

12 hrs.

STATEMENT re. COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL'S (DUTIES, POWERS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT ORDINANCE AND DEPARTMENTALISATION OF UNION ACCOUNTS (TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL) ORDINANCE

MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by (1) the Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Amendment Ordinance, 1976 and (2) the Departmentalisation of Union Accounts (Transfer of Personnel) Ordinance, 1976.

12.02 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 1976-77—GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd.

MR. SPEAKER: We now resume further general discussion on the Budget (General) for 1976-77. The Finance Minister.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, At the outset, I would like to express my grateful thanks to the hon Members who had participated in the debate. On the whole, 70 Members have spoken on the budget, including the two Ministers who had intervened—57 on this side and 13 from the Opposition. I do not think that anybody would say that I am exaggerating if I say that this budget has been generally welcomed by the country. And the debate here also generally reflected the mood of the country with regard to this budget, even though there were certain political over-tones with regard to the criticism made by some hon. Members on the other side and this side, as well. The initiator of the debate had stated that my budget is based on faith, hope and charity, if I

remember the terms correctly. Certainly, this is not based on charity, to any extent; but certainly, it is based on faith and hope—but not on the people he had mentioned, but on a completely different set of people. This budget is based on the new atmosphere that has been created by the promulgation of the Emergency. Then, there is the qualitative difference that has come about in the functioning of the various organisations, industrial, business, Government etc. in the country. This budget presupposes the continuance of these conditions. If there should be any disruption and again the old chaotic conditions come into existence, certainly the basis on which this budget has been framed will fall to the ground. But, I am sure, this House would agree that no such catastrophe would be allowed to happen.

The second set of people on whom I have reposed my faith and hope is the workers of this country. Of all the sections of the community, the section which responded in an excellent and splendid manner was the working class. If today there is better industrial performance, both in the public sector and, to a certain extent, in the private sector also, it is mainly because of the contribution which the worker has made in this field. Today if steel production is at a record level, certainly the workers can take legitimate pride for that contribution. The production of electricity has increased, as also the production of fertiliser. I am hoping that this new discipline and the new atmosphere in the industrial relations would continue.

I know that certain section of the trade union leadership is not quite happy about this state of affairs. Unfortunately, in the trade union movement also a certain amount of vested interest has come into existence. Just like landlordism in agriculture, labour-lordism has come into existence. My hope is, just as we want to remove landlordism, this labour-lord-