

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, 24th September 1954

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL EN- QUIRY COMMITTEE.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI C. C. BISWAS): Sir, on behalf of Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Pharmaceutical Enquiry Committee. [Placed in the Library, See No. S—358/54.]

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRE- SENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSES ON THE HINDU MAR- RIAGE AND DIVORCE BILL.

THE MINISTER FOR LAW AND
MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI C. C.
BISWAS): Sir, I beg to move:

“That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to amend and codify the law relating to marriage and divorce among Hindus be further extended up to the last day of the first week of the next session.”

Sir, may I just say a few words to show why the Joint Committee has thought it fit to ask for extension of time again?

The House will remember that I moved a motion on the subject on Wednesday last but that motion was withdrawn. As suggested in the House on that day, the Joint Committee met yesterday to reconsider the matter and it decided to reaffirm its

previous resolution with only a slight modification. The Joint Committee has altered the date for presentation of the Report from the last day of the second week of the next session to the last day of the first week. I shall now shortly state the facts, and I am sure the House will be satisfied that the Joint Committee was not at all unmindful of its duties, but addressed itself to its task with a full sense of the urgency of the matter, and if it was found necessary to ask for a second extension, it was because of circumstances which it was not possible to foresee or anticipate. I should like to remind the House that the Joint Committee was constituted during the last session, about the middle of May, with instructions to report by the last day of the second week of the next session, that is to say by the 4th September 1954. The session ended by the end of May, and no one would suggest that the Joint Committee should have commenced its sittings immediately thereafter. What was done was to summon the Joint Committee on a date which was considered to be sufficiently in advance of the commencement of the next session; the session was due to commence on the 23rd August and the Joint Committee was summoned to meet on and from the 2nd of August 1954, that is to say, three weeks earlier, and there would still be two more weeks within which the Report was to be submitted. The Committee sat from day to day since the 2nd August, working for four hours and sometimes more than four hours every day, but with a break from the 12th to the 19th August to enable the Members to attend the Independence Day celebrations in their own States. The Committee resumed its sitting on the 20th August. By that time it had already held ten sittings. It was at this meeting, held on the 20th August, that the Committee decided to apply for the first extension till the 22nd September, afterwards altered to the 24th September, and this extension was granted by the House on the 30th August. The Committee fully believed that it could complete its