

MS. SUSHMITA DEV: Sir, as per Rule 29, the Secretary-General prepares a List of Business and it is circulated amongst the Members. Accordingly, we have seen the Revised List of Business. Today being Friday, the norm is that after Private Members' Business is carried out, at best, we have seen Special Mentions being brought up and Members get an opportunity. At Item No.7 and Item No.8, the Discussion on the Ministry of Home Affairs has been listed and thereafter a Bill has also been listed. Sir, no doubt, we all want to participate and we want to hear what the hon. Home Minister has to say and what the hon. Finance Minister has to say. But by following the precedent, let it be listed on Monday, so that we continue with the age-old tradition what generally happens on Friday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, on all these issues, as is the practice, I seek and elicit opinion of the floor leaders and my subsequent announcement will bear it out. But I am happy that the hon. Member has raised it with sobriety. Thank you so much. My announcement will deal with it.

Hon. Members, there are two notices today, received under Rule 267. One is emanating from Shrimati Sagarika Ghose and the other from Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque demanding discussion over the alleged lapse of Election Commission in issuance of multiple duplicate electors' photo identity cards across the States. I would urge the hon. Members, when the same issue has been raised earlier, -- it was also raised by Shri Pramod Tiwari and others -- there has been an order by the Chair that needs to be reflected. Be that as it may, the requests are not in accord with the requirements of Rule 267 that, on multiple occasions, have seen reiteration. Again, at the cost of repetition, the directive of the Chair of 8<sup>th</sup> December and 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022 has not been complied with. In this view of the matter, I am unable to accord acceptance to the same. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Sir,...

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

MR. CHAIRMAN: Wait, it is under discussion.

Hon. Members, as you all are aware, when the Lok Sabha, the House of the People, takes up the discussion on the Demands for Grants, the discussion on the Working of selected Ministries is parallelly taken up in the Council of States, the Rajya Sabha.

The Discussion on the Working of Ministry of Home Affairs could not be completed as scheduled on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and many speakers are remaining to participate in the discussion. Now, the discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants is likely to be conducted today in the Lok Sabha. Accordingly, we may not have the opportunity to further discuss the Working of Ministry of Home Affairs for which the hon. Members have expressed their keenness on a number of occasions.

If the House so agrees, and to fructify the discussion on the Working of Ministry of Home Affairs, we may resume the discussion immediately after the Zero Hour today dispensing with the Question Hour, the lunch hour and the Private Members' Business listed for the day. This has become essential in view of the long-standing practice that once a mechanism is taken up in the Lok Sabha, we cannot have further discussion.

I may share it with the House, the experienced Members of the House, who happen to be floor leaders, concur with this. Hon. Members will thus get an opportunity to take Private Members' Bills at the next available opportunity on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2025. Do I have the leave of the House? ...(*Interruptions*)... Ordered accordingly. ...(*Interruptions*)... Dr. Sasmit Patra, one second! I have got your impressed letter but we have taken a view on the discussion on the Working of the Ministry of Home Affairs for which Members are keen and the House has endorsed it. Yes!

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, there are two issues here. There are two important issues here. One is, this is what my Party feels, the Question Hour should remain as the Question Hour. This is number one. It is the only opportunity when a Member gets a direct chance to question the Government and the Government gets an opportunity to reply. Number two is Private Members' Bills. Private Members' Bills are very close to the hearts of many Members who do not get a chance. They are not in the first two rows. When the Private Members' Bills are taken up, that is the opportunity. What Lok Sabha has done, the Lok Sabha has done. But dispelling both the Question Hour and the Private Members' Bills to discuss the Working of the Ministry of Home Affairs is not the point of view of Trinamool Congress. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, announcement by Chair.

A petition under Rule 6 sub-rule (2) of the Members of Rajya Sabha (Disqualification on Grounds of Defection) Rules, 1985, was presented on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 by Shri Praful Patel, then a Member of Council of States from Maharashtra, elected for the earlier term. This was as regards Shrimati Vandana

Chavan, the then Member of Rajya Sabha, from 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 to 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024, and Dr. Fauzia Khan, another Member of Rajya Sabha from 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 to 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 - her term continues. This was for my consideration.

On 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2023, another such petition was presented by Shrimati Vandana Chavan, Member, as regards Shri Praful Patel, Member of Council of States from Maharashtra from 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 to 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026, his earlier term.

Both petitions were, in essence, under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution provisions with regard to disqualification on ground of defection.

In the interregnum, Shrimati Vandana Chavan, upon completion of her tenure, ceased to be a Member of Rajya Sabha on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2024.

Shri Praful Patel, upon being re-elected to Rajya Sabha for six-year term with effect from April 3, 2024, resigned his incumbent seat then as Member of Rajya Sabha on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.

While the issue was engaging my attention, two even dated communications were received on February 3, 2025 -- one from Shri Sharad Pawar, Leader of NCP-SP in the Rajya Sabha, and the other from Shri Praful Patel, Leader of NCP, both urging that no further action be taken in the matter.

After bestowing my earnest attention and after going into the tenability of the petitions, as also the contextual interventions, I find it expedient to give quietus to both the petitions and the same are accordingly disposed of. I am happy that the leaders cooperated. And such kind of cooperation would take place, I am sure, in further structured discussions that I have in mind.

**डा. सस्मित पात्रा (ओडिशा):** सर, मेरा birthday request है।

**श्री सभापति:** क्या?

**डा. सस्मित पात्रा:** सर, मेरा 30 सेकंड का birthday request है।

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I think we need to concede it. But I am sure ...

**DR. SASMIT PATRA:** Sir, I will be very brief. I am not contesting it. My only humble submission, before you, -- and you have rightly mentioned about my impassioned letter to you -- is that, actually, as Private Members, we go through a lot of work to prepare our Private Member Bills. And sometimes if it is not introduced in one Session, it gets prolonged into the next Session and we lose three, four months. Also, on 4<sup>th</sup> of April, the last day, generally, the practice has been -- I am not saying on 4<sup>th</sup>, it will happen -- that we wrap up in the first half of the day. Therefore, Private

Members Bills' introduction, at least, -- I am not talking about discussion -- and the Zero Hour submissions, you may kindly allow. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, Shri Tiruchi Siva.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): On certain issues, we feel that the Government is not focussing on or does not have time to focus. The Private Members introduce a Bill or a Resolution. If is of importance very much. As you know very well, one of my Bills was passed here and it paved the way for a new legislation by the Government itself. So, Sir, kindly do not dispense of with the Private Members' Bills.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I had the good fortune while addressing the interns for Rajya Sabha that if we examine all the Private Member Bills right from the beginning, enormous wealth is there. A number of farsighted situations are indicated. They are ahead of times and what a gold mine it is. I kept on looking, and then constituted a committee to have a compendium for the benefit of Members that these Private Member Bills may not have ended in final culmination, but the idea given therein is great. But, I am sure, the hon. Member will recollect, there have been many instances where we have dispensed with both the Question Hour and the Private Members' Bills.

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#### OBSERVATIONS BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to also inform that Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni, Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam and Shrimati Sunetra Ajit Pawar, hon. Members of Rajya Sabha, recently participated in the important IPU Global Conference on Women Parliamentarians in Mexico from March 13<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. During the panel discussions in the Conference, all the three hon. Members effectively presented India's perspective on involving men in promoting gender equality. Very significant! Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni was elevated to the status of a panel member. I, on my own behalf and your behalf, congratulate all the three Members, Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni, Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam and Shrimati Sunetra Ajit Pawar for being the proud voice of India at this international forum, making a significant contribution to global gender equality and equity dialogue. Their contributions I have had the occasion to go through were meticulous and indicated India's position of pride in this domain.

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