

14.22 1/2 hrs.

EXTENSION OF SITTINGS OF THE  
HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) Sir I have to make two important announcements (*Interruptions*)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Let there be order in the House Hon Minister is on his legs Let us hear him please

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA Sir the Business Advisory Committee of the Lok Sabha has decided and we have accepted that recommendation to extend the sittings of the House from 7th May to 14th May because lot of important Government business and legislative business is pending and we will not be able to finish it before 7th

The second announcement is that the Prime Minister in pursuance of his promise given will meet the MPs from Bihar and Madhya Pradesh at 5 p m today to discuss the drought situation in those two States

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) Sir I want to know from the Parliamentary Affairs Minister that now is it the final programme because it causes a lot of inconvenience to us If it is final that the extension will be only up to 14th of May and not further please let us know finally

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA Sir there was a general consensus in the Committee that it should be extended up to 14th of May In case for some unforeseen reasons it becomes necessary then we may with the consent of the Business Advisory Committee sit on the following Saturday also But we shall try with the cooperation of the entire House not to go beyond 14th 14th is the outside limit but we have said that in

case anything unforeseen happens and we have to sit on Saturday, then we might consider that But beyond 15th it will not go in any case

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV Sir, I wanted to have one more information from the Parliamentary Affairs Minister There is President's rule in five States In Uttar Pradesh I can say with full Knowledge - that really speaking there is uncontrolled bureaucracy-ruling in that State The law and order situation is deteriorating every day Earlier there was a precedent that whenever the President's rule was imposed, there used to be an advisory committee of Members of Parliament from that State I want to know from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs about it The Government is neither declaring that they will hold early elections nor they are saying anything Therefore I will request that either the Government should take a decision for early election or they should appoint such committees This is my submission

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA This has already been announced in the House It has been done What the hon Member is asking for has already been announced

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) Sir you have decided to work for seven days more We will do that work My question is we should have the right to ask questions That chance should be given and it should be circulated so that we can ask questions to the Government Those seven days should include question hour

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA You can do that Ten days notice is required

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Regarding this hon Speaker will apply his mind and decide

SHRI RAM NAIK Sir before the House is closed today we should be told of this

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Let us see Shall we take up Matters under Rule 377?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, let us start with reply by the Railway Minister.

business before us. The hon. Minister may reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): Sir, the Minister of Railways has to go to other House also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. We will take up the reply.

14.26 hrs

RAILWAY BUDGET 1993-94 GENERAL DISCUSSION;

RESOLUTION RE. THIRD REPORT OF RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE;

"DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1993-94

AND

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1992-93 -  
*CONTD.*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF). Sir, before I begin, I would request the cooperation of the Members of the House because my throat is not well and I may not be able to speak....

PROF. PREMDHUMAL (Hamirpur): But you can announce certain sweet concessions

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU): You spoke yesterday also. Please sit down

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Why not? He is requesting our cooperation. We are requesting for announcing of certain packages.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us not unnecessarily interfere. Let us complete the

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who participated in this debate for 15 hours till 6.20 a.m. this morning. And you yourself were also kind enough to be with us and preside over the House. There is one unique feature which I found earlier also I had the opportunity of listening to the Budget debate in the House. Generally the presiding officer, the Members who want to speak and the Minister concerned used to be there in the House. But it was something different yesterday. I found a lot of interest from the Members who took lot of interest in the debate and made very valuable contribution. I am really happy and grateful to them

There has been some criticism about the proposed hike in fares and freight rates and also about withdrawal of exemption from freight increases given in the past in respect of foodgrains, sugar, diesel and oil cake. I am of the firm conviction that an increase in fares and freight rates without corresponding improvement in the productivity and efficiency of the system will be unacceptable. It is only with a view to take the productivity of the railway system to the desired level that action plans have been launched from year to year and so far we have, as a result of relentless efforts of the railway men, been able to achieve improvement in the operating ratio. The operating ratio which was 92 per cent in 1990-91 came down to 89.5 per cent in 1991-92 and is expected to be around 87 per cent in 1992-93. In 1993-94 the operating ratio is anticipated to be about 83 per cent.

Even after efforts to reduce the operating expenses and augment earnings, some increases in fares and freight rates have become inescapable due to a variety of reasons. There is an all round increase in the cost of inputs like petroleum products, steel, electricity tariff, additional dearness allowance, additional lease charges to Indian Railway Finance Corporation etc.