

सम्बन्ध में कोई वार्ता चल रही है कि इस तरह का टैक्स ठीक नहीं है।

श्री अ० प्र० जैन : अगर माननीय मेम्बर तबज्जह देते तो उनको मालूम होता कि हमने यू० पी० गवर्नमेंट को इस बारे में मखिरा दिया है।

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : क्या जवाब दिया है उन्होंने ?

श्री अ० प्र० जैन : वह सोच रहे हैं।

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या माननीय मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि अनाज पर, जो कि इतनी जरूरी चीज है, जो टैक्स उत्तर प्रदेश में लगाया गया है, क्या सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट से इजाजत ली गई है ?

श्री अ० प्र० जैन : यह बिल सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के पास आया था

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty : We cannot follow.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Minister will kindly reply in English.

Shri A. P. Jain : The question is put in Hindi. You will pull me up for answering a question put in Hindi in English.

Anyway, I will first answer in Hindi and then repeat it in English.

यह बिल उत्तर प्रदेश से सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के पास आया था। उसके बाद यह भी आनरेबल मेम्बर को मालूम होगा कि ऐक्ट बनने से पहले भी प्रजिडेंट की स्वीकृति उसके लिये जरूरी थी, और वह दी गई।

The draft Bill had come to the Central Government for approval. Later on also when it took the form of an enactment, it came to the Central Government.

श्री रा० न० सिंह : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को मालूम है कि जब यह सेल्स टैक्स उत्तर प्रदेश में लगाया गया तो उसको हमारे लोक-सभा के अध्यक्ष महोदय ने अन्यायपूर्ण बताया था।

श्री अ० प्र० जैन : इस सवाल का उत्तर अध्यक्ष महोदय ही ज्यादा अच्छी तरह दे सकते हैं।

Shri M. L. Dwivedi : May I know whether it is a fact that the Speaker of the Lok Sabha said so ?

Shri A. P. Jain : The Minister is not able to answer that.

Shri Kamath : He may answer it outside.

Mr. Speaker : I might clear a misunderstanding immediately. One hon. Member of this House asked me to open the annual conference of some grain merchants. I thought in the usual course, because questions were put here regarding hoarding and they being indifferent to releasing them for consumption, that I might prevail upon them and give them advice. But after going there, I found that it was a protest meeting against sales tax. It is up to any hon. Member to consider whether all those circumstances should not have been placed before me. I was really sorry, after going there, to find out what the nature of that meeting was. All the same, I advised them that they ought not to engage themselves in hartal. I told them that it was a wrong method, and that proper constitutional methods must be adopted. Multiple-point tax might be rather onerous on foodgrains particularly, and single-point tax might be adopted. Anyhow, that is a matter for representation both to the Central and State Governments.

I shall try to avoid getting into complications like this in future.

Shri Kamath : On a point of order. You were pleased to refer to hartal as not a constitutional remedy. Is hartal not a constitutional remedy ?

Mr. Speaker : On foodgrains for seven days. If some other persons start a hartal here, I do not know what the hon. Member will say at the end of seven days. In a village or town, all shops were closed. No food was available. Rich men may have stocks in their own houses, but poor people, who earn everyday and purchase in the market, had to bear it for seven days together in order to keep their body and soul together. When a hartal is undertaken by richer men, that is a matter for the hon. Member to reconsider.

Food-grain Godowns

*245. **Sardar Akarpuri :** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government food godowns in Punjab and PEPUSU States have been closed down recently;

(b) if so, the number of such godowns that have been closed down and their places; and

(c) the number of people rendered unemployed as a result thereof?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). Yes, one at Kasu Begu.

(c) Fifty nine, out of which five have been given alternative Employment.

Coastal Freight Rates

*246. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the coastal freight rate on general Cargo has so far been increased since January, 1955;

(b) by what percentage has it been increased each time; and

(c) on what grounds?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Twice.

(b) By five per cent each time.

(c) Due to increase in operational costs, wages of floating staff, port dues, cost of stevedore labour, repairs and maintenance, etc.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether there is any foreign shipping company operating in our coastal trade?

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I understand that even before the freights were increased, coal, for example, which was transported by coastal vessels to Cochin was costing 35 to 40 per cent more than coal from the same collieries transported by rail. Could I know how, water transport being cheaper in all other countries, in India alone it would be very much more costly than transport by rail? Could I also know how this increase has affected the freight charges on coal and price of coal?

Shri Alagesan: It is true that water transport of coal, that is by sea is costlier. But that is because we have to see, that the coastal shipping also is a paying proposition. But most of this coal that is carried by water is taken by the railways. The railways take their coal by sea instead of by rail. Coal to industrial concerns, which are mostly in the private sector, is being carried at a much cheaper rate by the railways. The hon. Member may know that the whole question is being gone into by a Committee called the Rail-Sea Co-ordination Committee, and we are expecting their report in a short time.

Raxaul

*247. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists alighting and entraining at Raxaul for Nepal;

(b) whether adequate arrangements have been made for their accommodation at the station;

(c) if not, whether Government contemplate to construct a first class retiring room or hotel at Raxaul Station; and

(d) if so, when?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) This information is not available, as separate statistics are not maintained to show the number of foreign tourists for Nepal among the passengers entraining or detraining at this station.

(b) Adequate waiting accommodation for all classes of passengers, including foreign tourists, is available.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या माननीय पार्लियामेंट्री सेक्रेटरी रक्सौल स्टेशन पर जा कर देखेंगे कि विदेश से आने वाले ग्रीर विदेश को जाने वाले यात्री जो स्टेशन पर आते हैं, उन के लिये सुविधा की जगह है ?

श्री शाह नवाज खाँ : वहाँ एक बहुत अच्छा वेटिंग रूम है ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : आपने उस स्टेशन को देखा नहीं है ।

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : मैंने रक्सौल देखा है ।

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब हमारे पार्लियामेंट्री सेक्रेटरी साहब ने रक्सौल अब तक नहीं देखा है तो वह उसको कब देखेंगे ?

श्री शाह नवाज खाँ : मैं ने देखा है ।

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : मैं आप से कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो फस्ट क्लास का वेटिंग रूम है वह यात्रियों से भरा रहता है । विदेशी यात्रियों के लिये वहाँ पर कोई सुविधा नहीं है । क्या सरकार वहाँ पर एक अच्छा सा रिटायरिंग रूम बनायेगी ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): We