

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed to the next business. Sardar Hukam Singh to present a report.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): Before he does so, I have to point out that I gave notice under Rule 215 of the Rules of Procedure to call the attention of the Defence Minister to a matter which is very serious. Large-scale retrenchment of about 10,000 workers in the ordnance depots of the Defence establishment is going on and I gave notice of my motion on that. I was told by the office that the matter will be discussed today. I got a letter from your office dated 16-4-1956 stating it would be answered today. But I got another letter yesterday marked "Most Immediate" in which it is stated that the statement will not be made by the Defence Minister on the 25th April, 1956. I find the hon. Defence Minister here and I would like to know the reason for this and also the exact position now. I would also request the Minister to state how the retrenchment can be stopped.

The Minister of Defence (Dr. Katju): There is no question of any retrenchment in the month of April. So far as my statement is concerned, I propose to make it either by the end of this week or on Monday positively.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): On a point of order, with regard to any matter, Sir. I understand that in contravention your directive . . .

Mr. Speaker: Let me dispose of this matter.

Shri Kamath: I took it as having been disposed of.

Mr. Speaker: Of course, it is true that the statement of the hon. Defence Minister was fixed for today. But, the hon. Minister has written the following letter.

"I wrote to you the other day that I might make a statement on the surplus labour in ordnance factories on the 25th April; but, the matter is still under consideration and I should like to postpone making the statement by another 2 or 3 days. I shall do so by the end of this week or on Monday next."

Therefore, let us wait and see. If a full statement is made, it will enable us to know what the real situation is. There-

fore, the hon. Minister will make the statement before the end of this month.

Shri Kamath: On a point of order, Sir. In contravention of the very salutary directive which emanated from you some days ago, I understand that the Select Committee of the House continues to meet when the House is sitting. I drew your attention to this matter a few days ago and you promised to look into it. The Select Committee meeting goes on till 11-30 or even later, and that is why there is at times no quorum in the House even during Question Hour.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member brings it to my notice only just when I am sitting here suddenly. I must know exactly under what particular circumstances the Select Committee meeting is held. I do not have the facts about this particular Select Committee meeting. If the House itself wants that this matter has to be disposed of quickly, they ask my permission to get along with it and I grant permission on this condition. The Speaker shall be constantly watching if there are sufficient number of Members in the House; the moment the number falls below the minimum, it is the duty of the Committee to disperse. Under exceptional circumstances, I thought it necessary to give permission, because the House itself wants the quick disposal of a particular matter. If any particular matter is in contravention of what I have laid down, if the hon. Member only just sends me a word, I can make enquiries as to what exactly the position is.

Shri Kamath: I had drawn your attention to this matter a few days ago.

Mr. Speaker: I shall be looking into this matter from time to time. If it is proper, I will allow it; if it is improper, I will not give my permission.

Shri Kamath: So, there is no directive, or have you modified it?

Mr. Speaker: I give permission under special circumstances.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
FIFTY-FIRST REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): I beg to present the Fifty-first Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.