

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU: This is mere election propaganda. We are walking out.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not allowed.

*(Interruptions)***

Shri N.V.N. Somu and Dr. A. Kalanidhi then left the House.

DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN: This is merely an election Budget. We are walking out of the House.

Dr. S. Jagathrakshakan and some other hon. Members then left the House.

12.26 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (TAMIL NADU), 1988-89

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of State of Tamil Nadu for 1987-88.

12.26 1/2 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[*English*]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

'In accordance with the provisions of rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th March, 1988 agreed to the following amendments made by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd March, 1988, in the Authorised Translations (Central Laws) Amendment Bill, 1987:

Enacting Formula

1. Page 1, line 1,4

for "Thirty-eighth" substitute "Thirty-ninth"

2. Page 1, line 4,4

for "1987" substitute "1988".

12.27 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

[*English*]

Hundred and Seventh Report

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) I beg to present the Hundred and Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee on Tea Board.

12.27 1/2 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: ILLEGAL STRIKE BY DELHI TRANSPORT CORPORATION EMPLOYEES

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): I would like to apprise the House about the situation in Delhi created by the Strike in Delhi Transport Corporation. Seven trade Unions in the Delhi Transport Corporation had on 18.2.1988 and 19.2.1988 served strike notices on the Management that they would go on an indefinite strike w.e.f. 17.3.1988 to press their demands for extending the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission to the DTC employees. I regret to state that despite the efforts by Government, the Unions have persisted in their ill-advised move.

As the Honourable Members are aware, there are about seventy-three public sector undertakings having Central Government's D.A. pattern for their employees. DTC is

one of them. On the writ petition filed by some unions belonging to this category of public sector undertakings, the Supreme Court had directed the Government to appoint a Committee to go into the question of pay-scales and related terms and conditions of employees of all these public sector undertakings. Accordingly, the Government has on 14.3.1986 appointed a High Power Pay Committee. This Committee under Justice Ranganath Mishra is seized of the matter. Two Unions of the DTC also filed writ petitions before the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court in its Order dated 13.10.1987 observed that they are tentatively of the view that the employees of DTC are covered by the reference made to the High Power Pay Committee and that the petitioners should be do well to appear before the Committee to represent their case, i.e. they were entitled to special treatment in view of the historical facts including an assurance earlier held out by the Government to the petitioners. The Supreme Court in their order dated 11.3.1988 has also directed that 20% of basic pay may be given as interim relief to the employees of DTC subject to final adjustment and withdrawal of the strike. The dispute is under conciliation. As the House may be aware, the Delhi Transport Corporation has also been notified as an essential service under the ESMA. Therefore, any strike in DTC is illegal. Despite the above developments and despite the pronouncements of the highest court of law in the country referred to above, some unions of the DTC employees have persisted in their demand for making applicable to them the Fourth Pay Commission's recommendations and have started an indefinite strike from today.

The Delhi Transport Corporation is a public utility service and it carries about 50 lakh passengers every day in the city of Delhi. Its functioning is essential for the maintenance of normal life in the city. Government were hoping that the trade unions who have given the strike notice will realise the crucial importance of the Corporation to the citizens of the city and would find their way to desist from strike move. I may also bring to the notice of the House that a number of examinations in

schools are scheduled during the period of the strike and the strike, either by design or accident, is timed in such a way as to cause maximum degree of inconvenience and damage to the student community. I would like to assure the House that the DTC Management and the Government have taken necessary steps to face the situation created by the strike and alternate arrangements for dealing with the strike situation are already in operation and we hope to increase the level of bus services during the next few days. I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate Government's resolve to deal firmly with any violence or acts of intimidation by those supporting the strike. The strike is unjustified; it is also illegal and we intend to deal with it firmly. The Government is also considering necessary steps for reorganisation of the present system with a view to giving to the citizens of Delhi safe and efficient transport services. I am sure that Government will have the support of the people of Delhi and of this House in their resolve to meet the strike situation.

12.28 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): Sir, this is a very important subject. Please allow a discussion on this...
(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a statement. I cannot allow a discussion on this...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I cannot. Shrimati Sheila Dikshit...

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Please allow a discussion, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give in writing.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: We are giving a notice, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give a notice, then I will consider it.