

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

Tuesday November 12, 1974/Kartika  
21, 1828 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### WELCOME TO THE ROMANIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. members,  
at the outset, I have to make an  
announcement.

On my on behalf and on behalf of  
the hon. members of the House, I  
have great pleasure in welcoming  
His Excellency Prof. Dr. Nicolae  
Ciocan, Chairman of the Grand National  
Assembly of the Socialist Republic  
of Romania and the hon.  
members of the Romanian Parli-  
amentary Delegation who are on a  
visit to India as our honoured guests.

The delegation arrived this morn-  
ing and will be in India for four  
days. We wished them to stay for a  
longer period in our country, but  
owing to their other engagements it  
has not possible for them to stay here  
for more than four days. This is too  
short a stay, but we shall try our best  
to include in their programme as  
many things as possible, doing our  
best not to tire them. They are now  
seated in the Special Box. We wish  
them a happy and fruitful stay in  
our country. Through them we con-  
vey our greetings and best wishes to  
their Grand National Assembly, Go-  
vernment and the people of the So-  
cialist Republic of Romania.

2394 LS-1

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Withdrawal of concession in Freight  
Rates

\*21. SHRI S. R. DAMANI:

SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board  
has proposed to withdraw the con-  
cessions in the freight rates now ex-  
tended to several export items;

(b) if so, the salient features  
thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Commerce  
Ministry to these proposals?

### THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) a. d  
(b): Yes Sir, It has been decided  
to withdraw freight concession al-  
lowed hitherto in respect of all com-  
modities booked to Ports for export  
except iron ore and manganese ore.

(c) The Ministry of Commerce  
have suggested reconsideration of the  
decision.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI: The hon.  
Minister has taken this decision at a  
time when there is keen competition  
in foreign markets. On the one hand,  
our costs are going up and, on the  
other hand, there is keen competition.  
At this time, the freight concession  
has been withdrawn. How much  
will it yield? It will yield only about  
Rs. 4 crores. In this connection, a  
Committee consisting of senior offi-  
cers of the Ministry of Commerce  
and the Ministry of Railways was to  
be set up to discuss and find out the