs to be corrected, and if they find that there is something which needs correction then they should make haste and inform the Minister that such a correction is required, if it is so needed. To make a correction after four months does look very extraordinary.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Arising out of this statement I want to ask one question.

Mr. Speaker: Questions are not allowed at this moment.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: You generally allow some questions.

May I know whether it is a fact that because of this merger there is a serious trouble going on in the Indian Bureau of Mines and the employees have gone on hunger-strike and so on, and if so, whether the hon. Minister knows anything about that, and if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: We have no information about any hunger-strike in the Indian Bureau of Mines.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—contd.

Mr. Speaker: Now, the hon. Finance Minister. Bill to be introduced.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I rise to a point of order under the proviso to sub-rule (2) of rule 376.

You will be pleased to see that in today's List of Business, the adjournment motion on Assam has been listed or has been put down for being taken up at 2-30 P.M. May I invite your attention to rule 26 which relates to Private Members' Business? That rule

does not contain the phrase 'Unless the Speaker otherwise directs' or anything like that. No such proviso is there also. The rule says:

"The last two and a half hours of a sitting on Friday shall be allotted for the transaction of private members' business...".

The words are 'shall be'.

Mr. Speaker: That is right. But we have accommodated this item also, because there were certain facts which were to be ascertained.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am not coming in the way of the adjournment motion being taken up. I am coming in the way of the time fixed for that. It is Government business and, therefore, it should come up at 2 P.M. and not at 2-30 P.M., because Private Members' Business should start at 2-30 P.M. and 2½ hours shall be allotted for it.

Mr. Speaker: The time allotted for Private Members' Business will not be affected.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Will you give more time, if necessary, after five o'clock?

Mr. Speaker: The time allotted for Private Members' Business will not be affected.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Then, it is all right.

13.28 hrs.

CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Customs Act, 1962.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Customs Act, 1962.

The motion was adopted.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: I introduce the Bill.

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.