

[Shrimati Shakuntala Paranjpye.]

only that. It is wrong because girls of that age are old enough when they are 16 and quite a number of them who are not keen to go in for further education want to be married. They would like to be married, and to deny them the right of marriage, I think, is utterly wrong.

Again if you make a girl wait till 21, she often loses the prime of her beauty and it is difficult for her parents to find a suitable husband for her after 21. Here are some figures I would like to give of Western countries, to whom we look for progress and inspiration like the U.S., England, Federal Democratic Republic, G.D.R. Russia etc. The ages of marriages are, according to their laws, as follows. In England the age of the girl is 16 and for boys 16, F.D.R. 16 and 21, G.D.R. 16 and 18, France 15 and 18 and U.S. Common Law is 12 and 14 and in the different States they are 15 and 16, 18 and 21 and the U.S.S.R. is the only country which is in advance and there too it is 18 and 18 and here we want to have 21. These countries which allow their children to be married at these ages do not go in for child marriage or for marriages at a very young age. In fact we find that girls and boys get married after 20 or 25 or even after 30. So it is the progress in education and freedom to work that has been gained by the women in these Western countries that is responsible for the late age of marriage and not the laws that they have passed. Let us think before we pass legislations. I am against control. I am against passing sweeping resolutions. We must think and act. We must give the right prodding to thought and see that we act in a sane and rational manner.

PROGRAMME FOR THE GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA (Uttar Pradesh): Before you call the next Member to speak, I have to make a submission and it is about the uncertainty of the programme for the

sittings of the Rajya Sabha. With the completion of the General Budget debate tomorrow, we will have only one working day according to the present programme, that is Friday and we are supposed to do so many things:

- (1) Consideration and passing of the Anti-Corruption Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1967.
- (2) Consideration and return of the Railway Appropriation Bills
- (3) Consideration of the Motion for annulment of the Police Forces (Restriction of Rights) Rules, 1966, and
- (4) Consideration and passing of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Bill, 1967.

In addition to these, there was a demand for a discussion of the West Asian situation. Now, this, according to my calculations, is an impossible task for one day. Since the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is here, I would like to know from him whether he wants to extend the Session again by a day to complete this work and if that is agreeable, then we shall have to draw up the programme for the next 3 days.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One of the Bills you have mentioned is not there—The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Bill.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: That leaves four things to be done by us and if the Minister agrees. I have the following programme to suggest. The Anti-Corruption Laws Bill may be taken up on Friday morning after the Question Hour and we should complete it by four.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI (Rajasthan): First we should discuss whether we are extending the time and then leave it to the Business Advisory Committee to do the rest of the allocation.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Do you want the Business Advisory Committee to be called for this? Let us settle it here. The West Asian situation may be taken up from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY (Madras): One day.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: I am making my suggestions and on Saturday the Railway Appropriation Bill be completed by 4 p.m. and the annulment of the Police Forces Rules be taken up at 4 p.m. I am placing this for the consideration of the Minister whether he agrees for the extension by a day and then for the consideration of the Members that this programme be approved.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA (Bihar): I entirely agree with Mr. Bhargava that it is not possible to finish the business in one day I would therefore urge for the consideration of the House and the Government that we should have one full day for the discussion on the international situation because very grave issues have arisen in many areas of the world and then one day for the remaining business indicated by the previous speaker.

SHRI G. MURAHARI (Uttar Pradesh): I would suggest that instead of rushing all these Bills in the course of one day as suggested, we should have a full day's discussion on the international situation and some of these Bills may be held over till we meet in July, specially the annulment of the Police Forces Restrictions Bill. The others also can be cut out or in the alternative, let us sit till 16th or 27th and let full time for discussion be given.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh): I do not think that a few hours' discussion would be adequate for the Anti-Corruption Laws Bill because on the question of corruption so many questions have been asked in this House and it is such a vast subject that people would like to have some opportunity to express their views on the matter. I would suggest therefore that the whole of Friday be given for the consideration of the Anti-Corruption Laws Bill. Then one day remains for the Railway, Appropriation Bills and we should like to have some time for a discussion of the international situation and I can say that not only in

West Asia but elsewhere events have taken place, say in Peking. So I suggest that the Session be extended till Tuesday so that we may get through the agenda before the House.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR (Madhya Pradesh): I am not interested in extending the Session but looking to the agenda which is very important, we must discuss the international situation in relation to West Asia possibly for a full day because two hours will not be enough and even if you give chance to one from each Party, it cannot be finished in two hours and then regarding the legislative business, I understand that the Anti-Corruption Laws Bill is based on the Ordinance and so it has to be got through. Then the Railway Appropriation is there and many who have not got an opportunity to speak on the Railway Budget may like to speak on the Appropriation Bills. I can understand that the Police Forces (Restriction of Rights) Rules may be discussed in the next session but these two are the most important ones and if it is not possible to take them up in these two days, the Session will have to be extended. There is no other alternative.

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD (Uttar Pradesh): I want to submit that it is absolutely essential that the international situation should be properly discussed. Mr. Bhargava has suggested two hours. I think it is very inadequate.

SHRI A. D. MANI: We should have one day.

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD: Apart from that the suggestion has been made that the Anti-Corruption Bill also should be given more time. I agree entirely that the problem of amending anti-corruption laws is very important and we should give, I think, one day for it. So we can go up to the evening of Tuesday.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): Madam, while I sympathise with the sentiments expressed by friends here

[Shri I. K. Gujral].

and their anxiety to discuss the international situation, I may say that we have been discussing it on one pretext or the other almost throughout the session. The difficulty, Madam, is that we have been extending this session much beyond we had scheduled it for in the earlier period when we planned the session out. The difficulty of course was not only for the Government; the difficulty also presented itself in the strain on the Government. But quite a few Members have been talking to you, to the Secretary and to us also that their entire programme has been upset. Some people had planned to go; they could not go. And some of us had thought that the session would have been over by the time the All India Congress Committee held its session here. Some of us had thought and planned that we should go out and meet our commitments in the constituencies. Now this has gone on and you would kindly agree with this thing that from the Government side we have been exceedingly considerate on whatever demands have been made on us, and we have, for the first time in the history of the Rajya Sabha, given six days for the Budget discussion, because some Members of the Opposition wanted it. They also wanted on every other thing more time, and we have never grudged that. But the difficulty now, Madam, is that this process cannot become unending; we cannot go on extending the session like this because, unfortunately, whatever items have to be discussed within the time fixed by the Business Advisory Committee, and approved by you, even that time schedule is not kept. I feel, Madam, that, if other issues are to be brought in for discussion, then the Members should co-operate with you and the Business Advisory Committee to see that the schedule fixed is kept. Would you kindly recall to your mind that it is a fact when I say that not even in one single case have we stuck to the time-schedule set, to the time fixed by us. This is a new conven-

tion that we are setting up. I feel, Madam, that all this programme that has been laid before the Business Advisory Committee previously, and before you, I think we will be able to do that much, and more than that I do not think it is possible in this session, and in the July session, whatever the Members feel should come up, I think we can provide the time for it.

SHRI A. D. MANI: When are we likely to meet in July?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Probably on the 24th July.

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD: How are you going to finish the agenda of this session then? You should cut down on them. You cannot rush through all of it.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: We can sit through lunch and till 7 of clock in the evening.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Madam, I think the agenda can be put through because, as was conveyed to the Chairman by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs in his letter of which a copy is before me, he has given an indication as to how the agenda can be put through. And of course I am in your hands, and if you choose to think that this programme is all right, it is all right. And if you decide that "No, we should sit for another day", naturally we have no objection, but I would submit that if we stuck to the original schedule of business, it will be better for us.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY (Madras): Some of the Bills can be postponed that are not of any immediate interest or urgency. Therefore I would suggest that the anti-corruption Bill and other Bills, which can be easily postponed, be postponed to July, and we take up especially the international situation, which must be discussed for one day at least.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think the Bills that are already on the agenda should not be postponed to the next session. We must finish our business, and for the speedy

despatch of business we are all responsible. We have been observing that we discuss so many other things and we jump the Order Paper sometimes. I mean, if this goes on, we shall never possibly be able to keep to our programme. Therefore I appeal to the Members to try and dispose of the business within the time allotted. Of course there is that one day asked for discussion of the international situation, which will be conveyed to the Chairman, and we will see what we can do about it but, otherwise, the rest of the business must go through this session before we adjourn.

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD: The request that one day be given to discuss the international situation should be conveyed to the Chairman. If it means one day, then, naturally, we have to sit on Monday.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, in that sense, if that is the opinion of some Members of the House, you must also try for speedy despatch of business every day and see that nothing else comes in the middle, that half way through a business we do not take up on a different thing two hours or one and a half hours, take so much time on it that we cannot come back to our own serious business of the day.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Madam, may I say that important developments are taking place in the world and it is no use postponing the discussion on the international situation till July . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not postponed; it will be conveyed to the Chairman.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: . . . because the whole issue, by that time, will be, in a sense, dead. So what is the point in discussing the international situation then?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not said anything about the international situation. That we shall consider very seriously, that one day but, otherwise, the rest of the business must go through as on the agenda. I

do not exactly; Mr. Gujral, how does the agenda stand by Friday evening or Saturday evening according to your programme, according to the time allotted?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Madam, if you permit me to quote from this letter we should be completing our Budget discussion by tomorrow, and tomorrow, the 22nd June, the Deputy Prime Minister can be asked to reply immediately after the Question Hour. Thereafter we can take up the Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Bill which has already been passed by the Lok Sabha, the report of which has been received here. On the 23rd, Madam, we can consider the Railway Appropriation Bill.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: On the 23rd? I think the Railway Appropriation Bill will not reach us.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: It will reach us, I think, because we hope that it will be possible to take it up on the 23rd. . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If we get it tomorrow.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: A request has been made to you for waiving that particular rule, rule 123. Now if we are able to cover that, then I think the only other thing that remains to be done is the Police Forces (Restriction of Rights) Rules, 1966.

SHRI A. D. MANI: We can postpone that.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Therefore, I think that, if the time-schedule is stuck to, we should be able to finish it by 23rd evening. I should think so.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think that by 23rd evening you cannot finish. There is the Railway Appropriation Bill and then the other . . .

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: If you are unable to do that, I am quite willing to concede that Saturday may also be a sitting day.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think on Saturday we may have to sit.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: All right. let us sit on Saturday.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It leaves only the international situation out, one day for that.

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD: I request the hon. Minister to apply his mind a little more to this when he has more leisure.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Madam, may I bring to your notice a matter of very serious importance, very great importance?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have not finished with this.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: May I draw your attention to rule 123 in reference to this Railway Appropriation Bill. I understand that the Railway Appropriation Bill has not been passed by the Lok Sabha as yet. Then two days are required after it is despatched here. Here rule 123 says

"On the day on which the motion for consideration is set down in the list of business which shall, unless the Chairman otherwise directs, be not less than two days from the receipt of the notice, the member giving notice may move that the Bill be taken into consideration."

So two days will be required after the Lower House passes that Bill and, naturally, if the Lower House passes it tomorrow, then it cannot be considered on the 23rd here.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I suggest a compromise that we finish the whole agenda by about 4 P.M. on Saturday and from 4 to 6 P.M. or 4 to 7 P.M. if you so choose, we can discuss the international situation.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, no.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The number of hours will be the same.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Freshness of mind and all that kind of thing I would like one hour more.

REFERENCE TO A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE IN THE OTHER HOUSE

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to bring to your notice a matter of very great importance. Otherwise I will be failing in my duty as a Member of this House. A Member of our House, Mr. Arjun Arora, has been subjected to all kinds of accusation in the other House in connection with the Birla accusation. Madam, some document alleged to have been written by him to the Prime Minister has been laid on the Table of that House for the Speaker to see. We demanded that it should be laid on the Table of this House, but it was not done. Therefore, tomorrow, Madam, we will come to your chamber and raise it. We will discuss it because we also believe in the vindication of the honour of a Member of this House.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL) 1967-68 —GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: May I take it that the House desires that the reply to the discussion on the General Budget be given after Question Hour tomorrow? What do you say?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, yes.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): I am ready at any time

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So after the Question Hour tomorrow the Finance Minister will reply to the debate.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY (Madras): Madam, we have given Calling Attention Notices also.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is all right. After that is over the Finance Minister will reply to the General Budget debate. To that the House is agreeable. After that we