

[Sh. Ram Naik]

services of a part of the financial year 1993-94, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move for introduction of the Bill,

[Translation]

14.36 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON
ACCOUNT) BILL,* 1993

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): 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 1993-94.

SHRI RAM NAIK (BOMBAY NORTH): I have given you a notice for raising a discussion on Appropriation Bill. Two issues are involved in it. The first important issue is about the limit of income tax exemption under the Income Tax Act, which is not appropriate and is painful for middle class salaried, and ordinary people. So I would suggest that income tax exemption limit should be raised upto Rs. 50 thousand and at the time of discussion on Finance Bill, the Finance Minister should accept this suggestion. If it is implemented, then I think people who like to live honestly, will get justice. I think the whole house will agree with me.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave to 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 es of a part of the financial year 1993-94."

The motion was adopted

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SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I introduce the Bill.

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

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH; I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of he Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1993-94, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the

Second point is important from the view of the Parliament Financial assistacne should be provided for carrying out small development work in every Lok Sabha constituency. I would suggest to consstitute an M.P. fund with Rs. 2 crore. With this fund the construction of lavatories, arrangement of drinking water, construction of Ashrams, schools and other small development work can be done. Mr Speaker, Sir, you may be remembering that last year also on 29th April, 1992 this was discussed with reference to the Appropriation Bill and the whole House had agreed on this point unanimously. The Prime Minister had stood up and said to all the members to listen to the Minister. He said, let the minister speak and while pointing towards himself he said.

[English]

"There is an appellate authority and that appellate authority will decide."

[Translation]

and Minister Shri Bhardwaj has also

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** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

*** Moved with the recommendation of the president.

said later..

[English]

" Now i am appealing to the appellate authority to take that decision."

[Translation]

This had happened last year. After that I wrote four letters to the Prime Minister and many other members also wrote about it. I have discussed this issue with him personally on 19th Febrary, 1993. He agreed to it and said that there should be some arrangement like this. After that, I discussed this issue with many members and they all had agreed to this proposal.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have told this House last year that there is an M.L.A. Fund of Rs. 30 lakh for every Legislative Assembly Constituency in Maharashtra. You can say it M.L.A. or M.P. Fund, but Maharashtra has provision for this type of fund to help undertake small development works. This fund is operated by the district council or D.D.C. to implement the useful suggestions.

When Maharashtra Legislative Assembly discussed this subject the whole assembly insisted to increase this amount from Rs. 30 lakh. You will be happy to know that Maharashtra Legislative Assembly has increased this amount from Rs.30 lakh to Rs.40 lakh. In Maharashtra one Lok Sabha Constituency consists of 6 Legislative Assembly Constituencies and this amount comes to Rs. 2 crores 40 lakh at the rate of Rs.40 lakh.

So I thought that it will be better if Rs. 2 crore are provided for every Lok Sabha Constituency. I would like to say that the amount of two crore seems to be a big amount but as we have passed the demands for grant of Rs. 2 lakhs 66 thousand 742 crore. with the average of Rs. 2 crores

for each 550 Lok Sabha Constituency the amount come to only Rs.1100 crore. This is 0.4 per cent of the total budget outlay. If such a small amount could be given an M.P. can get the small development work done in his constituency. Therefore, I hope that I will get support from all the M.Ps. for my demand of constituting a Consolidated Fund of Rs. 2 crore for each constituency. I hope that Finance Minister or the Planning Minister whosever is going to reply, will agree to my proposal. I seek cooperation from all of you in this regard.

[English]

SHRI INDERJIT (DARJEELING): We would like to support this suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to bring to your notice the procedure which is to be followed while discussing the Appropriation on Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (BARH): You always talk of Rules but you have unlimited powers. Whatever you say becomes the Rule.

MR. SPEAKER: We will have no problem in following Rules. What is Rule, one will come to know.

[English]

About the Appropriation Bill Whenever you want to discuss anything, you have to give a notice to the Speaker saying on what points you would like to speak which Mr. Naik has exactly followed and then you to make your statement only on those points. You cannot cover the entire thing. I will briefly allow it. But this will not be a precedent.

[Translation]

SHRINITISHKUMAR: Then you should confine to the Rules. Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year also the House had discussed this subject that M.Ps should be given powers to sanction small schemes with a fund of Rs. 2 crore. You may call it M.P. Fund or something else for your convenience. I would have not spoken after Shri Ram Naik's speech but through you I would like to remind that this House had discussed this issue last year also. I would like to raise this issue just to supplement the point made by him in his speech. Last year also when this matter was discussed Shri Ram Naik and we all of us had firmly supported it. At that time it was misunderstood by media and some members of this House that the Rs. 2 crore will be given to a M.P. People got impression that if it is done it will create a havoc. Through you I would like to remove this misgiving and make it clear that the proposed amount of Rs. 2 crore will be utilised on the schemes recommended by the M.P. on a fixed criteria and given guidelines. The responsibility to execute these schemes will be that of some Government Agency and M.P. will have no 'say'; as to who should execute it. As it has no vested interest, as there is no special person or agency to be appointed by the Member for the execution of this work. No member would be involved directly in the appointment of agency or in specifying the funds. He has to recommend schemes only, that also under a prescribed criteria, which will be laid down by the Government. This procedure has been adopted by not only Maharashtra but by many other States also. In my home State Bihar also this procedure has been adopted. There on the recommendations of the M.L.As schemes upto Rs. 3 lakh can be implemented and roads upto 5 km. can be constructed. On recommendations by M.Ps schemes upto Rs. 4 lakh can be implemented in their constituencies and M.Ps have been given the power to recommend the construction of

roads upto 10 km. in rural areas. This procedure has been followed in the past too and this has been supported by all the honourable members of all the political parties.'

Through you, I would like to point out that in our Parliamentary democracy our M.Ps are not involved in any way with the process of development. I do not think that it is a matter of discussion that an M.P., who is elected by approximately 10 lakh people should have his 'say' or not in the matter of development or he should be accountable or not. We have direct responsibility in the matter. We raise such issues in the Parliament. Though we are not legally accountable for all this yet, it has become a practice that we should write letters regarding the problems of people in our constituency. You have done a good thing by introducing the committee system. M.Ps should also be made more and more accountable. We do not want to have any executive power but in the matters of development M.Ps and M.L.As should have their 'say'. Whosoever may be in the Government but as M.Ps are sent to the Parliament by the Public through elections they are supposed to look after the development matters and welfare of their voters, I would like to submit through you that M.Ps should have some 'say' in the development work of their constituencies.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (KOTTAYAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, M.Ps have no 'say' in the developmental activities of their constituency. Ram Naik ji had raised this matter earlier also. Today in the meeting of Congress Parliamentary party some members also raised this matter. The Prime Minister informed the members there that this proposal has been accepted. Whosoever is in Government, it has become a precedent that nobody bothers about M.Ps or gives them importance. In Kerala, we have Congress Government but the Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly has made M.L.As superior to the M.Ps. In the

programmes or functions organised in Kerala the M.Ps. can deliver speech but those meetings are presided over by M.L.As only in no development programme M.Ps have any say. We can do nothing for our voters That is why I submit that there is no need to give Rs. 2 crore in our hand. Some scheme should be evolved for this. Or this work should be entrusted to some agency We will make suggestions and various works should be carried out on the basis of our suggestions. The idea is that there should be some contribution by the hon. Members in the development activities so that we can instill a sense of justice in the minds of our electorate.

SHRI SHARD YADAV (Madhepura):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a brief submission in regard to the proposal made by Shri Ram Naik that there is awakening among people, but we are not conscious of it. We do not know what our duty is. When people come to us for their work we cut a sorry figure. When we go to our constituencies we see that very little work has been done. People are dying of thirst. For this we write letters for months together. Then only one out of hundred grievances are redressed. These are very minor things but the elected representatives do not think about their day.

This is such a big Budget and the allocation on this items accounts for 0.4 per cent only. The hon. Minister of finance is present here, I would like to submit that the problems of M.Ps are increasing. The position of MLAs is much better which is not a bad thing. The state Government have allotted development activities in their hands and it is running well. The Government should come to the rescue of hon. Members by helping them to get the work done through Government agencies.

If you go through past figures, it will be

clear that an M.P. does not get re-elected from a constituency. 90 per cent of work is related to people.

If there is some emotional attachment it is a different thing. The thing is that we cannot attend to people's small works. That is why people go against us. Through you, I would like to say that it is a very serious matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody need not speak. Even without your speaking, you know, the unanimity and the consensus is quite visible. Mr. Chetan Chauhan, one minute please.

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN (Amroha): Sir, just two minutes. I was not in politics. But for two years I have been here. The people in our constituencies do not understand it. They think we are Members of Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not repeat. You say that you endorse the statements made by the previous speakers.

SHRI P.S. CHETAN CHAUHAN: We have to depend on the MLAs. We have to depend on the District Magistrates for any work to be done.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): Mr. Speaker. I strongly support the suggestions made..

MR. SPEAKER: Very good. Mr. Lokanath Choudhury.

SHRI INDER JIT: Sir, let me complete. You have been good enough to bring the Television cameras into this House. Now, we are posed to make history by introducing the Committee system. It is something that many of us crusaded for. But please help the MPs to be more effective. In my State of West Bengal, even where railway works are being done, the MP has no say. Our people are not getting any work done. And everything goes only to the Communist - Marxist - cadre. So, we should have an opportunity to do something.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Speakers, Sir, this proposal came once when Prof. Madhu Dandavate was the Finance Minister and I proposed it. I opposed it from the point of view that if money goes to the MPs, it will be something different. Since we are going to have the centralised administration, it is better that the MPs should be involved at different levels.

My experience of the last three is that even the Orissa Government, whom our party supported, have taken a view in District Development Boards that no suggestion of the MP should be accepted. This is my experience.

MR. SPEAKER: What did you say?

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: No suggestion of the MP will be accepted. Only the MLA's list of works would be considered. Even if we feel that there is some necessity for some work to give some relief to the people, we are helpless. Under these circumstances, the proposal that has come is quite a practical one. It will be helpful to the MPs to keep themselves in touch with the masses.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): I rise to support the Resolution brought by Shri Ram Naik. Today even a Gram Pradhan has been given funds at Panchayat level. (Interruptions) A Gram Pradhan gets at least Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 lakh for carrying out various developmental works in the Panchayat through the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are a lot of business. Please do not do so. It has to go to the other House also.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs knows that there are certain backward areas in the States where junior administrative officers do not go. If small projects are launched in these areas through M.P.'s there will no room for any complaints. This will ensure development in the area. The people should know that the members of Parliament enjoy same status. I support the Resolution brought by Shri Ram Naik.

[English]

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, in Kerala, MLAs are given one Secretary from Government to assist in their work. Let us also have this facility of one Secretary to help in our work.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you like to respond Mr. Minister?

(Interruptions)

ONE HON. MEMBER: Respond positively please!

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR

(Mangalore) I have just one point. Otherwise, I would not have stood up. I am standing with the fond hope that you would also agree to these suggestions. I say this because you also represent a constituency. You may give a direction to the Government.

MR SPEAKER Please sit down.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH) I respect the sentiments expressed by the hon. Members. But we have to look at the financial implications of the proposals. As a minimum, these proposals would cost roughly Rs. 1150 crore to the Central Budget. Also, I would respectfully submit that these are issues of Central and State relationship. Apart from that, a practical issue is, where will the money come from? The Central Government every year gives certain sum of money in support of the assistance for State plans. Those allocations have already been made. Even then, I would suggest that this is a matter which the Planning Commission should examine in depth. The State Governments will have to be consulted. So, at this stage, I would request hon. Members not to press their demands. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR SPEAKER Please sit down. The Minister of Finance has seen that Members from both sides are unanimous on this matter. (Interruptions) Please listen first. There are some obstacles which would have to be sorted out first. The Central Government does not have any machinery at district and village levels through which it could implement these programmes. (Interruptions) Please listen. If someone is helping, we should understand how he is helping. Their problem is how to get the work done. Therefore, we will

request the hon. Minister of Finance to discuss the matter with the State Government and Planning Commission and find out some solution.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER They will have to do because the machinery is theirs.

(Interruptions)

15.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) I can show the way, Sir. One circular is sufficient.

MR SPEAKER Please understand that if there were a machinery under you, the condition would have been different.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune) This has been agreed to in principle.

[Translation]

MR SPEAKER Please let me complete. Please do not do it. They have to find out the ways and means for allocating this huge amount. We shall sit together and think over it and then do it.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER When the rules are not followed such discussions take place.

SHRI RAM NAIK (North Bombay) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate you on your observation. You have observed that the matter would be discussed later. It seems that some way out can be found and

[Sh Ram Naik]

as you said

MR SPEAKER I will call you also We will do it afterwards Please leave it now

[English]

SHRIN SUNDERARAJ (Pudukkottai) Sir the District Development Agencies are under the Central Government and that could be the agency for implementing the programme

MR SPEAKER This is not sufficient We will take it

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR He is absolutely right An agency already exists there If the allocation for the JRY is to be increased it is only a matter of a circular

[English]

MR SPEAKER 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 1993-94 be taken into consideration

The motion was adopted

MR SPEAKER We shall 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

MR SPEAKER The question is

" That the schedule Clause 1, enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill "

The motion was adopted

The Schedule, Clause 1 Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill

MR SPEAKER The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed

THE FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH) Sir, I beg to move

' That the Bill be passed "

MR SPEAKER The question is

"That the Bill be passed "

The motion was adopted

15.02 hrs

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1993 *

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the consolidated Fund of India for the year 1992-93

MR SPEAKER The question is