

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Sir, this question is entirely a different question. ...*(Interruptions)*... I think, the hon. Member is asking about ...*(Interruptions)*... This question is related to strategic storage. ...*(Interruptions)*... I can provide him the information separately. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet at 2.00 P.M.

The House then adjourned at four minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled at two of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*.

**MOTION REGARDING THIRTEENTH REPORT OF
THE COMMITTEE ON RULES**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion regarding the 13th Report of the Committee on Rules, Prof. P.J. Kurien.

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO (Telangana): Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go back to your seat. This is a serious matter. Please do not compel me to ...*(Interruptions)*... No; I am sorry. You cannot do this. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry; you cannot do this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

आप अपनी जगह पर वापस जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... You are compelling me to use a rule against you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am cautioning you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am cautioning you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't push me to use the rules ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I have to make one submission. ...*(Interruptions)*...

कुछ माननीय सदस्य : हनुमंत राव जी, सीट पर वापस आ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Kurien.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Kerala): Respected Chairman, Sir, I move:

"That the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Rules presented to the Rajya Sabha on the 25th November, 2014, be taken into consideration."

Hon. Members, the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Rules owes its origin to a proposal received from the General Purposes Committee to shift the commencement of Question Hour from 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon. The GPC, at its meeting held on 11th August, 2014, considered this matter and approved the same. There was an overwhelming positive

[Prof. P.J. Kurien]

response to this proposal barring one or two Members. The GPC also recommended to (i) reduce the number of Starred Questions from 20 to 15 and increase the number of Unstarred Questions from 155 to 160 while retaining the overall number of Questions as 175, and (ii) extend the time of sitting of the House by one hour. The Committee on Rules, at its sitting held on 7th November, 2014, unanimously agreed to the proposal of the General Purposes Committee. As a result of this, the Question Hour in Rajya Sabha will now be rescheduled from 12.00 noon to 1.00 p.m. instead of 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon. Proceedings of the House will begin with laying of papers followed by Zero Hour submissions, and House would sit from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. except on Friday when the House will reassemble after lunch at 2.30 p.m. The Rules Committee also recommended to shift the time of taking up Calling Attention from 12.00 noon to 5.00 p.m. The Report of the Rules Committee is Members-friendly. It will now allow them to raise 15 Zero Hour matters per day instead of 10 and that too at the beginning of the sitting of the day. The number of Zero Hour submissions per week thus will increase by 50 per cent, that is, instead of 50 Zero Hour submissions in a week, Members would now be in a position to raise 75 Zero Hour matters. Enhancement in the time of sitting of the Council will also allow more matters to be discussed in the House. The scheduling of the Calling Attention at 5.00 p.m. will allow hon. Chairman to admit more Calling Attention Notices. The amendments to the Rules wherever required to give effect to the recommendations of the Committee have been shown in Annexure to the Thirteenth Report.

Hon. Members, I am of the view that these amendments would facilitate smooth conduct of the proceedings of the House, particularly, in the Question Hour and would also make the overall proceedings of the House more productive.

With these comments, I propose that the House may agree to the recommendations contained in the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Rules. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सभापति महोदय, मैं कुछ कहना चाहूंगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute, I am coming to you. Let him finish. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him finish, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him finish, please.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Then, along with that, I also move:

That this House agrees with the recommendations contained in the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Rules presented to the Rajya Sabha on the 25th November, 2014.

...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : सर ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are speakers. Your turn will come. Mr. Raja, do you wish to speak?

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : हमने भी नाम लिखकर दिया है।

श्री सभापति : अगर नाम है तो आप बोलेंगे।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : ऐसा तो नहीं है कि परम्परा टूट जाएगी। श्रीमन्, दलीय ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Okay. Fine. Mr. Raja, your turn will come later. You want to insist on your right; okay, fine. I concede. The Motion has been moved. There is a one amendment by Shri P. Rajeeve to the Second Motion. Members may move the amendments at this stage without any speech.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, I move:

That in the proposed amendment to sub-rule (5) of rule 180:-

(iii) *for figure and word "5.00 P.M.", the figure and word "2.00 P.M." be substituted.*

(iv) *The proviso be deleted.*

The questions were proposed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any other amendment? No.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : सर...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You wish to intervene in the debate.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : सर, हम ओरली अमेंडमेंट दे सकते हैं।

श्री सभापति : क्यों?

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : यह रूल्स में कहां लिखा है कि लिखकर ही अमेंडमेंट देंगे? यह रूल्स में कहां लिखा है? हम किसी भी समय सदन में अमेंडमेंट पेश कर सकते हैं।

श्री सभापति : वह आपके फायदे के लिए है कि आप अमेंडमेंट in writing दें।

Verbally, you can be understood, you can even be partially understood or misunderstood. Go ahead, please. Move your amendments.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : चेयरमैन साहब, मैं दो अमेंडमेंट्स मूव कर रहा हूँ। मेरा पहला अमेंडमेंट है कि आपने स्टार्ड क्वेश्चंस को 20 की जगह 15 किया है और अनस्टार्ड को 155 की जगह 160 किया है। एक तो इसको फिर बदल दिया जाए और जैसा पुराना था, कर दिया जाए। दूसरा, क्वेश्चन ऑवर को 11 बजे ही रखा जाए। 11 से 12 बजे तक क्वेश्चन ऑवर, 12 से 1 बजे तक ज़ीरो ऑवर रखा जाए और दो बजे के बाद जैसी प्रोसीडिंग थी, वैसी ही प्रोसीडिंग चलाई जाए। सर, मैं आगे भी अपनी बात कह दूँ?

श्री सभापति : आपको इस रिपोर्ट पर और कुछ भी कहना है।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : जी, सर।

श्री सभापति : कहिए।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : चेयरमैन साहब, हम सब आपका बड़ा आदर करते हैं। हम कहीं भी नहीं दिखाना चाहते कि कोई असम्मान है। अगर सदन को एक्सपेरिमेंट का अखाड़ा बनाया जाएगा तो हम सबको पीड़ा होगी। मैं यह बात इस कारण से कह रहा हूँ कि इसके पहले भी इस सदन में इस नियम को बदला गया था, लेकिन उसके बाद फिर उसे चेंज करके 11 बजे कर दिया गया। सबसे ज्यादा दुख यह है कि रूल 38 में जब आपने आदेश दे दिया कि प्रश्नकाल 11 बजे कि जगह 12 बजे होगा, वह पॉवर आपके पास है, आपको अधिकार है, तो क्या आपका अधिकार लागू होने के बाद कमेटी उस पर विचार कर सकती है? दूसरा, जो प्रश्न वगैरह घटे, हमने जो रेज़ोल्यूशन दिया, वह रेज़ोल्यूशन जब तक सदन में पास नहीं होता, तब तक क्या इस सदन में उन आदेशों को लागू कर दिया जाएगा? श्रीमन्, आज डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब ने यह रेज़ोल्यूशन पेश किया। यह ठीक है कि रूल 38 में आपको पॉवर थी, आपने 38 की पॉवर एक्सरसाइज की और क्वेश्चन ऑवर को 11 की बजाय 12 बजे कर दिया। इसीलिए मैंने यह प्रश्न उठाया कि जब आपने ऐसा कर ही दिया तो फिर उसको रूल्स कमेटी कैसे कंसीडर करेगी जिसके चेयरमैन आप हैं और आप ही ने आदेश दिया? फिर चेयरमैन के आदेश को दूसरा कैसे बदल देगा? महोदय, मैं एक दूसरी बात कह रहा हूँ। जैसा मैंने कहा कि बाकी जो रूल्स बदले गए हैं, जिनके संबंध में आज रेज़ोल्यूशन हुआ, उन्हें आपको बदलने का अधिकार नहीं है। रूल्स कमेटी की रिकमेंडेशंस को जब हाउस स्वीकार कर लेगा, तब उसमें बदलाव होगा। आज जो रेज़ोल्यूशन मूव किया, अगर यह रेज़ोल्यूशन पास नहीं होता तो अभी तक जो हो रहा है, उसका मतलब तो यह होगा कि दो दिन की प्रोसीडिंग्स को हम इल्लिगल मान लेंगे क्योंकि आपने क्वेश्चन ऑवर को 11 की बजाय 12 बजे कर दिया, ज़ीरो ऑवर का टाइम बदल दिया और पांच बजे आपने कॉलिंग अटेंशन कर दिया।

MR. CHARMAN : Fine. Thank you. You have made your point.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह सब ब्रिटिश पार्लियामेंटरी सिस्टम से चल रहा है। लोक सभा में भी 11 बजे चल रहा है। आप अगर 11 बजे ज़ीरो ऑवर अलाउ कर देंगे... तो हम इतने fiery हो जायेंगे कि 12.00 बजे तक हाउस ही नहीं चल पाएगा। आप प्रैक्टिकल तो देखिए दो दिन सदन में क्या हो रहा है? दो दिन से 11.00 बजे ज़ीरो ऑवर शुरू होता है, हम सब उत्तेजित हो जाते हैं और सरकार हमको सुन नहीं रही है।

श्री सभापति : आप अपनी बात कह दीजिए। You have raised a point. Please, let us not refer to the British Parliament, because some of us know at what time Question Hour takes place in the British Parliamentary system.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : नहीं श्रीमन्। मैंने जितनी बातें कहीं हैं, अगर एक भी असंवैधानिक हो, रूल्स के विपरीत हो, मैंने कोई राजनीतिक बात कही हो ...(व्यवधान)... मैं जो प्रेक्टिकल यहां देख रहा हूं, उसको आपसे कह रहा हूं।

श्री सभापति : थैंक्यू।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : सर, मेरा आपसे अनुरोध है कि मेरे जो अमेंडमेंट्स हैं और पी. राजीव जी के जो अमेंडमेंट्स हैं...।

श्री सभापति : अब आप अपने अमेंडमेंट्स इन राइटिंग देंगे।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : इन सब अमेंडमेंट्स को स्वीकार करते हुए, इस Motion को रद्द करने का निर्णय यह सदन करे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Gujarat): Mr. Chairman, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. Have you given your name to speak? I have names of people who wish to speak. Mr. Rapolu.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I didn't give my name, but it is just a submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you have to give your name. A Member has given his name.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I can give it right now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But that is not the way we do it.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, it is just a submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the way we do it. Please; your colleague is standing to speak.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: But, Sir, I have got just a submission to make.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): *Mananiya Sabhapati mahoday*, I would like to take this opportunity to humbly urge this august House to look at the prevailing situation, the ground reality and the necessity of the perceived changes, to convey our concern, our depth of debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you speaking on the motion?

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Yes, Sir; I am speaking on the Motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, please speak on the motion.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Sir, the moving of the Motion by the Deputy Chairman for rescheduling Zero Hour, Question Hour, Calling Attention Motion, enlarges the scope for individual Members to place before the House their views and to attract the attention of the Union Government and the nation. This effort shall have to be understood in a very fair environment. All these years, there were several experiments, across several nations, in conducting the Legislature. Even in our Indian Parliament, in this Upper House, the Chairman was consistently trying to evolve certain mechanisms, to ensure the schedules and to give an elaborate scope to individual Members to participate in the debate, to put forth their understanding of issues and to enrich the debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak on the motion. We have limited time.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Yes, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... Being a Member of the Rules Committee of the Rajya Sabha, I am pleading all to accept this motion because for the last two days, we have been sitting here at 11 o'clock and the attention raised through Rajya Sabha to the nation was perfect; we could raise issues of national priority.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are speaking on a motion of which you are a co-sponsor. Please focus on it. If you wish to add anything to what the mover of the Motion has said, please say so. Otherwise, the time of this House is precious.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Sir, in continuity, I support and I plead that this august House may kindly accept it, because these changes will ensure wider participation by individual Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi.

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी) : सभापति महोदय, डिप्टी चैयरमैन साहब ने जो प्रस्ताव रखा है, मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूँ। हमारी संसद का सत्र संवाद के माध्यम से और समन्वय के माध्यम से सकारात्मक तरीके से और अच्छी तरह से चले, यह हम सब की इच्छा भी है और हम सब का प्रयास भी है। रूल कमेटी की 25 नवम्बर, 2014 की जो रिपोर्ट है, उसमें भी सब की मंशा और सब की नीयत यही है कि जो भी हमारे पास समय है, उस समय का सकारात्मक ढंग से उपयोग हो सके और प्रश्नात्मक ढंग से उपयोग किया जा सके। इसलिए मैं यह मानता हूँ कि उस समय को

सफल बनाने के लिए, उसका सकारात्मक ढंग से उपयोग करने के लिए अगर हम कोई अच्छा प्रयोग करते हैं, तो निश्चित तौर से आने वाले दिनों में सदन की कार्यवाही में, सदन के काम में मदद मिलेगी। इससे देश की समस्याओं पर अधिक से अधिक चर्चा हो सकेगी। लोग अलग-अलग क्षेत्रों के अलग-अलग राज्यों के और देश के तमाम ज्वलंत सवाल पर चर्चा करना चाहते हैं, बातचीत करना चाहते हैं। लोग यह भी चाहते हैं कि उनकी बात सरकार तक पहुंचे और देश के लोगों तक भी पहुंचे। उस पर सकारात्मक ढंग से चर्चा हो और उसका असर कहीं न कहीं सरकार पर भी दिखाई पड़े और साथ ही साथ देश पर भी दिखाई दे। रूल कमेटी ने जो प्रयास किया है, मैं मानता हूँ कि यह एक सहायनीय प्रयास है। इस पर कई माननीय सदस्यों के सुझाव आ सकते हैं। मुझे लगता है कि कोई प्रयोग आखिरी प्रयोग नहीं होता है। अगर इस तरह की कोई कोशिश की जाती है या इस तरह का कोई प्रयोग किया जाता है, रिफॉर्म किया जाता है, तो वह कोई आखिरी रिफॉर्म नहीं होता है। हम अनुभव के आधार पर उसमें और चीजों को भी शामिल कर सकते हैं। इस प्रस्ताव में जो सबसे महत्वपूर्ण चीज है, वह यह है कि शून्यकाल में प्रतिदिन 15 माननीय सदस्यों को अपनी बात रखने का अवसर मिलेगा। इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि यह एक सप्ताह में 75 माननीय सदस्य अलग-अलग मुद्दों पर, राष्ट्रीय मुद्दों पर, क्षेत्रीय मुद्दों पर, आर्थिक मुद्दों पर, सामाजिक मुद्दों पर, किसानों के मुद्दों पर, नौजवानों के मुद्दों पर, मजदूरों के मुद्दों पर और तमाम मुद्दों पर अपनी बात रख सकेंगे। लोग शून्यकाल के समय अपनी बात रखते भी हैं, लेकिन इस व्यवस्था में उनको मौका मिलेगा और वे उस मौके का उपयोग कर सकते हैं। माननीय उपसभापति जी ने जो प्रस्ताव रखा है, मैं उसका समर्थन करते हुए अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ।

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, in support of the Motion moved by the hon. Deputy Chairman, I would like to add a few sentences that it is true that the matter was discussed in the General Purposes Committee a few months ago. I was a Member of that Committee and I remember that majority of the political parties were represented there and the unanimous view was that these changes should be effected as proposed. Thereafter, it was taken up by the Rules Committee. There also I was a Member and all the Members present in the Rules Committee unanimously accepted the changes. My submission to all who have expressed their concerns is that we should not be apprehensive of the changes that are proposed to be made. My party's concern is that people outside are watching us every day and every moment; crores of rupees are being spent on the proceedings of Parliament and, day in and day out, the way we behave and the way we disrupt the proceedings, have not been taken kindly by people at large. Therefore, my humble submission to all hon. Members of this House is that we accept the changes and don't be apprehensive. Let us see what happens. If, at all, there is no improvement in the near future, then certainly the House has the right to reconsider and re-do. Thank you.

SHRI P. RAJEEV: Sir, I rise to support one part of the amendments moved as part of this Report of the Rules Committee. Actually, there is a provision in the rule itself, that it, Rule 38, which empowers the Chairman to change the timing of the Question

[Shri P. Rajeeve]

Hour. We are very grateful to the Chairman for exercising that power unilaterally to change the timing of the Question Hour. You have gone through a very good democratic process. First, the General Purposes Committee discussed these things and then the Rules Committee discussed these things thoroughly, and a unanimous decision was taken to change the timing of the Question Hour.

Sir, as all of us know, this concept of Question Hour is contribution of British days, namely, Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms and several other reforms. At that time, we had started the Question Hour. But unfortunately, in the first Parliament of independent India, there was no Question Hour for several days. The person who raised the first question in the House became the first Deputy Chairman of this august House, that is, Mr. Krishna Moorthy Rao. We have made several changes in the procedure of Question Hour after that. We are grateful to the hon. Chairman. You had taken a very good initiative to allow other Members to ask supplementary questions even if the questioner was not present in the House. That is a very good change in this procedure. Now, this is another step. This is one of the important instruments to make the Government accountable to the society through this Parliament. It will give an opportunity to Members to grill the Ministers and the Government. So, I support this amendment. We are for this change of timing of Question Hour from 11 a.m. to 12 noon to 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Sir, regarding change in the timing of Calling Attention, I have one amendment. The proposal is to change the time to 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Calling Attention is an opportunity for the Members to raise very important issues. The Ministers come out with a statement and the Members get an opportunity to seek clarifications. Most of the journalists of regional newspapers will not be here in the evening because they have to go to their offices to file their stories. Whatever issues are raised by us here after 5 o'clock, will not be published in most of the newspapers in the country. So, my request is to withdraw this proposal. My amendment is there. The Calling Attention, as per the existing procedure, is taken up after the Question Hour. It is taken up at 2 o'clock. Please, allow the Members to raise important issues through Calling Attention between 2 p.m to 3 p.m. It would be beneficial to the House. It would be beneficial to the society also. I request the Chairman of the Rules Committee, that is, you, Sir, to please pass this amendment moved by me.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, I respect the concerns continuously expressed by the Chair, you being the Chairperson, about running the House smoothly and about having the Question Hour regularly. Having said that, I have a few points to make. One is, of course, the change of timing of the Question Hour. We experimented this in the past. We had the

Question Hour shifted to 2 o'clock. Then, we reverted back to 11 o'clock. The Leader of the House is sitting here. He was the Leader of the Opposition at that time. We had discussed this issue. I think, the Question Hour can be at 11 o'clock. It is not that I undermine the importance of the rights of Members or the importance of the Question Hour. Even today, I had one Starred Question. Yesterday also, I had one Starred Question. But the House could not transact its business and it could not be taken up. But it does not mean that Zero Hour worked. Today also, Zero Hour did not work. Yesterday also, Zero Hour did not work. Neither the Question Hour nor the Zero Hour could take place. So, we will have to be very realistic and very practical. My point is that the Question Hour can be reverted back to 11 o'clock.

Secondly, regarding reducing the number of questions, I do not know as to what is the big difference between 15 and 20. Now, for one question, if we assume that five minutes are given, then, for ten questions, it will be 50 minutes. We calculate like that because one principal questioner will ask two supplementaries and then two other Members will ask supplementaries. So, if we cannot take up even 10 questions, then, why do we have 15 questions? The practice is to have 20 questions because, at least, the Ministers are expected to provide written answers to the questions asked by the Members. At least, the Members get answers from the Government. I think, we should stick to that practice of having 20 Starred Questions. This is my second point.

Thirdly, I think, the Calling Attention cannot be taken up at 5 o'clock, and, it should be taken up early in the day. Earlier, we used to have Calling Attention immediately after the Question Hour. If the House agrees, we can have it at 2 o'clock, or, immediately after the Question Hour so that the Calling Attention assumes its importance. Sir, it is an important instrument to draw the attention of the Government on a particular important issue. So, I don't think that taking up the Calling Attention at 5 o'clock is a good proposal. I think, the Rules Committee should consider this and withdraw this proposal. Thank you.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA (Uttar Pradesh): Thank you, hon. Chairman, Sir. Sir, the Rules Committee has brought this proposal before this House but before this, on this issue, there was a detailed discussion in the General Purposes Committee. I was also a Member of that Committee, and, we discussed the issues threadbare. The issue of shifting of Question Hour from 11.00 a.m. to 12 noon was considered, and, the reason behind that was also considered. The reason was that every morning, or, even in the evening after the House adjourns, there are some issues of urgent nature, on which Members of some party or group get agitated, and, they want the matter to be raised early

[Shri Satish Chandra Misra]

in the morning as the first issue. This has been actually happening, and, resultantly, the Question Hour could not be taken up for days together because the Members, sometimes rightly, want their issue to be taken up as the first issue and stand at 11.00 a.m. in the morning, and, the Question Hour goes away. Sir, what is the effect if the Question Hour is not taken up because of the rising of the agitated Members in the morning at 11.00 a.m.? So far as the Government is concerned, it will be more than happy if the questions are not to be answered but the Members who intend to raise questions are more interested to get the answers from the Government, and, therefore, they press on the important issues raised in the questions.

So, looking into the past experience, and, keeping in view the importance of the Question Hour, and, just for the purpose that the Question Hour should actually be allowed to continue, it was decided that the Question Hour may be taken up at 12 o' clock. And, there was also reasoning behind taking up the Zero Hour at 11 o' clock. In Zero Hour, the important issues of the day are raised. If the important issues of the day are to be raised early at 11 o' clock, then, we should have Zero Hour at 11 o' clock itself. We witnessed it yesterday; we witnessed it today also that issues of certain importance were raised. The Zero Hour, which is a one-hour time, is available to the hon. Members to bring out the issues of public importance or any issue of importance for a particular party, member or group.

So, the shifting of Question Hour from 11 o' clock to 12 o' clock had a definite reasoning behind it, which, I feel, is justified, and, therefore, we support it. of course, if it does not work for any reason, the House always has the power to look into it again. With regard to what Mr. Rajeeve has said about the timing of Calling Attention, I would say that the same may be considered. The experience of a few days is that at 5 o' clock, the importance of the Calling Attention is not felt. That can be considered. But, so far as other proposals made by the Rules Committee are concerned, we are in support of them. Thank you.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH (Odisha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a fact that it has been discussed initially in the last Session. Some time during August, you called the Leaders of all the political parties. My party, Biju Janta Dal, was also present there. It was an almost unanimity that the Question Hour should be shifted from 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon and at 11 o'clock, Zero Hour will be taken up. Sir, we are the most privileged country and the most privileged Members of Parliament because it is only in our country where Zero Hour privilege is there to the Members where they can raise issues of immediate public

importance. This is not happening in many democratic countries, in many Parliaments, of the world. This is really a rare privilege to us. So, we understand that hon. Chairman with his vast experience thought that many Members are not able to raise matters of public importance which are happening in their State. So, to facilitate the Members, if we start this at 11 o'clock, laying of papers by Ministers will take 5-10 minutes, at least 50 minutes will be there for Zero Hour where you can accommodate, as it was discussed, 16 to 17 or at least 15 Members who can raise their important questions. Sir, Hudhud hit our State and the State of Andhra Pradesh. But yesterday, the issue could not be taken up. I had given notice for that. And, today also, Sir, the similar situation remained there. So, Sir, we know that the very intention of the Chairman is to facilitate and see how the important State issues can be taken up. To facilitate the Members, you called the Rules Committee meeting on 20th also, a week back. There also, it was decided that since it has been decided in the earlier meeting let this practice be there. Of course, regarding Calling Attention Motion, a debate has started. Normally, the Legislative Business should start with Calling Attention Motion, if it is allowed. This is our practice. So, Sir, in this case, we have authorized the hon. Deputy Chairman, who is also a Member of the Committee. On our behalf, he has moved the motion, and I stand by in favour of the motion. World will not fall, Sir. Let this Session be over. We can review it. We can sit across the table and decide. In the next Session, we can also change it, if the Chairman or the whole decides it.

श्री के.सी. त्यागी (बिहार) : सर, 12-13 अक्टूबर को गोआ में दो दिन के लिए पार्लियामेंट्री अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर ने पूरे देश के चीफ व्हिप्स की एक मीटिंग बुलाई थी। उस कमेटी ने भी एक प्रस्ताव लोक सभा और राज्य सभा के सामने भेजा है।

सदन में मेम्बर्स के लिए प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिल एक सबसे महत्वपूर्ण प्रक्रिया होती है, लेकिन उसे आप फ्राइडे को लाते हैं, वह भी लंच के बाद, जिस समय लगभग 80-85 प्रतिशत मेम्बर शनिवार-एतवार की लालच में अपनी-अपनी कांस्टीट्यूएंसीज़ में चले जाते हैं। मेम्बर्स पास सबसे अपने prerogative के इस्तेमाल के लिए, प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिल सबसे अच्छा माध्यम है। उस कमेटी का सुझाव है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tyagiji, are you speaking on the motion or are you making another proposal?

श्री के.सी. त्यागी : सर, मैं इसी मोशन की बात पर आर रहा हूँ, जिस पर रूल्स कमेटी ने रिक्मेंडेशंस दी हैं।

श्री सभापति : यहां आप इसी मोशन पर बोलिए। जो सुझाव वहां से आए हैं, उनकी अपनी मैरिटी है। वे बाद में डिस्कस किए जा सकते हैं।

श्री के.सी. त्यागी : सर, वह बात भी इसी कमेटी का हिस्सा है, हालांकि उसको आपने इसमें इन्क्लूड नहीं किया है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिल है, वह फ्राइडे की बजाए किसी और दिन आना चाहिए, ताकि उस पर समय से बहस हो सके।

श्री सभापति : ठीक है, आप इसके लिए सुझाव दे दीजिए। General Purposes Committee और Rules Committee में आपकी बात पर गौर किया जाएगा।

श्री के.सी. त्यागी : सर, Calling Attention के लिए शाम 5.00 बजे का समय भी ऐसा है, जिस समय अधिकांश रीजनल प्रेस वाले चले जाते हैं और मेम्बर्स का एक बड़ा हिस्सा भी चला जाता है। चूंकि यह public importance का इश्यू है, इसलिए अगर उसे आप शाम 5.00 बजे से पहले रखेंगे, तो बहुत अच्छा होगा। यह कोई होली बुक तो है नहीं, जिसमें दोबारा कोई अमेंडमेंट नहीं हो सकता। आप कुछ दिन इसे इसी प्रकार चलाइए, अगर यह ठीक तरीके से नहीं चलता तो अगले सत्र में फिर आप नये तरीके से इसे अमेंड कर सकते हैं। धन्यवाद।

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I rise to support the motion moved with one or two points to be put forth for your kind consideration. I remember that since day one you assumed Office, you have been expressing the concern about the Question Hour. I did not realise the importance of the Question Hour and that is because of some restlessness, that prevailed in the House, which obstructed the Question Hour many a time. A Question, which comes up for oral answer, is a very big thing. After it has come, the stupendous job done by the Ministry and the material collected and the reply which is being given, enlightens the Members and helps them to resolve many issues. For example, if we see a Minister after getting an appointment with a representation, that representation may be received but the reply may not be given. It might take a longer time. Whereas the Question Hour brings the Minister to the House and he is compelled to reply, not only to the Question but also to the supplementary questions raised thereby. So, the obstruction of the Question Hour is really a serious issue. You had proposed earlier to have it at 2 o' clock after the lunch and many Members were not for that; it was experimental. Again, it was shifted to 11 o' clock and now, on experimental basis, I think, it has been changed to 12 o' clock. But that also has proved to be a failure this morning. So, whatever may be the time, things happen. But I hope that this change of time will help the Question Hour to proceed in the coming days at least. Sir, everyone of us realises the importance of the Question Hour, how important a question is and the reply that it fetches resolves so many issues. So, I welcome the change of the Question Hour time.

Secondly Sir, so far as the limit of the number of Questions from twenty to fifteen is concerned, if the Question appears on the list of oral questions, that gives the Member a lot of importance. Moreover, the reply which is being given by the Minister also gives a better thing than the written reply. So, that could be considered to be retained at twenty.

It is, of course, Unstarred. But if it appears in the list of oral questions, it will be an appreciable one.

As far as this Calling Attention is concerned, though it is not something of the publicity interest, as Mr. Rajeev said, of course, any issue which we raise here should reach the public in the constituency or in the nation. The Calling Attention has always been a very, very important issue and once it is raised in the House, if it is discussed before 4 o' clock or 5 o' clock, I think, the people from the Press, the media may carry the matter. So, kindly consider shifting the Calling Attention or retaining the *status quo* to be at 2 o' clock than at 5 o' clock.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I would like to add that a serious issue like this should have got more time. The TMC senior leader said that it went to two types of Committees. One is the General Purposes Committee. And Members of all Parties agreed to it, though I was not part of it. I represent a particular State in the Council of States. So, I thought if everybody is agreeing, I have nothing more to add. But I would only try to say what Mr. Rajeev said. It is only repetition of what he said. Calling Attention is one way by which we would really like to call the attention of the Government. That means that it is a matter of the voice of the people and the voice of the States also. We really expect the media to take note of it so that it really gains some kind of importance. Instead of shifting it to 5 o' clock, when all of us are not that attentive, if it is shifted to 2 o' clock or 3 o' clock, whichever way the House feels, I think, that would be all right. All that I wanted to say is that there should have been a little more wider discussion on this because it is a far-reaching issue that has been raised. I was a Member of the Committee earlier, I know that you had raised this earlier. As my friend said, we have been discussing this and we support it with Calling Attention being taken up for reconsideration.

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मान्यवर, मैं सिर्फ एक बात कहने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। जनरल परपोजेज कमेटी की जो बैठक हुई थी, उसमें मैं अकेला व्यक्ति था, जिसने इसका विरोध किया था। यह यूनेनिमस डिस्मिशन था, जैसा कि यहां कहा जा रहा है, इस रिकॉर्ड को स्ट्रेट करने के लिए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि मैं अकेला व्यक्ति था, जिसने इसका विरोध किया था कि अगर आप ग्यारह बजे से जीरो ऑवर कर देंगे, तो यह दो बजे तक चलेगा और क्वेश्चन ऑवर कभी नहीं हो सकेगा और वही हो रहा है, वह आप देख रहे हैं। इसलिए मेरी फिर आपसे अपील है कि जो सिस्टम चल रहा था, उसको चलता रहने दीजिए। इसमें सुबह से ही प्रक्रिया शुरू हो जाती है और इससे क्वेश्चन ऑवर अनिवार्य रूप से चला जाएगा। पहले तो यह होता था कि आप कहते थे कि जीरो ऑवर में उठा लीजिएगा, तो आधा मिनट बोल कर आदमी बैठ जाता था और क्वेश्चन ऑवर चल जाता था तथा जीरो ऑवर में लोग अपनी बात कह लेते थे। अब तो

[प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव]

शुरू में ही मामला गड़बड़ हो जाता है और वह बारह बजे तक चलता है, उसके बाद बारह बजे से एक बजे तक चलता है। एक तो लोगों के दिमाग में यह रहना चाहिए कि जनरल परपजेज़ कमेटी का मेम्बर होने के नाते मैंने इसका समर्थन नहीं किया था। I had opposed it. I was the only Member who opposed it. मैं आज भी इसको अपोज़ कर रहा हूँ और यह कह रहा हूँ कि आपको एक दिन फिर इसी पर आना पड़ेगा, जो पहले था, उसी सिस्टम पर आना पड़ेगा। इसलिए इस पर पुनर्विचार करें और जो सिस्टम पहले से है, उसको जैसे का तैसा रहने दीजिए। धन्यवाद।

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to explain some of the points very briefly and give reply to some of them.

Hon. Member Naresh Agrawalji mentioned about the change of timing of the Question Hour for two-three days. That is done according to the Rule. Hon. Chairman has only invoked the Rule which is his authority and prerogative to do. There is nothing wrong in that. It is perfectly in order. That is the first thing.

You further said that you were moving amendments. Actually, you said that you were moving amendments. But you were totally opposing the Motion. Amendment should be an addition or a variation or change or improvement. You are really opposing it for which you have every right, and I respect your right.

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: I was not opposing it. I was giving good suggestion.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Yes, you were giving good suggestion. I can concede that also.

Hon. Member P. Rajeev raised a question about Calling Attention. He has moved an amendment to it. When we heard the hon. Member speaking, we also could gauge the mood of the Members on that particular question. I don't want to speak more on that. His amendment is that Calling Attention should be there for one hour between 2.00 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. Earlier it was between 12.00 noon and 1.00 p.m. He has explained the rationale also. Yes, Members do not do their work for publicity. But then it is publicity also. The only persons who do not get publicity are the Deputy Chairman and the Chairman. All others get publicity for what they do.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): But you are making up for that now, Sir.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I got at least one opportunity.

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Tomorrow, you will get publicity.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: The media is taking note also.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I concede that there is a point in what he has said in the amendment that it is better to shift Calling Attention which is now from 12.00 noon to 1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. Keeping it at 5.00 p.m. has not come into force. Many hon. Members have supported it. If that is the view of the House and if hon. Chairman agrees to it, then there is no problem with that.

Hon. Member Tiruchi Siva raised a question about reducing the number of Starred Questions from 20 to 15. But, I would like to tell him that the total number of questions remains the same and you will get answers for all the questions whether the question is starred or unstarred. Giving publicity, whether it is starred or unstarred, is your personal take. You can give it to the Press and they can publish your questions and answers. So, that does not make much difference. But, kindly note one thing. I have been in this House from 2005 onwards. I had been in Lok Sabha from 1980 to 2000 for nearly 20 years. Not on a single day I have seen all the questions exhausted. In Rajya Sabha also, we could never take up all the questions. So, reducing the number from 20 to 15 will not...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : सर, ऐसे तमाम रूल्स हैं, जिनके राज्य सभा में अब तक लागू नहीं किया गया, तो क्या उन रूल्स को भी इसी कारण हटा दिया जाएगा कि 20 क्वेश्चंस कभी नहीं हुए? हम लोगों ने इसी कारण यह सजेशन दिया कि मंत्री लोग कम से कम उन 20 स्टार्ड क्वेश्चंस को सीरियसली देख तो लेते हैं, नहीं तो वे उन्हें सीरियसली देखेंगे भी नहीं। वे अनस्टार्ड पर तो दस्तखत करके रख देते हैं, मंत्री लोग उसको सीरियसली कब लेते हैं? इसीलिए मैंने कहा कि क्वेश्चंस की संख्या 20 ही रखिए। हम जानते हैं कि 20 क्वेश्चंस नहीं आएँगे, लेकिन कम से कम उन 20 प्रश्नों का सरकार सीरियस रहेगी, वह उनका जवाब देगी और उन पर एक्शन होंगे, इसीलिए हम लोग ऐसा कह रहे हैं।

चेयरमैन साहब, आप चाहें तो दूसरी चीज़ यह कर सकते हैं कि जो मेम्बर उपस्थित नहीं होता है, उसके क्वेश्चन को आप लास्ट में रखिए और अगर टाइम बचे तो उसे लीजिए। जो मेम्बर्स उपस्थित हैं, उनके क्वेश्चंस आप पहले लेते जाइए। यही परम्परा हमारी यू.पी. असेम्बली में भी थी कि जो मेम्बर अपने क्वेश्चन के टाइम पर उपस्थित नहीं हुआ, उसका क्वेश्चन बाद के लिए पेंडिंग कर दिया जाता था और जो मेम्बर्स मौजूद होते थे, उनके क्वेश्चंस पहले लिए जाते थे। जब टाइम बचे और मेम्बर्स को रुचि हो, तो उन बचे हुए क्वेश्चंस को लिया जा सकता है। इसको आप इस तरीके से कर सकते हैं, लेकिन क्वेश्चंस की संख्या 20 ही रखिए। हम जानते हैं कि 20 क्वेश्चंस प्रतिदिन नहीं आएँगे, लेकिन उनकी गम्भीरता तो बनी रहेगी।

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: All right. You have made a point. We can consider this. The House can consider this. It is for the House.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): By question lot, Members get a chance to ask questions. Every Member gets a chance to ask his questions every day-when his name is there. By this process, you are delaying their right to ask questions.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: No, no. Any Member can ask questions. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, you please continue.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I explained my view on what Mr. Tiruchi Siva has said. But, Nareshji has a different view. Of course, it is up to the House to decide on that. I am not commenting more on that.

Now, Ram Gopalji said that in the GPC, he opposed it. It is correct. In my statement, I have also said that there was an overwhelming positive response to this proposal barring one or two Members. I have not said that it was a unanimous decision in the GPC. It is not unanimous decision of GPC. There were one or two dissenting voices and certainly, you were the most important dissenting voice. We concede that. But, kindly note that all others agreed and in democracy, we work on the basis of majority. We respect the minority view. We always respect the minority view. We listen to that. That is democracy. We listen to that and we give all opportunity to them to say that. But, we act on the basis of majority. That is why, even though there were one or two oppositions, GPC recommendations were taken as a decision and we proceeded with it. There is a point about that.

Now, hon. Members, I want to say one thing which is already said by Mr. Satish Misra. For Members, Question Hour is the most important instrument to make the Government accountable. I myself was Minister from 1991 to 1996 and I have dealt with 3-4 portfolios. I have not seen a single Minister saying, "Oh! I am sorry. The Question Hour is gone." If the Question Hour is gone, as I have seen, most of the Ministers would be very happy. Don't think Ministers or Government will be hurt by the cancellation of the Question Hour. This is a fact. Secondly, if a Member prepares his questions and asks pertinent questions or supplementaries, I can tell you the Ministers respect that Member. You try it and after that approach the Minister. You will see the difference. Therefore, this is the most important and effective instrument, to put questions. One more point, doing away with Question Hour is not in the interest of the Members. Now, on a number of days Notice for Suspension of Question Hour used to come. Shri Naresh Agrawal and many other Members gave Notices for Suspension of Question Hour. What was their argument? The argument was that the issue was so important that we could not wait up to 12 o'clock; it had to be raised at 11 o'clock itself. That was the argument. I heard hon. Chairman asking them, "Why don't you raise the issue at 12 o'clock?", and Members said that it

was so important that it must be raised at 11 o'clock itself and that they could not wait up to 12 o'clock. Now, the hon. Chairman has understood and accepted that argument and allowed you to raise issues at 11 o'clock. I think this is the most Member-friendly amendment. I thank all those who spoke and supported the amendment. I respect the voices of dissent but the House has to decide. Let the House decide.

Regarding the amendment proposed by Shri P. Rajeeve, you may put that to vote, and after passing that we would move ahead.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : सभापति महोदय, एक हमारा भी अमेंडमेंट है कि बीसों क्वेश्चन ही रखे जाएं, स्टार्ड क्वेश्चन बीस के पंद्रह न किए जाएं। उस पर भी जरा राय जान लीजिएगा। बाकी तो हम मूड समझ रहे हैं कि क्या राय है। लेकिन बहुमत में भी विरोध सुना जाता है और विरोध कभी-न-कभी बहुमत में साबित होता है, मैं इतना कह देना चाहता हूं।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you.

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी : सर, सदन में जो सभी माननीय सदस्य हैं, उनकी सब की मंशा है, सब की इच्छा है कि सदन की कार्यवाही सुचारु ढंग से चले, सकारात्मक ढंग से हो और उसका ज्यादा से ज्यादा उपयोग हो सके। राजीव जी ने जो अमेंडमेंट दिया है, मुझे लगता है कि सभी माननीय सदस्यों के विचार सुनने के बाद जायज बात लगती है, जिसमें उन्होंने कॉलिंग अटेंशन पांच बजे के बजाए दो बजे करने की बात कही है। हम उससे सहमत हैं, हमें इसमें कोई एतराज नहीं है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I shall now put the following Motion to vote.

The question is:

"That the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Rules presented to the Rajya Sabha on the 25th November, 2014, be taken into consideration."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the amendment moved by Shri P. Rajeeve to vote. The question is:

That in the proposed amendment to sub-rule (5) of rule 180:-

(v) for figure and word "5.00 p.m.", the figure and word "2.00 P.M." be substituted.

(vi) The proviso be deleted.

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the following motion to vote. The amendment is adopted. The question is:-

"That this House agrees with the recommendations contained in the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Rules presented to the Rajya Sabha on the 25th November, 2014."

The Motion, as amended, was adopted.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, I have moved amendments to most of the Bills that were taken up in the House. But this is the first time that my amendment has been adopted. I am grateful to the House for that....*(Interruptions)*...

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Re. Money held in foreign bank accounts by Indian citizens and business entities in violation of law

MR. CHAIRMAN: Short Duration Discussion. Shri Anand Sharma.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*.)

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman Sir, I along with other Members of this august House wish to raise a discussion on black money stashed abroad in bank accounts of Indian citizens and business entities which are in violation of the laws. The money which is ill-gotten, we understand, would be referred to as the black money. Money which is proceeds of some crime, drug trafficking, smuggling ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, this is an issue which concerns the whole country.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, what?

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: We are requesting the Finance Minister to be here. We are all raising this issue. We are raising the money issues and it is so easy that you just walk out from here. We want the Finance Minister here. Where is the Finance Minister? Let the House be adjourned, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The MoS Finance is here.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: No, Sir, adjourn the House, Sir. This is such a big issue. This cannot be taken lightly. Adjourn the House, Sir, till he comes. What is this? Are we here just to talk? ...*(Interruptions)*...