(vii) PROBLEM OF JUNIOR ENGINEERS OF C.P.W.D.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS (Tripura West): Under Rule 377 I make a statement.

The Junior Engineers of CPDW are representing 75 per cent of the engineers of the department. They are recruited through All India competitive examinations with the qualification of degree or diploma in Engineering. Previously they used to get promotion within 10 years but due to huge stagnation they are not getting a single promotion now even after 22-23 years. At present there is no scope of getting any financial relief and even no selection grade in the absence of promotion in the next grade. In fact after 16-17 years of service they stagnate till the date of retirement. Although the duties and responsibilities of Junior Engineers are much more higher, they have been equated in the pay scale along with the Draftman. For the last twelve years they are approaching appropriate authorities for mitigation of their grievences without any result whatsoever. This is the position when a number of promotional posts, selection grade posts and permanent posts are lying vacant.

Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Government to initiate moves in order to sole the long standing problemes of the Junior Engineers. I also demand that the Minister concerned make a statement in the House enunciating the policies of the Government in this matter.

13 10 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch at ten minutes past Forteen of the Clock.

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The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at ten minutes past Forteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

GENERAL BUDGET 1982-83— GENERAL DISCUSSION

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: General Discussion on the General Budget for 1982-83. Time allotted—16 hours. Shri Sunil Maitra (CPM). Your Party has been allotted 52 minutes. There are two names, Sarvashri Sunil Maitra and Satyasadhan Chakraborty.

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA (Calcutta North East): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it has been stipulated that on the last working day in the month of February each year, the Budget of the Union Government should be placed before the Lok Sabha. For the last three or four years, we have been witnessing this phenomenon, novel phenomenon that the Budget in onelump, in one whole is not presented to the Lok Sabha. Instead a particular pattern is being sought to be evolved, specially after this Government came back to power, since 1980 the budget is presented in instalments.

Now, in regard to the budget proposals put forward by the Finance Minister, we are called upon to discuss the budget and vote for additional levies. as he put it in his Budget Speech, to the tune of Rs. 537 crores, but as I go along, I would try to make out that actually it amounted to Rs. 622.86 crores.

Then, if you take, for example the latest price hike in respect of petrol and petroleum products that the Government of India announced on 11th July, 1981, it will have to be borne by the people of this country in the form of additional payment of Rs. 1.070 crores. But the amount of Rs. 1,070 crores which has gone in the form of price hike on petrol and petroleum products is no within the pale of discussion of budget proposals. You take another example. In June, 1980, the Government raised the price of petrol and petroleum products, costing the people Rs. 2,080 crores. Again, in January, 1981, another price hike in respect of petrol and petroleum products was announced and the people had to pay for that price hike