

19.21 hrs.

Title: Introduction, Consideration and passage of Appropriation (No. 5) Bill for the year 2002-2003. (Bill passed)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-2003.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-2003."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Minister may now move for consideration of the Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-2003, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-2003, be taken into consideration."

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, there has been a demand for the revival of the Indian Iron and Steel Company, a premier steel manufacturing

* Published in the Gazettee of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section- 2, dated 31.7.2002.

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

company of West Bengal. A revival package was prepared by Mecon and submitted to the Steel Authority of India Limited. The Steel Authority of India Limited submitted its proposal to the Ministry of Steel for its approval. As per the package prepared by Mecon, Rs.1,032 crore are to be provided by the Government of India, not in one go but in a phased manner.

The BIFR, in its last meeting directed the Government of India to submit a revival package by 1st July, 2002. The Cabinet approved a revival package but not what Mecon prepared and submitted to the Steel Authority of India Limited, which, in turn, the Steel Authority of India Limited submitted to the Government of India. The Government of India is not providing any budgetary support. What the Government of India is providing is, as has been stated here, Rs.186 crore not for the revival but grant-in-aid to the Indian Iron and Steel Company for implementation of the voluntary retirement scheme. The Government of India is spending Rs.186 crore for VRS but what the Government of India is to spend for revival is not provided for. What has been stated by the hon. Minister of Steel is that the Government of India has approved a revival package for the Indian Iron and Steel Company. It *inter-alia* includes grant for financing the Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Kulti Works, which is to be closed down. In order to close down the Kulti Works, the Government of India is providing Rs. 186 crore, and not for the revival of Indian Iron and Steel Company. In addition it has been decided to provide Government guarantee to raise money for financing Voluntary Retirement Scheme. The Government of India has decided to guarantee to raise money for financing Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Burnpur works, and not for the revival of Burnpur works. IISCO is a nationalised company. Today, more than 3000 workers are still working in it. It has its own coal mines and iron ore mines. It is

located in a very advantageous place. It is a very important industry. Nearly two lakh people are depending on IISCO. I would like to know whether the Government of India will consider the revival proposal prepared by Mecon where Rs. 182 crore, not in one go, but in a phased manner, will be provided so that the Indian Iron and Steel Company, a premier steel manufacturing company, is revived.

My second point is about the long pending issue about the parity in wages between audit and accounts staff with the staff of Central Secretariat. There was parity up to the Third Pay Commission, but it was disturbed from the Fourth Pay Commission.

Sir, there are judgments from three Central Administrative Tribunals. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basudeb Acharia, you have given a notice and that is why I have given you permission. Please do not take too much time.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, all the three Benches of Central Administrative Tribunals have ordered to have parity in wages between audit and accounts staff with the staff of Central Secretariat. When there was a judgment, then why is this parity not being maintained? My request is that the parity, which was disturbed by the Fourth Pay Commission, should be restored. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you have already made your points. Please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, please allow me for two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, I wanted to put it on record. You have to give a notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I have given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia has given a notice. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, as a special case, I am permitting you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I only request the hon. Minister of Finance one thing. He may not assure

now. He may consider the matter. I am not saying that he has to commit now.

The Ministry of Finance allots cent per cent money to the Border Area Development Programme, which is routed through the Ministry of Home affairs. Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, when he was the hon. Minister of Rural Development, made a unique thing. He said, the entire *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna* scheme before implementing should involve the local Lok Sabha MPs for their understanding of the project. I have been arguing on this point. Hardly in the entire House, there are 30 to 40 MPs from the border area, be it the border with China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan or Nepal. In the Border Area Development Programme, in the Border Area constituencies, if you give a direction that those representatives of the people should be involved while selecting the programme, then it will go a long way. This is one of my suggestions.

Secondly, the National Instruments Company, headed by the Ministry of Heavy Industries; National Jute Manufacturing Corporation, headed by the Ministry of Textiles; Burn Standards, headed by the Ministry of Heavy Industries; and Hooghly Dock, headed by the Ministry of Shipping are in greater difficulties now to establish these units. The struggle is going on. Several *bandhs* have taken place. My request to the hon. Minister is that if he discusses all these problems with the nodal Ministry and the trade union representatives to find out whether he can assure some stability package and viability package for this unit.

Lastly, I would say that the hon. Minister is very enthusiastic to increase the exports of this country, and I thank him for the same. The Indo-Bangladesh trade through road is gaining ground more and more. The volume of trade has increased by seven times. In the backward area of North Bengal, people in the place called Kaliaganj to Radhikapur, which is the main export zone of the Indo-Bangladesh trade, are suffering for want of infrastructural support, which will require only Rs.15 crore to Rs.17 crore. Many a time I had been there and I found a big jam. So, if you just consider this Kaliaganj to Radhikapur Indo-Bangladesh border trade project, I shall be grateful to you. It will go a long way to increase the volume of our export.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Hon. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I think, has set an example of diligence when it comes to raising issues of his commitment. He raised principally two issues, one relating to IISCO's revival and the other relating to parity in wages of audit personnel of the Central Government. Hon. Shri Acharia and I have worked together for many decades now. May I request him to do write to me on this issue so that I am better able to respond to him in detail, rather than giving him an assurance here, because it then becomes an assurance and goes to the Assurances Committee.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Even the assurances given on the floor of the House are not implemented because I was the Chairman of the Assurances Committee and I have seen this. This is my experience.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Many times they give an assurance that they will make a small speech. This does not go to the Assurances Committee, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Are you terming his speech as a small speech!

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: The assurances given by the Opposition Members to make small speeches should also go to the Assurances Committee.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, will the hon. Minister give an assurance with regard to IISCO?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: No, I cannot give, Sir, because it only adds to the paper work.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I gave the notice at 11 o'clock.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: At 11.45.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: But, Sir, if the hon. Member were to write to me, then I shall be able to respond to him in detail.

Hon. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi raised two issues. One issue is relating to involving Members of Parliament in the application of Border Area Development Fund. I do not deal with the application of the Fund; it is a different Ministry that deals with it. It should really be taken up with that particular Ministry.

The second issue is about the enhancement of road trade between India and Bangladesh. This is certainly fully worthy of support and I am personally very much concerned at the bottlenecks. I am informed that part of these bottlenecks, both on the Calcutta-Dhaka road as also the North Bengal road, are deliberate. These are deliberate because they generate extra-constitutional resources. This has to be corrected. I assure the hon. Member that if it were a limitation only of infrastructural development, which is in terms of better road provisioning, widening of the roads, turn around of trucking facilities, etc., I am aware of this. If it were only this, then it will be very easily

remedied. But it is not. Believe me, it is not. There is a deeper malaise in this. Would Shri Dasmunsi be so good as to write to me so that I can then respond to him in greater detail?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is very generous today.

Now, the question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-03, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

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

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shall we take up the next item?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): No, Sir. We can take it up tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 o'clock on 1st August, 2002.

19.36 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Thursday, August 1, 2002/Sravana 10, 1924 (Saka).*
