

The Schedule

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Banatwalla, are you moving your amendments under the Schedule?

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I am not moving any amendment to the Schedule.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

• *The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.58 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS
(GENERAL), 1996-97**

[English]

• MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Accounts and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1997 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof:

5, 14, 17 to 20, 22, 28, 41, 48, 54, 63, 82, 86 and 91."

Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1996-97 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No. and Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House	
	1	2
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers		
5. Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals		3,12,00,000
Ministry of Communications		
14. Department of Telecommunications	18,98,00,000	
Ministry of Defence		
17. Defence Services-Army	830,50,00,000	
18. Defence Services-Navy	80,06,00,000	
19. Defence Services-Air Force	162,24,00,000	
20. Defence Ordnance Factories	1,27,00,00,000	
Ministry of Environment and Forests		
22. Ministry of Environment and Forests	2,00,000	
Ministry of Finance		
28. Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments	885,00,00,000	
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare		
41. Department of Family Welfare	1,00,000	

1	2	3
Ministry of Human Resource Development		
48.	Department of Youth Affairs and Sports	1,00,000
Ministry of Industry		
54.	Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro And Rural Industries	2,00,000
Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources		
63.	Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources	34,12,00,000
Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment		
82.	Urban Development, Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	1,00,000
Ministry of Welfare		
86.	Ministry of Welfare	1,00,000
Department of Space		
91.	Department of Space	150,00,00,000
Total Revenue/Capital		2287,97,00,000
		3,13,00,000

COL. RAO RAM SINGH (Mahendergarh) : Sir, I rise to speak on the Supplementary Demands for Grants with a sense of disappointment and also some apprehensions especially with regard to the Demands for the Defence Ministry and the security scenario facing the country today. The proposals cover 20 demands amounting to a total expenditure of over Rs. 3,000 crore. It was my understanding that the Supplementary Demands are normally released in cases of some emergency, some unforeseen circumstances, some natural disaster, some man-made disasters. But here, I see that most of the Supplementary Demands proposed by the hon. Minister of Finance cover the salaries and allowances. This is somewhat surprising.

19.59 hrs.

(Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee - in the Chair)

I would have imagined that the salaries and allowances of the various Departments should have been computed at the time of the General Budget. And I am sure that no Department would have slipped upon that. Therefore, I can only assume that these were scaled down in the General Budget by the Finance Ministry. Probably, an arithmetical exercise was carried out too and a percentage cut was imposed on all the salaries and allowances put up by the various Departments concerned.

16.00 hrs.

I think, this unnecessarily adds to extra work. If possible, this sort of an exercise should be avoided in future and at least as far as pay and allowances are

concerned, they should be put up in the **General Budget** itself. I presume that if and when the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission would finally be declared the Ministry of Finance would come up with another Supplementary Demands for Grants. There is a lot of talk going on about it and the people are anxiously waiting for the announcement of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission. There is also a talk going on that the Government is facing a scary situation and perhaps the Government is instrumental in withholding the recommendations of the Fifty Pay Commission. I think, this is a serious matter and I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister - the people are anxiously waiting for the announcement of the Fifth Pay Commission - to announce the Report as early as possible.

I would now mention some of the - according to my way of thinking—important Supplementary Demands that have been proposed by the hon. Finance Minister. First, let me take Demand No. 5 which relates to the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals. It is regarding providing of non-Plan loan to IDPL over and above the provision of Rs. 20 crore in the Budget.

Madam, M/s. IDPL, Gurgaon is one of the major and most modern pharmaceutical plants in the country today. But I am sorry to say that the employees of this organisation have not received their pay and allowances for approximately the last three to four months. The hon. Finance Minister of the last Government had referred the case of M/s. IDPL for a turn around of this company, to BIFR and the BIFR is progressing with the case. Dr. Manmohan Singhji had written that the pay and

allowances of these workers in the IDPL should not be withheld under any circumstances. Additional resources should be released to M/s. IDPL. But I am sorry to say that the present Finance Minister has not been kind enough to sanction that amount. Hundreds of employees there are facing great hardship. Incidentally, this happens to be in my Parliamentary constituency. The fact is that those people are in great distress.

Madam, M/s. IDPL occupies approximately 100 acres of very valuable land and it produces excellent drugs and medicines. It is rumoured that the multinational companies operating in this field are somewhat worried about the excellent production of this company. It is also being rumoured that some bureaucrats at the behest of the multinational companies are deeply interested in closing down this company and the workers of this company are in great distress. I would like to appeal to the hon. Finance Minister and would also hope that when his predecessor had recommended a sanction for, I think, Rs. 18 crore for IDPL, Gurgaon this Supplementary Demands for Grants - there is a mention of non-Plan loan to IDPL - would cover M/s. IDPL, Gurgaon.

It will be a matter of great tragedy if IDPL, Gurgaon is closed down or handed over to some multinational. It is one of the most modern plant manufacturing drugs and pharmaceuticals in the country.

I now come to Demand No. 22, that is the Ministry of Environment and Forest. India has a land mass of about 330 million hectare out of which 130 million hectare has been declared as wasteland, that is, more than one-third of the total area of the country is unproductive. The forest cover is being depleted at a very very rapid rate and if it continues at this speed then perhaps the Thar Desert will overtake Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and will extend to your State also, Madam, at a very very rapid rate.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Thar does not extend to the State of West Bengal.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : Well, the rate at which the forest cover is being depleted, it will certainly extend up to Delhi. I am surprised that the Finance Minister is showing ignorance by treating it as a joke. I have been looking after this subject, Mr. Finance Minister and the way you are treating this as a joke only shows some deep ignorance about the speed at which it is being depleted. There is no doubt that 113 million hectare out of 330 million hectare is declared as wasteland. At present, the rate at which the forests are being depleted, the rate at which wild life is being destroyed, I feel that we are in for a serious trouble if adequate attention is not paid towards it or if adequate funds are not supplied.

As regards the monitoring of funds coming from World Bank for the purpose of afforestation is concerned, I would say fifty per cent of them are mis-spent. There

is no adequate monitoring system. Whatever funds we spend on these projects, they should be very very closely monitored. But there is no monitoring system at present and I suggest that the Department of Forest and Environment takes up this question of monitoring. Whatever funds are being released for these projects, they should be monitored on a very very strict basis. Strict patrolling should be introduced.

As far as wild life sanctuaries are concerned, they have no transport facility or very little transport facility. They have no weapons to face the poachers who are armed with latest weapons. The elephants' ivory, tigers' skin and bone and horns of Rhinos have all become extremely valuable. It is a very lucrative trade. Poachers are armed with modern weapons and the forest guards are no match for them. So, I would say, better transport, communication, arms and equipments and better patrolling of these wild life sanctuaries is a must if we are to preserve this heritage of ours for our future generation times.

I now come to Demand No. 79. I am taking only a few Demands which I consider are fairly important. The condition of National Highways in the country is pathetic, to say the least. This results in over expenditure in diesel and other fuels. President Kennedy once remarked that, 'America has got good roads not because America is rich, but America is rich because America has got good roads'.

The roads are one of the most important elements of infrastructure that are needed if the country is to become prosperous. At present, I am sorry to say again, there is very little monitoring of roads. I know that we are spending huge amounts on construction of national highways but very poor monitoring is done. There is very little check on roads. A road is built this monsoon and it is gone before the next monsoon because no adequate drainage is provided and no adequate monitoring is done.

Madam, I would now come to the Ministry of Defence.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Please mention one-rank, one-pension.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : One-rank, one-pension is, of course, a very important subject when the issue of ex-servicemen comes. Let me first deal with the security scenario.

Madam, the security scenario in the country is one of the most alarming scenarios that we have faced in the last fifty years. The Government is complacent. Everybody says that our Army is first-class, and our Air Force is first-class. We are quite happy; we are quite secure. But I know the inside story. The morale of the Armed Forces is going down at a very rapid rate. For the last six years, no serious debate has ever been held in Parliament on the security scenario in the country.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : No debate has been held on Defence for the last two years, what to talk of a serious debate.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : A serious debate on Defence and the security scenario facing the country should be held in Parliament in the very near future. We talk of keeping our options open. What does it mean? It has no meaning at all. When will the option be exercised, after the enemies have launched their atomic weapons and after a war has been unleashed on us? The state of preparedness of the Army, at present, is worse than it was in 1962. The debacle the Indian Army suffered in 1962 was because of lack of preparedness and inadequate understanding of the security scenario by the political leaders of that time. And exactly the same situation is developing today. There is no integrated defence organisation at the highest level. In every democracy in the world, the Service Headquarters — the Army, the Navy and the Air Force — form an integral part of the Ministry of Defence. Here, the three Service Headquarters are totally divorced from the Ministry of Defence. No doubt, the Service Chiefs can see the Defence Minister whenever they want to, but any proposal that is put up by a Service Chief will first land up with an Under Secretary in the Ministry of Defence. The Under Secretary will give his comments on the recommendation of a Service Chief who commands the security of the nation. It will go to the Under Secretary in the Ministry of Defence who can hold it up for two or three months. By the time it reaches the Finance Minister, already the suggestion that has been given becomes out of date, it is too late by then. This was one of the main causes of the debacle of 1962 and it is going to happen again. That is the scenario we are faced with today.

Then, in the last few years, I can only think of one Defence Minister, Shri Arun Singh, who had some understanding of defence matters. The Arun Singh Report was a very very valuable, well thought-out, well-considered report.

But the moment it was submitted, I think since then, it has been lying on some shelves gathering dust. No action, whatsoever, has been taken on this. Shri K.P. Singh Deo had submitted a Report, which was again a very very valuable Report. But I do not think that even a single recommendation of Shri K.P. Singh Deo's Report has been implemented.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Some of the recommendations were accepted.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : In 1992, I think, the longstanding demand of ex-Servicemen which Shri Rajesh Pilot mentioned just now, was taken up and I am glad to say that the then Minister of Defence, Shri Sharad Pawar lent his full support. Again the bureaucrats opposed it tooth and nail. But the then Cabinet Secretary - I would not like to mention any names - out of hand turned it down. I think, my friend, Shri Rajesh Pilot was present in that meeting. He said: No, this meeting is

pointless and it cannot be held. It was only Shri Sharad Pawar - I must congratulate him - who had insisted that the high level committee will formulate its recommendations and forward them to the Government. Although they did not call it 'one rank one pension', but one-time increase was given, which gave a great relief to the people, to the Armed Forces personnel who retired before 1971. Their pension is, I think, approximately one-third of the pension in the same rank of what people who retired post-1971 are getting. I mean, the commitment would be so minute because they are a dying breed, the people who retired before 1965 or 1971 must be in their 70s and 80s now. Therefore, to give some relief in their last days would be a very very good gesture. But I am sorry to say that the bureaucrats put their foot down and the politicians had to toe the line of the bureaucrats. No relief is being given to the ex-Servicemen. It is a matter of shame.

Sir, the same thing applies to the proposal of Shri V.P. Singh. He started the proposal for having the National Security Council. His Government fell and along with that, that proposal had gone with the wind. Again, it is the bureaucrats who are blocking the integrated service headquarters because now all the powers in the Ministry of Defence are held by the bureaucrats. The responsibility rests with the Service Chiefs. They are responsible for the defence of the country, but the decisions are taken by the bureaucrats, the babus sitting in the South Block and the poor soldiers have to suffer the consequences of the decision taken by the bureaucrats sitting in the South Block.

Madam, again although this does not directly refer to the Supplementary Demands, but this is a longstanding demand. Indira Gandhi had accepted that one ex-Serviceman will be nominated to the Rajya Sabha. I think, Air Marshal Kapoor was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by her and the moment he became the Lt. Governor of Delhi, that convention also had gone with the wind.

As far as the weapons system in the Army is concerned, the situation is extremely serious. The Infantry is armed with the SLR, which is a long long obsolete weapon. Even the terrorists in India are armed with the AK range of weapons, which are far far superior to the SLR. There has been a proposal pending for arming the Infantry with the assault rifles of 5.56 mm, but I think by the time the bureaucrats take a decision, the 5.56 mm weapon will also have become obsolete.

I am convinced that the 5.56 mm rifle is a better rifle than the SLR which will be issued to the Army, probably, in the next five years. By the time it is issued, it will become obsolete compared to all the other armies of the world and we will again be fighting at a great disadvantage.

As far as the heavy equipment is concerned, we hear that field trials of the Main Battle Tank, Arjun have been carried out. Again by the time Arjun goes on

front-line service, it will become obsolete. I do not know where we are going and how we are working. So, again nobody knows what is happening to Arjun.

Now, I will come to Agni and Prithvi missiles. I think the Government is scared either of the American pressure or some pressure from outside to stop the development of these missiles. I must congratulate our scientists who have developed these excellent Agni and Prithvi missiles. They have not been issued for the front-line service. Why have they not been sanctioned as yet? Who is holding them up?

There is a grave shortage of officers in the Army. The Army has got a total complement of, I think, about 40,000 officers. In the ranks of Captain and Major, the shortage is of approximately 13,000 officers. These are the officers who win battles. I know this because I took part in four Wars. In 1965 War, when my Battalion attacked the Ichhogil canal, it was the junior Captain with two or three years' service who led the assault and broke the nose of Pakistan in the face of heavy artillery fire. Those are the officers who are short today.

Apart from this, I know it is a fact that as soon as the Fifth Pay Commission Report is out, at least, another 5,000 officers are going to opt for the Golden Handshake and get out of the Army. There will be a 50 per cent shortage of officers. Why? It is because of the terms and conditions offered to officers in the Army. There was a time when a career in the armed forces was considered to be the top of the line. Matrimonial advertisements will in the past always stated 'Wanted Army officers'. Now, the advertisements say 'Army officers need not apply'. It is the bottom of the line now for service officers. As far as the status goes. The status of the Army officers have been reduced to such an extent that a Major who holds a major responsibility in War has been equated below an Under Secretary who sits in the office only pushing files. These are some of the things that are affecting the recruitment to the Army. Even the Jawans who are physically fit and healthy are not coming forward to join the Army. Only the half-starved people are joining the Army mainly to keep out the wolf from the door. Therefore, the security scenario as far as Army is concerned is extremely a serious matter to which the Government should pay great attention to.

As far as the Air Force is concerned, a large number of accidents have been reported. It is a very serious matter. About their causes, I think my friend, Shri Rajesh Pilot, will be in a better position to say. But I think the main cause is the Advanced Jet Trainers. We have been talking about the Advanced Jet Trainers for the last so many years. Why cannot we get them? We have the cream of pilots. They are the best in the world. But you take a chap from a slow moving aircraft and put him into a jet. On the very first sortie, he will crash somewhere or the other. We not only lose a very

valuable aircraft but we also lose a more valuable pilot.

Why? Because the Government just cannot get around to find a good Advance Jet Trainer or the funds are not released. I do not know what the matter is.

I must congratulate the Minister of Defence on finalising the Sukoi Deal. I think, this again was pending for a long time. We have been told this morning at the Consultative Committee Meeting that Rs. 500 crore have been given as an advance to Russia and that not even a single aircraft has been delivered so far. The first delivery is expected after 31st of March.

I think I must be fair and say that a fair amount of transparency has been shown as compared to the transparency or lack of it in the previous deals concerning Defence. The hon. Minister of Defence said that if this amount of Rs. 500 crore was not paid as an advance, the Russians could have jacked up the price of the aircraft; that, because of the payment of Rs. 500 crore, a clause has been inserted that this aircraft will not be given to our friendly or not so friendly neighbours; and that, because of our very friendly relations with Russia, it was thought proper to give an advance of Rs. 500 crore. It is for the House to see whether these reasons are cogent or not.

Madam, previously the Americans and the Russians were operating in the Indian Ocean. After the end of the Cold War, a vacuum has been created in the Indian Ocean and it is against the law of nature for a vacuum to exist. That vacuum has to be filled in, whether India fills it up or any other country fills it in. The Americans have ordered that another Fleet, to be known as the Fifth Fleet — we know the famous Seventh Fleet — to come up and fill up the vacuum in the Indian Ocean. Before, they do that — we have two Fleets, the Western Fleet. There is a very strong case for a Southern Fleet, which can fill up the vacuum in the Indian Ocean and give our Navy a 'Blue Water Navy Concept' which we have been talking about the discussing for the last so many years. But nothing at all has been done actually.

I would once again like to stress that the security scenario of the country is really very alarming and we are in for a far worse debacle compared to the one we suffered in 1962, unless the Government takes a serious note of these deficiencies and does something about it.

I know that the Government is probably facing a very big cash crunch. It often talks about cutting down Government expenditure, but no real action is ever taken on cutting down Government expenditure. The bureaucrats are increasing their staff. We have got such a top heavy administration and I was told that the number of Central Government employees is 40 lakhs. All sitting in the offices and if this is reduced by half, we will achieve much more efficiency. There will be a great saving of paper and time. But I am sorry to say that I do not think the Government is bold enough to take the

steps and reduce this bureaucracy, the Government employees and the expenditure.

Madam, the expenditure on petrol that is being wasted on cars which are being used in the Central Government offices is fantastic. I must relate to you my experience as a Minister some time - I do not think that I have time to do that - as to wasteful expenditure on petrol that is being carried out.

Madam, with these remarks, I am sorry to say that I am not in a position to support the proposals which have been put up. A sum of Rs. 12,000 crore has been given to Defence, which is somewhat better than in the General Budget, but it is a pittance compared to the requirement of the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces. The situation is very serious. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to really consider this question seriously with the Defence Minister and take some appropriate action.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now it is 4.30 p.m. We have to take up the discussion under Rule 193 on Foreign Policy.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Madam, I want to know whether I should come back after the discussion on Foreign Policy or the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) will be taken up tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Well, it is very difficult to say at the moment because there is another discussion under Rule 193, which has to be completed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : How much time has been allotted to the discussion on Foreign Policy?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It should not take a long time but apart from this, there is another discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Madam, I have to go to Rajya Sabha.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can go to Rajya Sabha and then we will inform you.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : Madam, will this discussion be taken up tomorrow?
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It all depends on the time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Madam, you know better than us about the time...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are supposed to sit up to 10 O'clock today, which we all know.

16.32 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

India's Foreign Policy

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall take up further discussion regarding India's Foreign Policy.

Shri Suresh Prabhu was on his feet. I request him to continue.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Madam, I must congratulate you in person for initiating a debate on an important issue, that is Foreign Policy, which is now debated in this House after a fairly long time and surely for the first time since I entered this House.

Madam, I think, it is appropriate to discuss this issue pertaining to India's Foreign Policy at the most appropriate time because we just lost an international election to Japan in respect of a seat in the Security Council. India was a Member of the Security Council before that. When we lost this election, there was an explanation, which seemed plausible, that India had to lose to the power which is economically more powerful than India. We gave this rationalisation for losing an election.

When we come to Foreign Policy, we always talk of various values, rhetorical values, and it is very difficult for somebody to really try to reconcile. One is the reality which exists on the ground that India is an economically inferior power to a country like Japan. At the same time we keep on talking and harping on issues like we are a superior country having values and we try to pursue our Foreign Policy taking values as something which guides us.

16.33 hrs.

(Col. Rao Ram Singh in the Chair)

Sir, recently we had to face a very humiliating situation in which India was not even invited. When there was a meeting of the European Union, where some countries from Asia were there, India was excluded. When the ASEAN and European Union met together for the first time, India was not even invited. So, I think, considering these two issues, it is the most appropriate time to have a debate on our Foreign Policy.

It always appears—what really guides our Foreign Policy - and we always claim that we have got a continuity in our Foreign Policy. If we are going to take a solace and if we are going to coolly pat our back saying that we have only continuity in our Foreign Policy and we are really not going to look at any other issue, then, I think, we are really not doing justice to this very important issue as to how our Foreign Policy should be guided.