

[English]

15.14 hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER: The Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House in their Eighth Report presented to the House on 30th March, 1995, have recommended that leave of absence be granted to the following Members for the period mentioned against each:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Shri Tejsingh Rao Bhonsle | 6.8.94 to 26.8.94
14.3.95 to 31.3.95 |
| 2. Shri Rajaram Shankarrao Mane | 14.3.95 to 31.3.95 |
| 3. Shri B. Shankaranand | 14.3.95 to 31.3.95 |

Is the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

15.14 hrs.

COMMITTEES' REPORTS

Public Accounts Committee

Ninety-second Report

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Mr. Speaker, Sir I beg to present ninety second Report of Dubui Accounts Committee.

[English]

15.14½ hrs.

Committee on Public Undertakings Thirty-ninth Report and Minutes

SHRI R. ANBARASU (MADRAS CENTRAL): I beg to present the Thirty-ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Bharat Cooking Coal Limited and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

[English]

15.14¾ hrs.

Standing Committee on Energy Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports

SHRI SHIV CHARAN MATHUR (BHILWARA): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on energy:

(1) Fourteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Energy on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Tenth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Modernisation and Growth of Coal Industry- A Critique.

(2) Fifteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Energy on Action Taken by the Government on the

Recommendations contained in their Fifth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Non-Conventional Energy Sources Schemes, their assessment and implementation.

[English]

15.15 hrs.

Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals

[Minutes]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (DEOGARH): I beg to lay on the Table, Minutes of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals relating to Procedural and miscellaneous matters.

[English]

Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests Seventeenth Report

PROF. RADHIKA RANJAN PRAMANIK (MATHURAPUR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Seventeenth Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Annual Report (1993-94) of the Department of Biotechnology (Development of immuno-diagnostic kits, environmental conservation and biodiversity, medicinal and aromatic plants and implications of new GATT regime and Intellectual Property Rights with regard to new developments in biotechnology).

[English]

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

Re; Nationalisation and upgradation of Bankura Damodar River Railway by gauge conversion and its extension with a view to improving passenger and freight traffic services.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Chandi Mukherjee, President, Bankura Damodar River Railway Paribahan Sangram Samity, West Bengal, regarding nationalisation and upgradation of Bankura Damodar River Railway by gauge conversion and its extension with a view to improving passenger and freight traffic services.

15.16 hrs.

[English]

OBSERVATION RE : SUSPENSION OF RULE 331G

MR. SPEAKER: The general discussion on Railway Budget has not taken place and the discussion on General Budget remains inconclusive. In view of this, Rule 331G of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House shall have to be suspended in its application to enable the Standing Committees to consider the Demands for Grants and make their reports thereon to the House, when it reassembles on the 24th April.

Now, does the House agree with this?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: So, the House agrees with this.

[English]

RE: INCREASE IN RAILWAY FARE IN THE
SUBURBAN AREAS OF BOMBAY AND
CALCUTTA.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH):
Sir, yesterday, we had raised the issue regarding increase
in railway fare in the suburban areas of Bombay and
Calcutta. We requested the Hon. Minister that until and
unless the Budget is passed, it should not be increased
from the 1st April. I request the Minister to clarify the
position because it was not cleared yesterday and see
that it should not be increased from the 1st April.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : I understand
that the issue raised yesterday was made clear Basudev
Acharia jee, Sharad Dighe jee and myself had said
something yesterday and you asked for an explanation
from the Hon. Railway Minister and he replied something
to that and then you made some comments. All that is
on record. That day it was clarified that Rail fares will
not be increased. In the meanwhile more issues surfaced
and we were demanding that the fare of suburban trains
should not be increased, then this had become clear
and public opinion built up that fares were not going to
be increased. I understand that no one among we four
members were of the opinion that freight or AC fare
should not be increased. We had not urged upon him
to this effect. Our objective was restricted to suburban
rail fare and that it should not be increased. We have
got no objection to other fares whether increased or not.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : We have got
objection to it. Train fare should not be increased.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Yesterday, I had raised the issue
concerning the fare of suburban rails. Minister of
Railways had clarified something in that regard only. I
would like the Minister of Railway to give more
clarifications. We had demanded that there should be
no increase in the fare of Suburban trains. There must
be some clarification about it.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: No, unless and until the
report of standing committee is received, there should
be no increase in the fare of any class.

MR. SPEAKER : Wherever there are such situations
there is confusion. Yesterday also the same thing
happened and there was the problem. When so many
people speak at a time, there is always a problem. If
they speak one by one, then the Minister can replay.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): This may be the
personal opinion of Hon. Member. It is, the problem is
not only about Suburban trains. You will have to hear
opinions about both. There should not be any increase
in the fare unless and until the report of Standing
Committee is received.

MR. SPEAKER : If the fare is not increased, then

it will incur a loss of rupees 300-400 crore. Then your
Rail lines will not be completed.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : If the fare is increased,
then this will send the message in countryside that justice
is done to urbanites only, and not to the villagers
....(Interruptions)

[(English)]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, yesterday
what we wanted to know is that as the Budget is not
being passed, whether the Government is competent to
increase the freight and fare without passing the Budget.
Let me quote from what the Hon. Minister stated
yesterday in reply to the points we raised. He said :

"There is no question of raising of any fare or
price. It comes only in the next Budget."

MR. SPEAKER: You read the entire thing. You
should not inform the House partly.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Right, Sir.

The Hon. Minister said:

"We come to the Parliament for there
expenditure. So far as raising the resources
are concerned, this particular Vote on Account
and the Supplementary Grants, there is no
question of raising of any fare or price. It
comes only in the next Budget. The
opportunity is going to come before the
House..."

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, read it again.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, after that you said:
"After the Budget is passed, you will do it.
Okay, that is right."

Then Sir, you told me:

"Mr. Basudeb Acharia, now there is no point.
You should be happy about it. You should
thank him."

Sir, then you said:

"If you want to be more clear, you will be at
a disadvantage."

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: What is that
disadvantage, I want to know.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barast): Sir, here it is clear
that this thing will be finally executed after the Budget is
passed.(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have not made
my points.

Yesterday, what we demanded was that the sub-
urban passengers, the daily commuters, the season ticket
holders, second class passengers should be spared in
this Budget. But the Hon. Railway Minister has not
spared them.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. This is not a regular
speech, Mr. Basudeb Acharia, I am not allowing these
things to go on record.