

[Shri E. R. Krishnan]

the strength to thwart the onslaughts of his own colleagues, Shri Barnala the Agriculture Minister and Shri Biju Patnaik, the Steel Minister who are demanding that the Hydel Projects and the Coal Mines should be transferred from the Energy Ministry to their respective Ministries.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, the hon. Member has raised most of the points concerning Tamil Nadu. First I would like to inform the hon. Member that Tuticorin is not a super-thermal station. It is a State-managed thermal station. Originally two units were sanctioned. After this Government came to power, an additional unit was sanctioned for Tuticorin and also two other thermal stations. Some of the proposals have come and they are being scrutinized.

With regard to power scarcity in Tamil Nadu that State is in a comfortable position compared to other States. Recently we have sanctioned another large thermal station in Neyveli. Along with Neyveli and also the Tuticorin third unit, some of the pending schemes are under consideration. With these small schemes Tamil Nadu will be in a comfortable position as far as power is concerned. I do not know whether the hon. Member is aware of the steps being taken about augmenting the installed capacity in Tamil Nadu, but I can assure him that enough steps are being taken to augment the installed capacity in Tamil Nadu.

With regard to the Kalpakkam atomic power station, because of various other reasons beyond this Government's control the station is being delayed and even though it is being delayed, I am sure it will be commissioned in another year or two. With regard to coal supplies he was referring to, the Minister of Power from Tamil Nadu has sent me a telegram yesterday that the coal supplies are being minimized. It is true that coal is being supplied to Tamil Nadu from

Singareni where a strike is going on, and that is why this difficulty. Other difficulties like wagon shortage have been sorted out and they are not there now. At the present moment the problem is about the strike that is going on in the Singareni collieries and I am sure in the coming few days the strike will be sorted out and supply of coal will flow.

With regard to other pending small stations like Hogenekal there are inter-State problems. I am told that representatives of both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have already met once. If they meet again and if they want any assistance from the Central Government, the Central Government is prepared to help them sort out the problems and have the Hogenekal scheme also get through. It is left to the State Government there and the other State Government. If they want anything from the Central Government, the Central Government will always be in a position to help them. That is what I want to say. Sir I think I have covered almost all the points raised by him.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): But you have not told him the most important thing.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: What is that?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That the Centre has given energy to Tamil Nadu even if it can't say anything.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA (Orissa): Sir, I have a special mention.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce

that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 8th May, 1978, will consist of:

(1) Further consideration and return of the Finance Bill, 1978, as passed by Lok Sabha.

(2) Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Lok Sabha:—

(a) The Deposit Insurance Corporation (Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 1978.

(b) The Electricity (Supply) Amendment Bill, 1978.

(c) The Coal Mines Nationalisation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1978.

(3) Discussion on the Draft Five Year Plan 1978—83 to be taken up on Wednesday the 10th May, 1978.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I understand the session will continue even after next week. So we should have a really integrated picture of the total business for the rest of the session. That would have been helpful in fixing our programmes and making our arrangements. However, it can be done later also through the party representatives. I have one or two suggestions to make as far as the business is concerned.

Sir, as you know very well, a special session of the United Nations General Assembly is going to be held on disarmament and the Prime Minister of this country will be going there to participate in that session. It is very important, Sir. And we are glad that India would be represented there at the highest level. I think, Sir, a day should be found to discuss this in this very session for the next session will be in the beginning of July and before that we will have no opportunity to discuss it. So during this very session, I suggest, one day in this House at least—I can speak for this House only—be set apart for discussing not the

working of the Ministry of External Affairs but discussing the question of disarmament specifically—I say disarmament; do not confuse it with other international issues; leave other international issues alone. Why I say this is because discussion will enable us to express from this great forum our views on this question and also raise our voice in favour of total and complete disarmament. Sir, we are committed to it as a nation; we are committed to it as a member of the non-alignment movement; and, above all we are committed to it because of our fundamental duty to peace and other humanitarian causes as a great and ancient nation. Therefore, I suggest that a day be set apart for it and let there be a resolution unanimously adopted by this House—and I would like to be adopted by the other House also. How we formulate that resolution, has to be considered. I think it would be a good contribution by the Indian Parliament if it were to send its delegation armed with a resolution unanimously passed by the Indian Parliament. The Indian Parliament is something very important because it represents almost 700 million people, an electorate of about 400 million people. It is very important that we adopt a resolution. An occasion should be found for this. Otherwise, we carry on routing administration. We should intervene in international situations in a very creative and forceful manner.

I would suggest to the Minister for External Affairs, and to the Prime Minister, to call a meeting of the Leaders of the Opposition and members of the Government to sit together and come to an agreed conclusion and proposal in line with our commitment as I said, as a member of the non-aligned movement. I attach importance to it. You kindly consider it. It will be very useful from every point of view and it will be very well appreciated. And the projection of this Parliament will be excellent if we take this initiative.

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

The only other thing I want to say is that I do not know what is happening to the business of the Shah Commission Reports. We have been waiting for the Government to tell us something about the matter. One Report had been received by the Government earlier and we were told that that was being processed. Now another Report has been given. There are two interim Reports, I am told. Now, as Members of this House, we have a right to have these Reports. Why I say this is because a kind of wrong politicking is going on in the country. The Ministers are saying certain things on the basis of the Reports, about which we are not at all aware. All kinds of things are being published in the newspapers. I find one newspaper or another carries something about what the Report contains, how the Government is dealing with it, how the Cabinet is dealing with it, how is the Secretary is dealing with it and how the Attorney-General and the Law Officers are considering it. Is it the way of treating Parliament? Either you take absolute precaution that nothing comes out in the press and that the Ministers do not open their mouth on the subject, or you make the report available to us because I find the Ministers saying that prosecution will take place, that this thing will take place and that that thing will take place. On what basis are they saying these things? The Ministers loose tongue over such matters. I cannot understand that. There should be some responsibility as far as the Ministers are concerned. We are restraining ourselves; even the private members of the Janata Party, the ruling party, are not saying anything: but some Ministers have loosened their tongues; they go on saying all kinds of things. Yet, when it comes to the report, they do not give it to us. The Government's argument is that it will take action first. What action you are going to take, you think about it. We are not going into it. These Commissions have been appointed by the resolutions of

Parliament, and Parliament is entitled to have their reports. We should not be made to wait for another few months before it is given to us. If you cannot take a decision, well, it is up to you. I am not going into it. But we are entitled to have the report. The nation is entitled to know what they have said and judge how you are behaving in the light of what they have said. With narrow party partisan political propaganda, you are not serving anything except just ridiculing yourselves. It has become a laughing stock today. Therefore, I suggest to the Hon. Minister to convey it to the Prime Minister of the country and let us have the report.

It is not for the first time that a report would have been placed on the Table of Parliament without action having been taken on it. There have been instances when such reports have been placed before Parliament without action having been taken on them. Parliament and the Government can concurrently consider it. What is wrong in that, I cannot understand. Therefore, I do suggest that such a step should be taken by the Government. Sir, I have said it, and I do not know what they are going to do; they do not tell us anything on the subject, nothing at all. This is most objectionable. Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): Would you like to say anything?

DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA: As far as his suggestion regarding external affairs and disarmament is concerned, there are two sorts of suggestions from the Members and from the Whips of the Opposition parties, that we should have some sort of a discussion on external affairs in this House, and discussion regarding disarmament and then passing a resolution. There are two sorts of suggestions and I think we will provide some occasion for the

Members to participate in the debate on external affairs in this session.

As far as the second suggestion is concerned, I have taken note of it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Do not misunderstand me. I know that you are going to discuss the working of the Ministry of External Affairs, when you can discuss from the Minister's hair-cut to anything. I am not concerned with it. I am concerned with the specific pinpointed discussion on disarmament itself.

DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA: I have understood that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The discussion should better be on a resolution moved by the Government.

SHRI MANUBHAI MOTILAL PATEL (Gujarat): Will it be to support the stand taken by the Government on this issue or something different? The resolution which you are suggesting, I mean.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): Let us not have a discussion on this. This is purely with regard to the business for the next week.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It will be a common stand.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): This is purely with regard to the list of business which has been mentioned.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Do not confuse with general discussion.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): You have made your observation and he has made his own reference to it.

SHRI S. W. DHABE (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I want to make a mention regarding the Industrial Relations Bill. Outside the House

a number of statements are made that the Industrial Relations Bill will come in this session. It was stated that it would not only come in this session but that it would also be passed.

The Supreme Court has recently passed a judgment, as 3 P.M. you know that the definition of "industry" requires to be reconsidered. Apart from the question of "one industry, one union", there are a number of infirmities in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 which require immediate correction. Industrial relations is a very important subject. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister categorically as to when the industrial relations Bill is coming up. Fortunately, he is also in charge of Labour. I would like to know what the position is in regard to the industrial relations Bill.

श्री देवराव पाटील (महाराष्ट्र) :

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं यद् जानना चाहता था कि राज्य सभा का अधिवेशन, हमारे पास जो पेपर आदि है, उनके अनुसार 12 तारीख तक चलने वाला है इस अधिवेशन को 12 तारीख को ही समाप्त किया जायगा या इसे आगे बढ़ाया जायगा ? क्योंकि हम लोगों को अपने आगे के प्रोग्राम तय करने हैं

दूसरी बात जो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि राज्य सभा में कई बातों की चर्चा होती है लेकिन एक बात पर सामूहिक रूप से कभी चर्चा नहीं हुई। देहात में जो लोग रहते हैं उनके लिये विकास के प्रोग्राम पर, बेजज प्रोग्राम पर या एग्रीकल्चर प्राइसिंग पोलिसी स्टेटमेंट पर चर्चा करने का मौका अभी तक नहीं दिया गया। उस पर चर्चा के लिये टाइम रखना चाहिये।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir there is one thing which I forgot to mention and that is about the wage board for

journalists. Sir, the Government should make an announcement as to when it will begin to function because we have information that the employers are trying to sabotage the working of the wage board; they want to take away the recent increase also. Therefore, the Government should make a statement about this matter in this very session and tell us when it will come into operation. Two representatives of the newspaper employers cannot hold the whole thing to ransom. Sir, we understand that they are trying to entice others also. Therefore it is a very serious matter. If they withdraw, appoint others in their place. Let us go ahead with this. Two have withdrawn and they are pressurising the Government. Unfortunately the Prime Minister has said that they could boycott. It was wrong on the part of the Prime Minister to have said that the employers' representatives could boycott because the workers have also gone on strike. Do they fall in the same category? Therefore, we want a clear assurance that the wage board for journalists would begin functioning even if the two representatives of employers withdraw. Let them withdraw. Fill their place with others and go ahead with the work instead of surrendering to the press magnates.

DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA: Sir as far as the industrial relations Bill is concerned, a committee was appointed and its report was submitted and on the basis of

that report, we are formulating the Bill. And the Cabinet approval is awaited. In the meantime, the judgment of the Supreme Court came. So, in the light of all these things, it has to be considered and it will take some time. I hope the Cabinet will decide soon and then after a decision is taken.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): What about the other one?

DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA: About the journalists' wage board, it is a fact that two members have withdrawn. We are making all efforts to bring about some sort of a resolution of this problem as soon as possible. There have been several rounds of talks between the Government and the parties, the employers and the working journalists. We hope they are, among themselves also, evolving some formula, and I hope this will be resolved soon.

ALLOCATION OF TIME FOR DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): I have to inform Members that the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held today, the 5th May, 1978, allotted time as follows for Government legislative and other business to be taken up during the current Session of the Rajya Sabha:

Business

Time allotted

1. Consideration and return of the Finance Bill, 1978 as passed by the Lok Sabha

Two days—in addition to the time already taken (i.e. on 8th and 9th May, 1978).

2. Discussion on the Draft Five Year Plan '1978-83'

One day—on Wednesday, the 10th May, 1978.