

The House re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

BUSSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Revenue and Expenditure (Shri Tyagi): With your permission, Sir, I wish to inform the House that quite a large number of enquiries are being made from me with regard to additional information on the supplementary demands. That day it was decided that I should collect all the information required by the hon. Members and supply them. I circulated their questionnaire, so to say, to all the Ministries concerned and in response from them I have got a good bulk of information. It will not be possible for me, Sir, to go to the Press and get it printed. May I have your permission, Sir, to pass on to the Member concerned full details of whatever information was required by him. If you permit me, Sir, I can pass it on. For the benefit of the other Members, I may place a copy on the Table of the House.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): Why not circulate it? It will be the collective knowledge of the House.

Shri Tyagi: It will not be possible; it will be difficult for me to circulate. If the same analogy were applied in the case of the annual Budget, the information will become too bulky. I do not think it will be of much use to the Members. I would, therefore, request your permission to pass on to the hon. Member the information on the points on which he had made enquiry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I suggest that instead of placing on the Table here, the other copy may be placed in the Library?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): Instead of one copy, it is better if the hon. Minister could place half a dozen copies in the Library.

Shri K. K. Basu: Quite a number.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the hon. Members have concentrated their attention on a particular subject, information on that point will be given to them. For the benefit of other Members, another copy will be there. We ought not to go on making demands. As far as possible, we must meet the Government as they have met the

wishes of this House. We must not make it impossible for anybody to comply with the demands.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): May I make one suggestion, Sir? Previously, when cut motions were discussed in relation to Demands, the practice was that the Parties indicated to the Ministry and to the House the various cut motions on which they wanted to concentrate their attention. Certain Demands were selected so that the House could concentrate its attention upon them. I would like the same convention to be established now so that if hon. Members who have tabled hundreds—if not hundreds, more than 30 or 40—cut motions, were to select a few of them, the whole House would concentrate its attention upon them and study those subjects only. It would be better for discussion also and a lot of labour of the Members will be saved. Otherwise, if all the 50 or 60 cut motions are moved and a desultory discussion takes place without any other person replying to them or concentrating his attention on any one of them, my fear is that we may not have a good debate. I would, therefore, request you, Sir, to ask the gentlemen or Parties concerned to select certain Demands and cut motions. Previously, we used to apportion time. That may not be necessary now. The cut motions may be selected.

Shri Tyagi: Government would welcome this suggestion.

Shri K. K. Basu: Naturally.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If it is not natural, the other inconvenience will be this. We will assume that there are 50 or 60 cut motions. If all attention is paid to one or two cut motions, the rest will be guillotined. There is a time limit. In these circumstances, the practice has been as was stated by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. The Whip of the Congress Party and the Whips of other Parties or Groups or Leaders of Groups may sit together and find out what exactly are the items on which they would like to concentrate their discussion within that period, and leave others to be guillotined. Otherwise, some matter which may not be of the same importance in relation to other cut motions may take up the whole time of the House and other cut motions may be guillotined. Hitherto, Leaders of the Groups and Whip of the Government, used to sit together and choose the particular cut motions, so that the Ministers may also be enabled to answer in detail, and the time of the House may not be wasted. So far as unattached Members are concerned, they may also sit together and propose cut motions equal to their

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

number, if they could come to an agreement. If nothing is possible, we will go on one after another and the law will take care of itself at five o'clock on the 12th. That has been the practice that has been adopted. I would make that suggestion. I leave it to the Members to do as they like.

DELIMITATION COMMISSION BILL

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the readjustment of the representation of territorial constituencies in the House of the People and in the State Legislative Assemblies and for matters connected therewith, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Sir, if I may say so with respect, it is just as well that you adjourned further consideration of the other Bill and ordered this Bill to be taken up. The two are, as you said, interlinked and possibly, after hon. Members have got the full picture before them, they will be in a better position to exercise their votes as regards the other.

The Delimitation Commission Bill is intended to set up a machinery which the Constitution contemplates for forming the various constituencies. If you turn to article 81 of the Constitution, you will find, first of all, it lays down the total number of Members.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In the report of the Select Committee, the first page comes after the second page. It is stitched wrongly.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): It is all right in my copy, Sir.

Shri Biswas: I was referring to article 81 of the Constitution. In sub-clause (a) of clause (1), the total membership of the House is laid down. The House of the People is to consist of not more than 500 Members duly elected by the voters in the States. That is to say, this number excludes the Members who are nominated by the President under the provisions of the Constitution. In sub-clause (b) it is stated that for the purpose of sub-clause (a) the States ought to be divided into a number of territorial constituencies and then the limits within which the number of Members to be allotted to each such constituency is to be fixed are laid down. Then you come to sub-clause (c) which provides that the ratio between the number of seats allotted to each constituency and the popula-

tion ascertained at the last census shall be, as far as possible the same throughout the Union. And then clause (3) provides that:

"Upon the completion of each census, the representation of the several territorial constituencies in the House of the People shall be readjusted by such authority, in such manner and with effect from such date as Parliament may by law determine."

It is this law which it is the object of this present Bill to provide. In other words, the Delimitation Commission Bill is intended to set up a machinery which will readjust this representation which has been necessitated by a change in the population figure of the entire country.

On the occasion of the last General Election, the procedure was laid down in the Representation of the People Act 1950. The procedure was laid down in section 13 of that Act, and it was this. There was an Advisory Committee set up in respect of each of the Part A States and Part B States other than Jammu and Kashmir. That Advisory Committee consisted of not less than two and not more than seven Members of Parliament representing the State. In respect of Part C States other than Bilaspur, Coorg and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, an Advisory Committee was set up consisting of the Members of Parliament representing that State. After the Advisory Committees were set up, the Election Commission, in consultation with these Advisory Committees, was required to formulate proposals as to delimitation of constituencies in respect of each of these States. And then, these proposals were to be submitted to the President for making orders. And these orders were laid before Parliament after they were made, and Parliament was given the right to modify these proposals. After such modifications, these proposals became final. That was the procedure.

This time a somewhat different procedure is proposed to be set up. In the light of the experience gained during the last elections, these modifications have been suggested. If you have gone through the text of the Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee, you will find...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The principle of the Bill has been accepted. Therefore, whatever changes of importance have taken place in the Select Committee.....