

17.24 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received the following message dated the 20th July, 1991 from the President -

"I have received with great satisfaction the expression of Thanks by the Members of the Lok Sabha for the Address which I delivered to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 11th July, 1991"

17.25 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1991-92—GENERAL DISCUSSION—Contd

AND

Demands for Grants (Railways), 1991-92—Contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri V. Krishna Rao may speak

[Translation]

\*SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikaballapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Hon'ble Railway Minister for presenting a very good railway budget. It is a budget of the common man and I wholeheartedly welcome it. I would be failing in my duty if I do not congratulate the Hon'ble Prime Minister for giving the railway portfolio to Mr. Jaffer Sharief, who is an efficient administrator. A step-motherly attitude is shown to Karnataka regarding the railway facilities are concerned. There is wide gap between North and South in the development of railways. In South if you compare the development of railways it becomes very clear that Karnataka has been neglected very much. Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu have

sufficient railway facilities and injustice has been done to Karnataka in this regard. I have no words to explain this injustice. Regarding double lines and electrified lines there is no room to compare Karnataka with other States as neither double line nor electrified line exist in the State. I hope that the Hon'ble Minister would do his best in removing these disparities between States. The Hon'ble Minister is a well experienced person and there is no need to tell him greater details. It is during his period as Railway Minister that a wheel and axle plant was set up in Bangalore. I request him to create more job opportunities to the people of Karnataka in the railway departments

Bangalore is not only beautiful but also a fast expanding city in the country. Bombay and Madras have circular railway. There is no ring railway facility in the city of Bangalore. Students, merchants, Govt employees and other employees are finding it most difficult to move from one place to another. The roads are narrow and even the vehicles like buses and cars are stranded for a long time. Hence it is high time for the centre to think about this matter seriously and to sanction a circular railway to the garden city.

The people of Karnataka are demanding the centre to set up South West Railway Zone in the State. At present different parts of the States are included in different zones and this has hampered the development of railways in Karnataka. The only solution for this problem would be to set up South West railway zone in Karnataka.

There is a primitive narrow gauge line between Yelahanka and Bangarpet. This is a very important railway line in my constituency. Potato is grown abundantly in Chikaballapur area and it is being sent to Simla, and other far off places in the country. Potato is being exported to

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.