

2021 while Shri Somaprasad has sought Leave of Absence from 1<sup>st</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 during the 1<sup>st</sup> Part of the current 253<sup>rd</sup> Session of Rajya Sabha.

Do they have the permission of the House for remaining absent from the sittings of the House for the period requested by them during the ongoing Session of Rajya Sabha.

*(No Hon. Member dissented)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

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**REGARDING A SUGGESTION GIVEN BY A MEMBER TO INCREASE THE TIME  
FOR DEBATE ON THE BUDGET**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramesh, what were you saying?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I rise to make a suggestion. You had kindly agreed in the BAC that discussion on the Motion of Thanks would be for ten hours and the Budget Discussion would be ten hours. Subsequently, with the co-operation of all parties, time for the Motion of Thanks was increased from ten hours to fifteen hours.

Sir, my request to you is the following. There is a lot of interest amongst Members for discussing the Budget. I want to make a suggestion to you to increase the time for debate on the Budget from ten hours to, at least, twelve hours. And if need be, we can sit till 2.30 or 3.00 p.m. By this way, we will be able to accommodate more Members in the Budget discussion. So this is my earnest request to you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us see. No discussion now.

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**MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION**

**Need for a policy for promoting Indian consultancy firms in Government  
establishments**

DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE (Maharashtra): Sir, I am raising this issue about the need for moving towards a self-reliant consulting ecosystem. As we know, on