

19.04 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL,2004*

Title : Introduction, consideration and passing of the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2004. (Bill passed).

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2004. The hon. Minister may now move for leave to introduce the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, in the morning, you said that those who wanted to give notices of cut motions should give them within 15 minutes. On each head, we gave them separately. How can they be deleted?

MR. SPEAKER: They have not been deleted. They have been negatived. With the consent of the House, I read them out.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is a different matter that the cut motions have been defeated but the cut motions have not been taken up.

MR. SPEAKER: They were taken up together and the House negatived them.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : How can you take them up together?

MR. SPEAKER: I have taken them up together with the consent of the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Is this the way the Government should treat us?

MR. SPEAKER: This is the usual way of putting them together. If you wanted them to be taken up independently, instead of staging a walk out, you should have remained in the House and objected to it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, before you took up the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), we were in position to make our points. ...(Interruptions)

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MR. SPEAKER: No. You came afterwards.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I go to the introduction of the Appropriation Bill.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Those Members who wanted to put their notices should have been present in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This is not the way. ...(Interruptions) I am very sorry to say that.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Every procedure was followed yesterday and today.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This House does not respect the Opposition. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, the House has all the respect for the Opposition.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This is what you are doing on the penultimate day of the Session. The voice of

the Opposition even to stage a walk out is â€¦*(Interruptions)* I have every respect for you. ...*(Interruptions)*

You gave the order that those who have given the noticesâ€¦*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, I said, 'together' and nobody objected to it. I took the sense of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, you gave the order in the morning. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I made the suggestion of putting all the cut motions together and nobody objected to it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): We agreed to a short discussion. We agreed to the waiving of certain rules. ...*(Interruptions)*

अध्यक्ष महोदय: जो कनक्लूजन था, वह हमने ले लिया।

Now, I go to Appropriation Bill for consideration and passing. Shri Jaswant Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not at all. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You cannot bulldoze the whole system. The Rules Book and the procedure of notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is being perfectly followed. Yesterday also we did the same thing and today also we have done the same thing. Shri Jaswant Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I never do it. I do not bulldoze the whole system. Shri Jaswant Singh, now, you can speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): But this is how the things must be done. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : No, Sir. We do not agree. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : We know when we walked out. ...*(Interruptions)* We know when we walked out. We are aware of the procedure. It is very unfortunate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House is now taking up Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill.

I JASWANT SINGH: Sir, after this shining example of constructive and cooperative Opposition, I move this Bill.

I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for services of a part of the financial year 2004-05.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for services of a part of the financial year 2004-05. "

The motion was adopted.

I JASWANT SINGH: I introduce* the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

I JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for services of a part of the financial year 2004-05. "

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for services of a part of the financial year 2004-05. "

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

I BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, I have given a notice. I may be allowed. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you can speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

I BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): I am raising a very important and urgent issue concerning thousands and thousands of retired employees of Central public sector undertakings. A Group of Minister was constituted in the year 2002 to consider the payment of statutory dues to the Central public sector undertakings. After rolling back of superannuation age from 60 years to 58 years, the problem has become more acute. For the last several years, for five or six years, these retired employees have not received Gratuities and Provident Funds and even the salaries and wages are due for several months. I have the entire list of the public sector undertakings where these outstanding dues are more than Rs. 2,500 crore. In the case of Andrew Yule, the statutory due is Rs. 9,47,00,000.

M/s. Bharat Brakes and Valves Limited has been closed two years back. Even after closure, the employees of this company, who retired from service, did not receive their statutory dues. The amount due is Rs. 23 crore. M/s. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited has not yet been closed. The statutory due in this case is more than Rs. Four crore. M/s. Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineering Limited has been closed down three years back. The statutory due in this case is Rs. 59 lakh. The same is the case with M/s. Birds, Jute and Exports Limited which has been closed down two years back. ...(*Interruptions*) In the case of Braithwaite and Co. Ltd. The amount due is Rs. Six crore and in the case of Burn Standard Company Limited it is Rs. 26 crore. The amount in the case of Hindustan Cables Limited is Rs. 81 crore; in the case of Hindustan Copper Limited it is Rs. 24 crore, in the case of Hindustan Steel Works Construction it is Rs. 83 crore. ...(*Interruptions*)

I SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST): What about West Bengal? ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): They have closed the public sector in Bengal. ...(*Interruptions*)

I BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have the list from Maharashtra also. The companies there are Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, NTC (MN) Limited, Mumbai and NTC (SM) Limited, Mumbai. Then, coming to Delhi, the companies are Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Cement Corporation of India Limited, Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation, Hospital Services Cons. Limited, etc. I have the entire list of public sector. ...(*Interruptions*) I will send you a copy.

Sir, I would like to know one thing. When a Group of Ministers was constituted to consider this issue, why, after two years, no decision has been taken by the Government of India to clear the outstanding dues to the retired employees of the CPSUs. These employees are today not getting their statutory dues. I may mention that they are statutory dues. We have the Act. Sir, you were the Minister of Heavy Industries; you know the problem of all these CPSUs. As the employees have not received their dues for years together, they are starving today. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I Basu Deb Acharia, you only have to make a specific point at this stage.

...(*Interruptions*)

I BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, even some employees have committed suicide. Six employees of Burn Standard works at Howrah, who did not receive their wages for six months, and the retired employees who did not get their statutory dues, committed suicide. The workers are committing suicide for not getting the statutory dues. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to know from the hon. Minister about this. ...(*Interruptions*)

I SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, at least 30 State Government public sector undertakings in Bengal have been declared closed. ...(*Interruptions*)

I BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I would like to know what the Government of India is doing. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I Basu Deb Acharia, may I read the rule for your information? The rule is very specific. You have to be very brief on this issue.

I BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yes, sir. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Finance as to when the entire outstanding dues to the retired employees of the central public sector undertakings, which comes to a figure of Rs. 2,500 crore, would be cleared and would be paid to the workers. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : I Sontosh Mohan Dev, your notice was not received in time. But since you have given a notice, you can speak for only one or two minutes.

I JASWANT SINGH: Sir, do you want me to respond to this? ...(*Interruptions*)

I SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): Hon. Minister, I have been allowed by the hon. Speaker.

Mr. Minister, I am extremely grateful to you for announcing this subsidy of Rs. 8 for the small tea gardens. But, as a matter of fact, the medium size tea gardens of Assam, West Bengal and Kerala are now closed. The proprietors have declared a lockout illegally and ran away. ...(*Interruptions*)

डॉ.विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दक्षिण दिल्ली) : तीनों स्टेट्स में कांग्रेस का रोल रहा है।

I SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, In West Bengal, the intra-union fight of the CPI(M) trade unions has caused death of large number of workers very recently. In this tea industry, a very disastrous incident took place recently. ...(*Interruptions*)

I SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): I do not want to go into that dispute. Mr. Minister, I am grateful to you. You have addressed the problem. In view of the fact that these medium tea gardens are also closed and that the labourers are suffering and there are deaths and there are various diseases, you may kindly reconsider whether you can include the medium tea gardens also in it. This is my humble appeal to you.

I JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I will first respond to the second part about the tea estates. I did not mention it, but the Rs. 500 crore fund that we have established is in fact for such purposes. The current announcement relates to the small estates because they are the worst sufferers. We are addressing the entirety of the tea industry. As the hon. Member knows, I had, in fact, taken a decision to send a team specially to visit that area, but unfortunately, for various reasons, that could not be done at that stage, but be assured, Sir, that we will address this problem also.

On the other aspect, which was rather like a water torture, Sir, I would submit that the GoM's recommendations on the statutory dues of the PSU employees have been accepted by the Government. Now, these have gone to the respective Ministries and as soon as the Ministries send their recommendations, the Government will act on them. But it is necessary that so far as statutory dues are concerned, the State Governments also act appropriately. Provision will be made accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2004-05, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

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

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 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.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

I JASWANT SINGH: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.