

Parliament Session May Be Extended

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NEW DELHI, April 11: The House of the People will complete its budget discussion next week with the passage of the Finance Bill. A heavy list of important legislative business awaiting consideration will probably entail an extension of the current session of the House beyond May 8, although the present intention is that it should not sit beyond May 15.

Fifteen Bills are pending before the House. Of these, the Estate Duty Bill is likely to be accorded the highest priority. The Government will probably allot about a week for this measure which has evoked more controversy over details than on principle.

Among the other Bills that are expected to be placed high up on the agenda are the Air Corporation Bill (the vesting date is June 1), the Income-Tax Amendment Bill, the Industries Regulation and Control (Amendment) Bill, and the Tea Bill.

The business to be transacted by the Council of States, apart from the Appropriation, Finance and Khadi Bills, depends almost entirely on the decision of the House, as practically all the important Bills now pending have been introduced in the lower chamber.

SPECIAL MARRIAGES BILL

The two exceptions are the Special Marriages Bill and the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill, both of which were discussed by the Council last year and then circulated to elicit public opinion.

The Special Marriages Bill is now almost ready for consideration but the opinions of several State Governments have yet to be received on the other measure. For this reason, consideration of both the Bills may be postponed till the next session as the intention is that they should be discussed simultaneously and referred to the same (joint) Select Committee.

One more Bill remains to be introduced in the House this session. It relates to the extension of the term of office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General from five to six years. The present incumbent, Mr V. Narahari Rao, whose term expires this year, is likely to continue after the passage of this Bill.

The House will get another opportunity for discussing PEPSU affairs when the PEPSU Delegation of Powers Bill is taken up.

The progress report of the Five-Year Plan will be presented to Parliament about the end of the month.