

>Title: Introduction of Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1998. MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): The House will now take up Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1998.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): 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 the services of a part of the financial year 1998-99.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 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 the services of a part of the financial year 1998-99."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I beg to move:

"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 1998-99, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"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 1998-99, be taken into consideration."

SHRI ACHARIA BASUDEB (BANKURA): Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What notice have you given?

SHRI ACHARIA BASUDEB (BANKURA): I have a very small point. Sir, the city of Calcutta has been downgraded. Both Delhi and Mumbai have been declared as A-1 cities.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (CALCUTTA NORTH EAST): We had raised that demand long ago.

SHRI ACHARIA BASUDEB (BANKURA): We have also made it. The West Bengal Assembly ....(Interruptions) He may please take his seat. ....(Interruptions) I am on my legs. ....(Interruptions) He may please take his seat. ....(Interruptions) Why is he interrupting?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (CALCUTTA NORTH EAST): Mr. Chairman, I object to this. He can tell his Chief Minister to take his seat. ....(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has given notice. He has the right to speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ACHARIA BASUDEB (BANKURA): I have given notice. I have every right to speak. I am on my legs. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (CALCUTTA NORTH EAST): Would he give order?

SHRI ACHARIA BASUDEB (BANKURA): Sir, he is interrupting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ajit Kumar Panja, you are such a senior Member. He is also a senior Member. Why are you interrupting? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (CALCUTTA NORTH EAST): Would he give order?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has given notice. He has the right to speak.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (CALCUTTA NORTH EAST): Sir, let him speak. He cannot order ....(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are already late. For heaven's sake, please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ACHARIA BASUDEB (BANKURA): He cannot interrupt.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (CALCUTTA NORTH EAST): He is repeating our demand. ....(Interruptions).

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI): He is a senior Member, but he is in the company of juniors. ....(Interruptions).

SHRI ACHARIA BASUDEB (BANKURA): The cities of Delhi and Mumbai have been declared as A-1. As a result, the Central Government employees of Calcutta are getting 15 per cent HRA, House Rent Allowance. The West Bengal Assembly only three days back has adopted a unanimous resolution to declare the city of Calcutta as A-1, like Delhi and Mumbai. The Chief Minister of West

Bengal has written a number of letters to the Government of India to declare city of Calcutta as A-1 city. The Central Government employees are also demanding that the city of Calcutta should be declared as A-1. So, I urge upon the Finance Minister to take a decision in regard to declaring the city of Calcutta as A-1 with immediate effect. I want a categorical reply from the Finance Minister.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST): Sir, I represent Calcutta. Shall I say something?

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a procedure here. He had given notice.

SHRI ACHARIA BASUDEB (BANKURA): I had given notice. Only I have the right to speak. ....(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody else should speak.

The hon. Minister may now move for the consideration of the Bill.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I have taken note of the point which has been made by the hon. Member.

SHRI ACHARIA BASUDEB (BANKURA): You have taken only note, no action.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, 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 1998-99, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 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 Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

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