

[Shri A.B.A. Ghani Khan Chaudhuri]

the other questions of the Hon. Member are concerned I have already replied to them.

13.10 hrs.

PETITION *RE* PARITY IN RATES OF PROPERTY TAX LEVIED BY DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AND BY NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE

DR. KARAN SINGH (Udhampur): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri H.D. Shourie and others regarding parity in rate of property tax levied by Delhi Municipal Corporation with the rate of property tax levied by New Delhi Municipal Committee.

13.12 hrs.

STATEMENT *RE*-RAILWAY FINANCIAL MATTERS

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI KEDAR PANDEY): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House will recall that while presenting the Budget Estimates for 1981-82 I had assumed that the Railway would carry 215 million tonnes of revenue earning traffic, 20 million tonnes more than what was carried during the last year. I had also assumed a growth of 3% in non-suburban passenger traffic and 6% in suburban passenger traffic.

The House will be glad to know that to the end of October, 1981, as a result of continuing improvement in operations, the Railways have already carried 17.69 million tonnes of originating revenue earning traffic more than that carried during the corresponding period of last year. With the busy season ahead, I have every

hope that by the end of the financial year the Railways will not only achieve the target of 215 million tonnes of originating revenue earning traffic but also improve on this target. In fact, this would be the highest ever loading achieved by the Indian Railways. This great leap forward which the Railways have taken in the movement of goods has been acknowledged in all quarters. The expected buoyancy in passenger traffic has also come about.

The House will agree with me that the health of rail transport, which forms the basic infra-structure for the growth of our national economy, has to be nursed carefully and continuously. Any complacency can have disastrous consequences. The rolling stock has to be maintained efficiently. The railway track has to be kept in good shape, as also other connected operating and structural assets. Every possible endeavour is being made to improve safety and punctuality on Railways. (*Interruptions*)

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : यह बात नहीं है, हम अभी आये हैं।

श्री केदार पाण्डे : कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

Unfortunately, notwithstanding the economy measures taken and special steps having been taken to control expenditure by way of entrusting the job exclusively to an Additional General Manager on each railway, certain unforeseen post-budgetary factors have adversely affected the railway finances. Two additional dearness allowance instalments recently sanctioned to staff coupled with steep increase in cost of petroleum products including diesel oil, steel and other inputs etc., have thrown heavy financial burden on the Railways. The aggregate financial impact of all these post-budgetary factors including the additional expenditure to carry additional traffic materialising would add

upto around Rs. 245 crores. This additional burden to our working expenses has been assessed keeping in view the vigorous measures initiated by the Railways to achieve economies and control over expenditure.

With the best of efforts, the Railways expect to earn additional earnings of Rs. 170 crores from goods, passenger and other coaching traffic, over and above the Budget Estimates for 1981-82. This would still leave a gap of nearly Rs. 75 crores to be bridged. With a view to keeping railway finances on an even keel and to retain the small net surplus of Rs. 8.42 crores (after appropriating Rs. 38.47 crores for expenditure chargeable to Development Fund and deducting the value of concessions announced while winding up the general debate), I have with great reluctance, decided that this quantum of deficit should be made up by mobilising additional resources for the Railways, Adjustments in the present level of freight rates for goods traffic have, therefore, become unavoidable.

It has, therefore, been decided that with effect from 1-1-1982 there will be additional supplementary charge leviable as follows on the total freight in respect of goods traffic, both wagon-loads and smalls:—

- (i) For distances upto and in-clusive of 500 K.Ms. 10%
- (ii) For distances beyond 500 K.Ms. 15%

The supplementary charge will also be leviable in respect of freight charges arrived at minimum charge, wherever leviable. A supplementary charge at 10% will also be leviable on transhipment and other miscellaneous charges.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (New Delhi): I rise on a point of order, Sir. May I know whether the Speaker has scrutinised the State-

ment which is now being made by the Hon. Railway Minister? How can he increase the freight rates and impose a surcharge by just making such a statement in the House? How can he come to the House like this and make this kind of a statement increasing the surcharge?

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV (Azamgarh): I am sure, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that you are aware of the Rules, of the House.

Sir, this is not a ordinary Statement of a Minister. It has got serious financial implications. I do not remember any time in this House when any Minister—either Finance Minister or Railway Minister—but just making a statement, raised the rates and surcharge. At least, I do not know of any such case. It is the House which has to approve these two budgets, that is, the General Budget and the Railway Budget. I don't remember any time in the House when a simple statement by a Minister has increased either the Railway fare or the charges of freight. This can come only in the Supplementary Budget or the General Budget. If the Minister really wanted to increase the rates, if he was short of funds, then, he should have come with a Supplementary Budget before the House.

Sir, the General Budget will be placed before the House just 2 months later, again in February, when the House will meet. There will be both Railway Budget and General Budget coming up. This is the time when the Minister should come with these provisions so that the House will have an opportunity to discuss and decide on these proposals. Therefore, I would say that you please ask the Hon. Minister to withdraw the statement because it involves serious financial implications. If you are allowing him to make the statement, then I would like to know under what rule this financial statement is being

[Shri Chandrajit Yadav]

made. I would like to know whether the House will have a full opportunity to discuss this statement. My first point is: Under what rule you are allowing him to make this statement? My Second point is: whether the House will have an opportunity to discuss this statement. I condemn it. This is a very wrong procedure. The people are taken for a ride like this. You come here with a statement and increase the freight.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him complete the statement.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : I would like to know your ruling. I am raising a point of order and I am objecting to his making this statement involving financial implications.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The point raised by you will be examined.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : No, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please hear his statement. The Speaker has given the permission. Therefore, he must be allowed to make his statement.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : Under what rule the permission has been given, I would like to know. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KEDAR PANDEY : The additional supplementary charge will be on the rounded off total charges as at present leviable and further rounding off, after adding additional supplementary charge, will be as per the existing rules.

It is also proposed to levy a supplementary charge of 3% for traffic booked on "To pay basis". I am however, add that where charges are

paid at the time of booking, this supplementary charge will not be levied.

I do not propose to make any adjustments in the passenger fares. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : Sir, you are in the Chair. I have raised a point of order and you must give your ruling.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Speaker has given the permission. Let him complete his statement.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : I am now on a point of order. You say that my point of order is not in order...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, your point of order is not in order.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : Sir, is that your ruling ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, that is my ruling. Let him complete his statement. Let the Minister complete his statement. I will not stop him in the middle.

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR (Gwalior) : Will you please follow the rules, Sir ? The rule says that the statement may be made on a matter of public importance. But here the budget proposals are being modified. How can this be brought forward like this here ? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him complete his statement.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULKAR (Ratnagiri) : As soon as the statement is over, are you going to allow us to make our points on this ? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He must be allowed to complete his statement. The statement has been approved by the Speaker.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: After the Hon. Minister has made the statement, will you please allow us to seek clarification on various points? Otherwise, he will go after making his statement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: If you allow him to make a statement like this, tomorrow the Finance Minister may come to the House and make another statement like this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete his statement. The statement has been approved by the Speaker.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULKAR: What will happen after completing his statement, we do not know. This is the time for us to ask him for clarification.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not allow any of you now.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULKAR: Sir, you may kindly refer to Rule 372. Kindly read it out.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: This is a very unprecedented thing. I have never seen anything happening like this before.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I do not want to read the context of the statement. Do you mean to say that the Speaker has allowed the statement to be made by the Minister without considering the rule?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULKAR: Under what rule he has allowed this statement?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: This is not an ordinary statement. It involves serious financial implications. How can he approve of this statement?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you please continue your statement.....I have already told you that you please hear his statement first.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULKAR: Will you allow us to ask questions after his statement?.....

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You continue your statement.....You hear him first, then you will be satisfied.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULKAR: I am on a point of order. I want a clarification. Under what rules, is the Hon. Minister permitted to make a statement? Is it in consonance with the rules?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under Rule 372.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULKAR: That does not apply to financial matters.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has got the permission of the Speaker to make this statement under Rule 372.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Can you quote a single instance of a statement like this?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Speaker has permitted him; now he will make the statement.

SHRI KEDAR PANDEY: The financial effect of these adjustments from 1st January 1982 would be around Rs. 80,00 crores in the remaining part of the current financial year. The Hon. Members would appreciate that I have tried to mobilise only that much additional resources, which will cover the gap between additional receipts and additional expenditure.

I am also placing on the Table of the House a Memorandum explaining the proposals for adjustments in freight rates as outlined by me above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3035/81]. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have requested you umpteen times. Let him complete the statement.....I have understood your feelings. Let him complete the statement. You will be satisfied. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Will you listen to us after that ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right ; I will see to that.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR : Whether you are there or the Hon. Speaker is there, it is the same for us. The scope has to be there as it is provided in the rules. Even if he is permitted to make a statement under Rule 372 by the Hon. Speaker, we have every right to challenge it and raise a point of order. We may say that the statement is not under Rule 372, and if it is beyond that, we should object to it, and we should not allow that. We are objecting to it. It is a matter with financial implications. You cannot allow that. You cannot shut us out by saying that because the Speaker has allowed

this, we cannot raise a point of order. We are raising a point of order. Anything regarding financial matters cannot be brought here in the form of a statement under Rule 372. This is my point of order.....(*Interruptions*). Please decide.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please wait.....I have already asked you to wait till the statement is over. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: It is not a simple statement. It has serious financial implications and there are procedures for increasing fares etc.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE: And in the statement he has claimed better performance by the railways and he is imposing new burdens on the people.....(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete the statement and you will be satisfied.

SHRI KEDAR PANDEY: Supplementary Demands for Grants covering the major portion of the additional expenditure necessitated by post-budgetary factors will be presented to the House during this session, leaving the balance to be adjusted through the Revised Estimates to be presented to the House in the Budget Session. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The last portion of the statement is:

“Supplementary Demands for Grants covering the major portion of the additional expenditure necessitated by post-budgetary factors will be presented to the House during this session, leaving the balance to be adjusted through the Revised Estimates to be presented to the House in the Budget Session”. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: It cannot be like that. Will you please listen to me. I want a clarification.....(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: However, the points raised by you will be examined by the Speaker. (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We are going to protest. We want to register our protest..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The points raised by you will be examined.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: What will be examined? I want to ask one simple question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you not seen the last sentence?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Last sentence has no meaning. It will come into effect from 1st January and the Supplementary Budget will come later.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is placing for the information of the House. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMAVIAR SHASTRI: (Patna): When is Supplementary Budget going to come? (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will be examined by us. Yes, it will be examined by us.

[Shri Chandrajit Yadav, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and some other Hon. Members then left the House].

13.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-eight minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair].

MAITERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF FIREWORKS ON THE OCCASION OF DIWALI AND OTHER FESTIVALS.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN (Chandni Chowk): Several hundred tonnes of fire-works go up in smoke and crores of rupees are spent on crackers, etc., during our festivals, especially Dewali. It not only results in scores of avoidable fires and accidents but the air also becomes heavy with toxic fumes leading to allergic, respiratory and eye diseases. It is feudal in character. Children are particularly vulnerable to accidents and at times it becomes the cause for communal harmony. It is, therefore, urged that the Government should take positive steps towards avoiding this colossal waste and stop the use of fire works or enforce stricter regulations on the licensing, sale and use of crackers and other fire works.

(ii) MODERNISATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES FOR THE COAL FIELDS IN ORISSA.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack): Orissa accounts for 2.7 per cent of the total production of coal in the country. The reserves of coal in Talcher and Ib valley coal fields which together constitute the largest non-cocking coal in the country have been estimated to be of the order of 35,000 million tonnes. Unfortunately, the development of coal in Orissa has not been given due attention by the Government.

Talcher Coal field is under the administrative control of Central Coal-fields Ltd., Ranchi and Ib Valley are under the administrative control of