

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at six Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

RE: CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESS COMMISSION

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North-East): Sir, I rise on a point of order under rule 376. This House is in session, but the constitution of the Press Commission has been announced outside the House. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here very conveniently. This House should have been told first about the constitution of the Press Commission. But we saw it in the papers. This means that Parliament is being devalued. I do not think it is the Government's intention, but please ask them about it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I suggest that you raise this during zero hour tomorrow.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: It will be too late tomorrow. Why don't you ask the Government to say something?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to reply, he would have already got up. (Interruptions). You should have given notice of this.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): I have noted the observation. I will communicate it to the Minister concerned.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): It is a matter for the whole House to be exercised about. You should pull them up.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Is it fair to the House that when the House is in session, such an important announcement is made outside? (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have made a proper protest and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has already replied. You must expect a reply from the Minister concerned. Therefore, you should give them also some time. I hope you are satisfied now. Now, we will take up the subject proper, that is, Railway Budget. Mr. Satyanarayan Rao, I would request you to kindly cooperate. From the ruling party there are still 26 hon. members who want to speak and the time at their disposal is only 1 or 1½ hours.

SHRI M. SATYANARAYANA RAO (Karimnagar): I will try to conclude within the time-limit.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I request the other hon. members also to kindly cooperate with the Chair.

14.08 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1980-81—
GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd

SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO (Karimnagar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to congratulate Panditji for presenting a balanced Railway Budget which is neither deficit nor so much surplus. He has tried his level best to raise sufficient resources to meet the demands of various regions like laying of new lines, conversion of metergauge into broadgauge, renewal of track, etc. etc. For this purpose, naturally, there will be some increase in passenger fares and freight. But to criticise that he has raised passenger fares and freight rates is unjustified and unreasonable. Only for the sake of criticism, they are criticising. Without money, there cannot be any development whether it is the Railway or anything. Naturally, he has tried his level best to raise these resources. This is why, this increase is justified.