

2021 while Shri Somaprasad has sought Leave of Absence from 1st to 13th February, 2021 during the 1st Part of the current 253rd 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.

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.

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

January, 25 this year, President Joe Biden signed an Executive Order which mandated that wherever possible, federal agencies should maximise the use of goods, products and materials produced in and, more importantly, services offered in the United States. I do not know whether the American President has taken a cue from the *Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan* in which we are currently engaged. But the House is aware that consulting has become a big industry and several foreign companies are here and in other developing countries as well which have data-driven consultancies. I need not take the names of various consulting agencies, but they are essentially foreign agencies. According to ASSOCHAM, the major trade and industries association, the turnover during 2020 is estimated to be Rs.27,000 crores, wherein most of the foreign-originated consulting agencies are grabbing the business. Eighty per cent of the business school products are joining consultancy firms, and in India, today for example, the public policy has become a very attractive domain, a very lucrative domain and all talented students basically go for that. What I am suggesting here is that the Government should adopt a policy wherein Indian consultancy firms are given more preference against the foreign firms because as it happens, the reason why local consulting firms lose out to global giants is because of the eligibility qualification criteria in public procurement tenders. महोदय, उसमें ऐसी शर्तें लगा देते हैं कि इतना टर्नओवर होना चाहिए, इतना अनुभव होना चाहिए, जो भारतीय फर्म के पास होना मुश्किल है। सर, मेरा नम्र निवेदन है कि इसमें भारतीय कन्सल्टेंसी फर्म को अधिक प्राधान्य मिले, इसलिए नियम-कानूनों में परिवर्तन और

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have ten Zero Hour submissions. Keep that in mind; two minutes please.