

[Shri Mahesh Saran.]

Now, Sir, my submission is that so long as these powers are given to them, it must, in the present state of things, be left to the Chief Commissioner to decide whether it would be possible to have a village authority in a certain area. Unless you do that, a great confusion will arise, and you will have a village authority which will not be able to function, because, as I told you, education is practically scanty. What I feel is that at the present moment the reforms that have been introduced are quite enough. The people who have not been there can have absolutely no idea about conditions existing there. Of course Rajasthan and other places may be very nice to talk about. First of all, there are 22 languages in Manipur. (*Time bell rings.*) All these people have got different customs and different manners, and they are habituated to respect their chief and to help him. Of course, I agree that certain of the customs must cease, for example the custom of taking a part of the produce, which is known as *Bhushan*, and the practice of taking a portion of the unit known as *Satiang* (*Time bell rings*). May I have two minutes, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not two minutes. Just wind up.

SHRI MAHESH SARAN: I cannot wind up all of a sudden.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You may sit down. You are simply wasting your time.

SHRI MAHESH SARAN: Excuse me, Sir. I would respectfully beg to tell you that this is

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have been telling you that there are four more speakers.

SHRI MAHESH SARAN: That is true.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They must naturally require as much time as you want.

SHRI MAHESH SARAN: I do hope, Sir, that the remarks from the Chair

should be a little more dignified than they are

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am sorry to find that you are making such remarks. I have been requesting you ..

SHRI MAHESH SARAN: You have been saying, Sir, that I have been wasting time. I am not wasting any time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING TIME TABLE FOR LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS DURING THE REMAINING PART OF THE SESSION

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Before I call upon the next speaker, I have to announce that the Business Advisory Committee has fixed the timetable for the legislative business during the remaining part of the session as follows:

The Manipur State Hill Peoples (Administration) Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1954	.. 1½ hours
The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1954	.. 3 hours
The Special Marriage Bill, 1954 (Consideration of the amendments made by the Lok Sabha)	.. 5 hours
The Central Excises and Salt (Amendment) Bill, 1954	.. 2 hours
The Chandernagore (Merger) Bill, 1954	1 hour
The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1954	.. 1½ hours
The Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Bill, 1954 (as reported by the Joint Committee)	.. 4 hours
The Constitution (Third Amendment) Bill, 1954 (as reported by the Joint Committee)	.. 4 hours
The Administration of Evacuee Property (Amendment) Bill, 1954	.. 2 hours
The Taxation Laws (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Bill, 1954	.. 1 hour
The Indian Tariff (Second Amendment) Bill, 1954	.. 4 hours
The Madhya Bharat Taxation on Income (Validation) Bill, 1954	.. 1 hour
The Supplementary Demands for Grants—Appropriation Bill	.. 2 hours

I hope the hon. Members will please co-operate with the Chair in keeping to the time.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, when these timings are fixed, the House should be informed about them, and the sense of the House should be taken and the sittings should be prolonged, if the House so desires.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All parties are represented on the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: That is true. But I think under the rules the time allotted should be notified, and if it is necessary...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am just notifying it.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: It is being done for the first time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just now the Business Advisory Committee met, and your representative was also there. The time-table has been fixed in consultation with all.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: It very much happens that when the debate starts, so many things crop up, and those things cannot be taken account of when you are fixing the time. So, if the sense of the House is to have a little more time, and if the House is prepared to sit longer.....

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR (West Bengal): In the Business Advisory Committee, I must submit, this point was discussed, and it was the sense of the Business Advisory Committee as well as of the Chairman that if any need is felt for extending the time fixed and if the House is agreeable, we must sit for extra hours or curtail the lunch hour. On that condition, Sir, the Business Advisory Committee agreed to this time-table.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If on any particular item the House is agree-

able I am prepared to dispense with the lunch hour.

SHRI KANHAIYALAL D. VAIDYA (Madhya Bharat): This is an important Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now stick to the time-table. We have got at our disposal 35 minutes.

SHRI KANHAIYALAL D. VAIDYA: Unfortunately the Bill has been introduced here in the Rajya Sabha.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a very simple Bill.

SHRI MAHESH SARAN: May I submit, Sir, that in future we should know the time before we take up anything?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This has been announced as soon as the Business Advisory Committee met and decided it.

SHRI MAHESH SARAN: Then I am sorry.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is why I am bringing it to your notice. So we shall stick to the time-table as far as possible. If on a particular Bill the hon. Members want some extra time, we can dispense with the question hour or sit late. I have no objection to that.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA (Uttar Pradesh): May I know if the names of the four remaining Members are with you, and can no other person speak on this Bill?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I do not mean that. If the Members can adjust it, and if there is time, I will certainly allow. And there are some amendments given notice of, and I must give some time to those hon. Members. And we must give some time to the hon. Minister to reply.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: May I point out that that question was also discussed, and we were told that the

[Shri S. N. Dwivedy.]
Home Minister should take about 20 to 25 minutes—not more than that?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, he must be given some time. Mr. Dwivedy, you can go on now. Please take about five minutes.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Five minutes? I think ten minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have got four names here, Kazi Karimuddin, Mr. Mazumdar, Mr. Sekhar, yourself.....

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: I am also one of the prospective speakers.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Leave it to the hon. Minister. He will reply.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: That was the very basis on which this whole programme was fixed up. We will sit up to 1.30 P.M. so that all the speakers may have some time.

DR. K. N. KATJU: But there is something to eat also. Whenever I come to the Rajya Sabha, I know that there is a lunch interval; unless you supply me.....

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: We shall do it most willingly.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I do not know if that is agreed to. I have no objection to sit for half an hour more.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: We should sit for half an hour more.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: We can sit beyond five.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If the House wants, I can give half an hour more. I hope the House is agreed.

(No hon. Member dissented.)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. Mr. Dwivedy, go on.

THE MANIPUR STATE HILL PEOPLES (ADMINISTRATION) REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954—continued

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Sir, it is a disgrace that in the fifth year of the Republic of India as is stated in this Bill the Home Minister should come forward with a Bill not to give more freedom to the people but to extend and perpetuate the system of slavery that has existed in this part of the country. This affects about 2 lakhs of people. If one goes into the history of the entire question, one will find that this is an amendment of the 1947 Bill. That Bill which was introduced by the Ruler of the Manipur State, was enacted after many of the States had acceded into India. There were some customs prevailing in those areas and he wanted to legalise them to a certain extent. I think the Home Minister and the Home Ministry have not given proper consideration to all aspects of this question. Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Minister, when he is amending this Bill which mostly relates to village authority, what is going to happen to the circle authority. In the old Act there is a clear provision for circle authorities and circle officials, but I am told that there is no such authority existing. May I know how this lacuna is to be filled up and how it will be fitted into the present arrangement.

About the merits of the Bill, I wish to tell you that it does not confer any democratic right as the Home Minister wants us to believe. As you see, this Bill says very clearly that the powers and duties of such authorities would be fixed by the Chief Commissioner and it also gives the option to the Chief Commissioner to have an elected village authority whenever he wishes to do it. Therefore, actually it does not confer the system of elected village authorities on these areas. If there are more than 20 tax-paying houses in any village, that village will be given an elected authority at the sweet will of the Chief