

permits. It is also proposed to place before Parliament a Bill dealing with Preventive Detention.

One of the legislative measures which was discussed at considerable length in the provisional Parliament was the Hindu Code Bill. This could not be passed and, in common with other pending Bills, has lapsed. It is the intention of my Government to introduce afresh legislation on this subject. It is proposed, however, to divide up the Bill into certain parts and to place each part separately before Parliament, so as to facilitate its discussion and passage.

I have endeavoured to indicate to you some of the work that will be placed before this session of Parliament. I trust that your labours will bear fruit for the good of our people and that this new Parliament of the Democratic Republic of India will set an example of friendly co-operation and efficient working. Your success will depend on the spirit of tolerance that governs your activities and the wisdom that inspires your efforts. I earnestly trust therefore that this wisdom and tolerance of spirit will always be with you.

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILLS

Secretary: I beg to lay on the Table a statement showing the Bills which were passed by the Provisional Parliament during the Fifth Session, 1952, and assented to by the President. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 1].

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

FOOD SUBSIDIES

Mr. Speaker: I have received three notices of three differently worded adjournment motions, two from Shri K. Subrahmanyam and one from Shri A. K. Gopalan. They all deal practically with the question of food subsidies, and they wish to discuss the matter. The position is that so far as the importance of the matter is concerned, so far as the definiteness of the motions are concerned and so far as the urgency of the matter is concerned, I am in full agreement with the hon. Members, but the right to move adjournment motions has certain limitations. One of the limitations is that, it should not anticipate a debate in the House. The point is that, if hon. Members have a fairly good chance of raising the question on a debate, then it will not be permitted as an adjournment motion and it is also advantageous from another point of view, that,

while a discussion on an adjournment motion will be restricted only to two hours and it may be talked out; in an opportunity for a debate; it can be discussed more fully provided, of course, Members want that discussion. Hon. Members know that there will be a motion of thanks coming from the Government side in respect of the President's Address and the earliest opportunity which hon. Members of this House will take will be to give notices of amendments thereto, stating that they want to discuss this question, that the address is unsatisfactory or omits to deal with the food subsidy question; and then, we have reserved three days' discussion on the President's Address, commencing from Monday the 19th, and it will be in the hands of Members themselves to discuss that subject on the President's Address. Of course, the Address is full of many subjects worth discussing. But as the President said this morning, this session will mainly be devoted to the Budget work; and the Budget discussions will now and then give a number of opportunities of raising and discussing this question, for example, in respect of the Budget of the Food Ministry; there will be chances in respect of the general discussion, chances again when a particular demand is made and a further chance again if a cut motion is sought to be moved and I think there will also be the Finance Bill.....

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I cannot say at the moment.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Finance Minister is not in a position to state at present. Let us assume that perhaps there will be no chance on that occasion. Thus for the whole month, almost every day, I should say, there will be a chance of raising this question. hon. Members will note one thing further, which, I think, goes to the root of the question differently. I have said that more than once in this House; but as a large number of Members are new, I may as well reiterate that principle. The adjournment motion is a device to bring something before the House, which is not included in the agenda or the order paper. It is something like taking up a new matter which was not intended to be taken up and of which all hon. Members had no notice whatever, when the order paper was circulated. The ordinary principle is, so far as possible, unless there is extreme urgency or emergency, nothing new should be introduced in the daily order of business in the House. It does injustice to a large number of Members who perhaps do not remain present in the

[Mr. Speaker]

House on the assumption that a certain business is coming in which they do not like to participate or do not like to discuss or oppose that particular point and if a new matter is taken up they find that something was done in their absence. So, in the interests of all, it has been the practice to allow adjournment motions as a matter of exception, where the matter is really urgent, and there is no other opportunity or chance for the House to consider that matter. These are general principles. Therefore, I do not think I should give my consent to these adjournment motions being taken up or moved in the House. There are three motions; but essentially they raise one and the same subject. I do not think I need deal with each motion separately. I should suggest that the Members who wish to move these motions are at perfect liberty to give notices of amendments to the motion of thanks that will be moved on behalf of the Government over the President's Address.

Shri Jaipal Singh (Ranchi West—Reserved—Sch. Tribes): There is one point of clarification, Sir, in regard to the explanation you have given. You have stated that you are generally in agreement with.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Is the hon. Member going to discuss now.

Shri Jaipal Singh: I want a clarification of something that you have just now said. We agree, Sir, with the three qualifications that every adjournment motion must have. Then, you mentioned something about an adjournment motion anticipating a debate. I would like to know how you exactly interpret this question of urgency: what should be the gap between the anticipated debate and an adjournment motion? Is there any rule to say there must be one week or two weeks? Supposing for instance.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I understand his point. Let us not discuss this point any further. It is all a matter depending on the merits and the facts of each individual case. There cannot be a rule of the thumb that one week should be there. It may be that not even a day should be permitted; in some cases, a month may elapse. It all depends on the particular case.

The hon. Member may refer to rule 62 (vi) which says:

“the motion shall not anticipate a matter which has been previously appointed for consideration. In determining whether a discussion is out of order on the ground of anticipation, regard shall be had by the Speaker to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before the House within a reasonable time;”

Hon. Members will certainly agree with me and I think the House will agree with me that—the House is not sitting tomorrow and is sitting on Monday; today there is no further business—just two days' time for the discussion of this important question is not an unusual delay. However, I need not explain this matter any further.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): May I submit, Sir, that there is a point which has perhaps escaped your attention? Mr. Gopalan's adjournment motion deals not only with food subsidy, but also the onset and continuance of terrible famine conditions.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member will see that all these points can be discussed on the Address of the President where the whole situation is before the House.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: They can be discussed only on general lines during a debate on the Address.

Mr. Speaker: He may make any points he likes. Not only on general lines he is at perfect liberty to make specific points also.

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Cannanore): I do not want to discuss about the urgency of this motion or anything else because, Sir, you yourself have admitted about the urgency of the situation. My purpose in bringing forward this adjournment motion before any business began today is not because there was no debate on the question of food. There have been so many debates during the last five years. There have been debates on Budgets; there have been adjournment motions and other things. But, the situation in the country today is that not a single man is.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member will resume his seat.

We do not want to enter into an argument as to how this House has been functioning. That is not the

point. The hon. Member may have his grievance. I quite appreciate it and I can understand it. But, I do not propose to allow any discussion on matters which are not directly connected so far as the merits and the procedure of admission are concerned. Otherwise, we shall never end.

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes) May I.....

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Velayudhan need not take the trouble now. I shall proceed further.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): May I say for your information, Sir, that most of the Members here have not received copies of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of this House. In the absence of that, we are not able to appreciate the proceedings that are going on.

Mr. Speaker: They will be supplied; they are under print.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): The difficulty is this. Unwittingly we may violate certain rules and disciplinary action may come down on us. We may be victimised on account of our ignorance of the rules.

Mr. Speaker: If there is any ignorance on their part, I shall be there to help them. I shall not dismiss any particular thing because of ignorance. If it is not in conformity with the rules, then I shall have to dismiss such a motion. That is a different matter altogether. But, I am not going to penalise any Member because he is ignorant.

Now, copies of the old rules are available. There have been a few changes in certain respects only and they are in print. If hon. Members want up-to-date rules the best course will be to refer to the Gazette in which they are published. A copy of the Gazette is available in the library. But, for the facility of Members, it was considered necessary that the entire set of rules should be printed in a separate booklet so that each hon. Member may possess his own copy. For that purpose, it has gone to the Press. It is not only a book of rules which is in print; there is besides a voluminous matter in the Press. I cannot excuse the Press for the delay. But, we can appreciate that all things cannot be done simultaneously and there is some time lag. In the meanwhile, they may adjust themselves to the procedure.

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Shri S. S. More: Is that within the jurisdiction of the Department of Parliamentary Affairs?

Mr. Speaker: Printing?

Shri S. S. More: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The Government Press is doing that. There is no Press for the Parliament, though there is a proposal for one which has been accepted. But, in the present days of scarcity of building materials, machinery and everything, even of money, it becomes difficult to set up our own Press.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(i) SAURASHTRA (ABOLITION OF LOCAL SEA CUSTOMS DUTIES AND IMPOSITION OF) PORT DEVELOPMENT LEVY REPEALING ORDINANCE, 1952 AND (ii) DISPLACED PERSONS (CLAIMS) CONTINUANCE ORDINANCE, 1952

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to lay on the Table, under the provisions of article 123(2)(a) of the Constitution, a copy of each of the following Ordinances promulgated by the President after the termination of the Fifth Session of the Provisional Parliament and before the commencement of the First Session of Parliament, 1952:

(i) The Saurashtra (Abolition of Local Sea Customs Duties and Imposition of) Port Development Levy Repealing Ordinance, 1952 (No. IV of 1952) [Placed in Library. See No. P-2/52]; and

(ii) The Displaced Persons (Claims) Continuance Ordinance, 1952 (No. V of 1952) [Placed in Library. See No. P-3/52.]

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform hon. Members that under sub-rule (1) of Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, I nominate Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan on the Panel of Chairmen.

ESSENTIAL GOODS (DECLARATION AND REGULATION OF TAX ON SALE OR PURCHASE) BILL

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to declare, in pursuance of clause (3) of article 286 of