

to be the Members of the House subject to other provisions of the Act and the Rules made thereunder."

*The motion was adopted.*

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR  
GRANTS (RAILWAYS)

12.03<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : I beg to lay on the table a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1997-98.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Sir, I want to raise a matter regarding today's business. ... (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : An understanding was reached that the matter which is being discussed now will be disposed of before two o'clock. ... (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot hear you. Let Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan make a point.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : A conspiracy has been hatched to kill me. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will come to that.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, an understanding was reached regarding today's business. We have a Motion on Bihar which was moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I request you to finish that item today by dispensing with the lunch hour. The matter can be disposed of by two o'clock. I think, an understanding has been reached that the Motion under

Rule 184 regarding atrocities on dalits in Mumbai can be taken up at two o'clock. Please announce that in the House. ... (Interruptions). We want to plan our programme. We want to know when the Maharashtra matter will come up. There is an understanding with the Speaker. Please let us know. ... (Interruptions).

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Chairman, I gave a notice today. ... (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Regarding the point raised by Shri Prithviraj Chavan, I want to inform the House that there was an understanding in the discussion that we had with the leaders of the political parties that we would complete the discussion on Bihar by sitting continuously, skipping the lunch hour and we would dispose of the discussion on Bihar, as early as possible.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when was this discussion with the leaders of the political parties held yesterday and where was it held?

MR. CHAIRMAN: There was no meeting.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I must know the factual position.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will tell you. There was no formal meeting of the party leaders. I did not say that. What I said was, about the Bihar discussion the party leaders met the hon. Speaker.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, a wrong thing should not go on record.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sarpotdar, please listen to me. I did not say that there was a meeting. I said that there was an understanding. That means, the party leaders met the hon. Speaker and there was an understanding. I did not say that there was a decision taken and I did not say that there was a meeting. Please understand.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no urgency to finish the discussion today itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is nothing like that. Nobody wants an item to drag on like that. Otherwise, there is no question of urgency.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sarpotdar, what are you arguing? I do not understand. What is your argument?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was about to inform the House something. In between what do you want to ask?

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, my only argument was that a wrong thing should not go on record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But how can you say that without hearing me?

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : It was not discussed anywhere. If there was a meeting, all parties should be included in that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have already taken seven hours and 49 minutes on the discussion about Bihar.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you stand up and say something on every issue like this, it will not help us.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We had a sufficiently long discussion on Bihar. It is good that the House got an opportunity and the remaining Members who want to participate in the discussion will also get the opportunity to speak. It is an understanding of the leaders who had a discussion with the hon. Speaker that we can continue with this discussion by skipping the lunch hour today. This is what I want to inform the House. So, the discussion on Bihar will continue. There is no cutting short of the discussion and there is no denying of opportunity to the Members. The Members will get the opportunity. But please understand that we have been discussing this Motion for seven hours and 49 minutes now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly check up the records. It has not been discussed for so long.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have all the records before me. Then why do you argue on this point?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point in arguing like this. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, how long the Bihar issue would be debated. This has been going on for the last three days. You may convert it to Rule 193 from Rule 184.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, what you are saying is not going on record. I have not allowed you. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have informed the House about the understanding which was reached yesterday.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the understanding was that those Members whose names have been given by the parties would be allowed to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, I said that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are not taking up Zero Hour today and we are continuing the discussion on Bihar.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, I am not raising any Zero Hour matter. I gave a notice on a pertinent matter. On 25th July, I gave a notice under rule 184 and reminded the hon. Speaker today again by giving another notice that my Motion under rule 184 pertaining to the Personal Ledger Scam of West Bengal should be taken up. I want to know whether you are going to take that up or not. It is lying there for quite some time. I want to know the fate of that Motion. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we will continue the discussion on Bihar.

...(Interruptions)

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\*Not Recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How many times I told you to take your seat? Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not behave like this. I told you that the matter which you have raised is before the Chair. We will come to that later. But what is the point in shouting like this? Please understand that we are not taking up any Zero Hour issues today. Many issues are being raised today. A notice was given under Rule 184 by Shri Dasmunsi, Shri Panigrahi and Shri Ramesh Chennithala, and another notice was given under Rule 193 by Prof. P.J. Kurien. All these notices are under the active consideration of the hon. Speaker. So, a decision will be taken on this and the same will be informed to you. Then only, we can take up those matters. We are not taking up any other item today and, with the consent of the House, we are going to continue the discussion on Bihar. We are also skipping the lunch hour today and continue with the discussion.

SHRI A.C. JOS (IDUKKI) : What about matters under Rule 377?

[Translation]

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have also given a notice regarding Babrala.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, matters under Rule 377 should be allowed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, we shall now take up matters under Rule 377.

12.13 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to take steps to check erosion caused by Chambal river in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.**

[Translation]

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thousands of hectares of cultivable land on both banks of the Chambal river which passes through Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have turned into ravines due to erosion of soil. As per the survey conducted by the scientists, if the pace of this erosion is

not arrested. Bind and Muraina districts of Madhya Pradesh would be cut off from the map of Madhya Pradesh turning into ravines of the Chambal. Whatever amount the Government had made available for this purpose was rather wasted more and utilised less. This fact is indicated in the Government's report too. If the Chambal valley is to be made green and cultivable, the only remedy for that lies in providing loans to the local landless and unemployed youths at the normal interest rate by the Government to make ravines cultivable by providing on lease.

Therefore, I would like to request the Union Government, through you, that necessary steps should be taken to arrest the erosion of thousands of hectares of land on either side of the banks of the Chambal river.

- (ii) **Need to set up a Diagnostic Centre of Cancer in Barpeta District of Assam.**

[English]

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta) : The incidence of cancer is alarmingly growing in Assam particularly in the district of Barpeta. Every year people of different walks of life have been affected by the killer disease and many die of cancer. Ignorance prevailing among the people about the disease and absence of any diagnostic centre in the district have stood in the way for early diagnosis of the disease and consequent treatment. There is a strong and urgent demand for setting up a centre for the diagnosis and the treatment of the disease as except B. Barooah Cancer Institute at Gauhati, there is no such centre in the lower Assam and people in the District are willing to offer land for setting up the centre.

In view of the above, I would request the Union Government to consider this important and urgent issue and take necessary and immediate measures for setting up a diagnostic centre to check the growth rate of the cancer patients in the district.

- (iii) **Need for Erection of Anti-Sea Erosion Walls Along the Arabian Sea Coast of Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu.**

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagarcoil) : Arabian sea coast of Kanyakumari district is one of the major marine fish producing centres in the country. Fishermen in large numbers are living there. They are fully depending on fishing which is their traditional and only occupation. Now sea erosion is posing grave threat of destruction and damage. This year it has caused heavy loss and damages to the poor fishermen. Several fishing vessels, nets and houses are washed away by the rough sea and mighty