

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Saturday, March 23, 1985/Chaitra 2, 1907
(SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Papers to be laid on the Table. Mr. Poojary.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

Notifications under Customs Act 1962 and
Central Excise Rules, 1944

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : I beg to lay on the
Table—

- (1) A copy each of Notification Nos. G.S.R. 155 (E) to 211 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Customs Duty changes and exemptions in the context of Budget proposals pertaining to Indirect Taxes announced by the Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on the 16th March, 1985, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—561/85].
- (2) A copy each of Notification Nos. G.S.R. 212 (E) to 281 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Central Excise Duty changes and exemptions in the context of Budget proposals pertaining to Indirect Taxes announced by the Finance

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Minister in Lok Sabha on the 16th March, 1985, issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—562/85].

11.01 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) :
Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce
that Government Business in this House
during the week commencing 25th March,
1985, will consist of :

- (1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
- (2) Consideration of a Resolution seeking approval of continuance of President's Rule in the State of Punjab.
- (3) General discussion on the Punjab Budget for 1985-86.
- (4) Discussion and voting on :
 - (a) Demands for Grants on Account (Punjab) for 1985-86.
 - (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Punjab) for 1984-85.
- (5) Consideration and passing of the National Security (Amendment) Bill, 1985.
- (6) Further discussion on the Report of the National Transport Policy.
- (7) Discussion on the Resolutions seeking disapproval of the following Ordinances together with consideration and passing of the Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha, replacing those Ordinances :

[*Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad*]

- (a) The Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Ordinance, 1985.
- (b) The Requisitioning and Acquisitions of Immovable Property (Amendment) Ordinance, 1985.
- (8) Consideration and passing of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Bill, 1985, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
- (9) Consideration of a motion for concurring in the recommendation of Rajya Sabha for reference of the Mental Health Bill, 1981, to a Joint Committee.
- (10) Discussion on the 32nd and 33rd Reports of the Union Public Service Commission.

SHRI I. RAMA RAI (Kasargod) : Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's business :—

The plight of about three lakhs of employees known as E.D. employees serving under P & T Department drawing a meagre amount of Rs. 152 to Rs. 318 as monthly allowance. They are expected to do hard work in remote villages and hill areas from sunrise to sunset. The emoluments they are getting are not even sufficient for two square meals a day for the family. Even if somebody in their family is seriously ill, they cannot take any leave. Their chances of promotion are very poor. Their plight is no better than that of bonded labourers and it is the duty of the Government to redress their grievances.

I, therefore, put forward the following suggestions for the consideration of the Government :—

1. E.D. employees should be considered at least as part-time employees.
2. They should be given a decent salary considering the escalating expenses and sky-rocketing prices of commodities and the nature of their hard and hectic work.
3. Promotion opportunity be provided.
4. There should be provision for leave.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : I would like to suggest the following items for inclusion in the next week's business.

1. The Government should make a statement about the reported confiscation by the Customs authorities at Sahar airport, Bombay on 19th March, 1985 of dollars equivalent to Rs. 48 lakhs carried by representatives of an eminent industrialist from Ahmedabad for depositing in Hong Kong Bank, and their reported links with S.L.M. Maneklal Industries Ltd whose Director is involved in the espionage activities by staff in the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

2. The Government should make a statement on the reported anti-Indian utterances by the Station Manager of Lufthansa Airlines describing Indians as 'pigs and animals' and subsequent dismissal of the Indian employees who protested against these utterances and the demand made to institute an inquiry into this episode.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Only the approved text will go on record.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki) : If this is correct...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Only those who have given prior notice are allowed. I am not permitting you. Please sit down.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI (Srinagar) : The following item may kindly be included in the next week's agenda.

A railway line connecting Srinagar with the rest of the country can release the people of the valley from an age-old poverty and backwardness. The railway line to Srinagar shall boost up Kashmir's tourist trade which earns considerable foreign exchange for the country. Besides it shall bring the prices of the essential commodities at par with the rest of the country. The hoarders and black-marketeers always thrive upon the road blockage and closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, taking undue advantage out of it especially in the winter when it comes under heavy strain due to landslides and snowfall. A railway line to Srinagar is a great task and challenge before the Central Government with vast reservoirs of resources and technical know-how. I feel it is not difficult to venture this scheme on priority basis.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : All the points which have been mentioned by the hon. Members have been noted and they will receive due consideration of the Government.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : This reply should be cyclostyled and laid on the Table of the House.

11.09 hrs.

NATIONAL SECURITY (AMENDMENT)
BILL*, 1985

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Security Act, 1980, in its application to the State of Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Security Act, 1980, in its application to the State of Punjab and the Union territory of Chandigarh.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : I introduce the Bill.

11.10 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 1985-86 GENERAL
DISCUSSION AND SUPPLEMENTARY
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1984-85—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Hon. Shri Manoj Pandey to continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI MANOJ PANDEY (Bettiah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday I was trying to evaluate from the farmers, point of view, the 1985-86 Budget presented in this House. I

come from Champaran, a district of North Bihar. There are nine sugar mills there, but, unfortunately, two sugar mills have been lying closed for the last two years and because of this, five thousand workers have been suffering a lot. Five to five and a half crores of rupees are due from these mills to the farmers as sugarcane arrears. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I request the Hon'ble Minister to ask the Bihar Government to get these sick sugar mills restarted. If possible, the Government of India should provide money for restarting these sugar mills.

Sir, you know that about 70 to 72 lakh tonnes of sugar is consumed in our country every year and during the last few years, there has been a record production of sugar. In 1982-83, the production of sugar was about 84 lakh tonnes but today I am surprised to find that our Government is going to import sugar. In spite of a record production, our country has to import sugar and has to spend Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 crore worth of foreign exchange on the import of five lakh tonnes of sugar. Not only this, our Government propose to import about five or ten lakh tonnes of additional sugar on which huge amount of foreign exchange will be spent. If the money we spend on import is used on the revival of our sick sugar mills, I think, that will be more beneficial. Then, not only our sugar mills run smoothly but we shall not have to import sugar also.

Sir, I would like to give one suggestion in this regard. Whenever sugar prices are fixed and some policy for sugar mills is adopted, instead of formulating a short-term policy and fixing sugarcane price every year, we should adopt a long-term policy regarding fixation of prices of sugarcane or sugar. This will help the farmers in managing their crops and in deciding how much sugarcane and other crops they have to grow.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will recall that whenever the price of sugarcane has increased in the country, the farmers have vied with one another in growing more sugarcane and that is why the paddy and wheat crops have suffered. The farmer started growing sugarcane where they used to grow paddy earlier. Besides, the farmers have to face a lot of difficulties in taking their sugarcane to the mills. One benefit of