

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramlah): On behalf of Shri Satya Narayan Sinha I rise to announce that Government business in this House during the week commencing 3rd April, 1961 will consist of discussion and voting of the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministries of—

External Affairs,
Labour and Employment,
Rehabilitation,
Transport and Communications,
and Commerce and Industry.

12.23 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS*—contd.
MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER—
contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power. Shri Hathi may kindly continue his speech.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): May I know how much time is left over for these Demands?

Mr. Speaker: There are 6 hours allotted for this Ministry. 2 hours and 45 minutes have been taken, and 3 hours and 15 minutes now remain. We are starting this at 12.25 P.M. let us assume we start at 12.30 P.M., that means that this debate will go on till about 3.45 P.M. I shall conclude this debate by 4 P.M.

Shri Mohammed Imam (Chitaldrug): Much as I have respect for the Ministers' speeches, I submit that there must be a time-limit for their speeches. Much as we appreciate the speeches coming from the hon. Ministers, I submit that there must be a time-limit for the Ministers' speeches also, because they take away much of the time allotted.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: We want his reply also.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta (Mahendragarh): The time may be extended.

Mr. Speaker: I may explain the position. It is not the Members of the Opposition that have to complain against the Ministers, but it is the Members of the Congress Party. What I do is this. I always take care to see that the time allotted for the Opposition, which is 40 per cent. of the time allotted for the whole debate, is not cut down. Whatever time an hon. Minister takes is only taken from the time allotted to the Members of his own party, and, therefore, no hon. Member from the opposition need have any complaint.

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): I would not take more than about 30 minutes.

Shri Sinhasan Singh (Gorakhpur): All the same, I would submit that if the hon. Ministers take so much time out of the time allotted for their party, then so many Members of the Congress Party are deprived from the opportunity to express their own views.

Mr. Speaker: They all belong to the Government party.

An Hon. Member: Sometimes, the Ministers take 2 hours.

Mr. Speaker: They cannot have the cake and eat it too. Every hon. Member from the Congress Party must feel that he is the Minister....

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): In fact, they are like that.

Mr. Speaker: ...Therefore, whatever the hon. Minister says is on their behalf. I shall try to give all Members a chance but it is inevitable that the Minister should take some time, because not only this House but the whole country is looking for the statement made by the hon. Minister.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.