

[Shri Khadilkar]

So many countries have failed in this. They failed to accommodate that social urge within the political framework and, therefore, they have several difficulties; the collapse of the democratic framework was one of them. The credit for realising this social necessity goes to this Government. Those who are dispassionate students of history, while analysing the social force behind it will admit that this Government has successfully contained this social urge within a democratic framework and made democracy a viable thing. That has stabilised here. I say it with greater confidence."

I would, therefore, urge that without in anyway disturbing or weakening the democratic framework, we should all strive to achieve our social objective.

Once again, Sir, I thank all hon. Members of all sections of the House those who are present in the House, and I assure them that I will try to protect the rights and privileges of hon. Members individually as well as of the House collectively, as is expected of me.

I thank you.

12.54 hrs.

**BUDGET (RAILWAYS)—DEMANDS\* FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT, 1967-68 AND DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS, (RAILWAYS), 1966-67**

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up the budget of the railways, the Demands for Grants on Account, and the Supplementary Demand for Grants—items 14, 15 and 16 of the Order Paper, all together. Anyway, by this evening we shall finish all the demands and put the guillotine at about 5.30.

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): Sir, may I with your permission, make a few observations?

In moving the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the current year and the Demands for Grants 'on-account' for the next year, I would like to submit that the extra requirements for Revenue Working Expenses during the current year have been reduced from Rs. 30.28 crores as printed in the book of supplementary demands to Rs. 26.92 crores, as shown in the amended notice circulated to the House. This has been done on the basis of the latest assessment of expenditure to be accounted for in the current financial year received from Railways at the end of last week. Similarly, the supplementary demand for withdrawal from the Pension Fund has also been reduced by 5.79 lakhs, from 42.41 lakhs to 36.62 lakhs, in view of the latest estimates received from Accountant General who disburse the pensions. I am, however, not reducing the figure of the demand for withdrawal from the Revenue Reserve Fund to meet the deficit, because it seems now that the increase of 4½ to 5 million tonnes in traffic during the year which I had mentioned in my Budget Speech is not likely to materialise. Loadings last month have been nearly three quarters of a million tonnes less than in February, 1966 and the figures for the first ten days of March also have not been very promising. On the basis of the latest information hardly 4 million tonnes of additional traffic is likely to be moved this year and, therefore, there might be a further shortfall of 3 to 4 crores even on the lower figure of goods earnings shown in the White Paper. I am hoping, however, that the deficit will not increase beyond the figure of 15.27 crores now proposed to be with-

\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

drawn from the Revenue Reserve Fund.

With these words, I request the House to support the Demands.

**DEMAND No. 1—RAILWAY BOARD**

Mr Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,99,000 be granted to the President, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1968, in respect of 'Railway Board'."

**DEMAND No. 2—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,13,000 be granted to the President, on account for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1968, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure'."

**DEMAND No. 3—PAYMENTS TO WORKED LINES AND OTHERS**

Mr Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,49,000 be granted to the President, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1968, in respect of 'Payments to worked lines and others'."

**DEMAND No. 4—WORKING EXPENSES—ADMINISTRATION**

Mr Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,18,38,000 be granted to the President, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1968, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Administration'."

**DEMAND No. 5—WORKING EXPENSES—REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 67,79,32,000 be granted to the President, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1968 in respect of 'Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance'."

**DEMAND No. 6—WORKING EXPENSE—OPERATING STAFF**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 43,25,66,000 be granted to the President, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1968, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Operating Staff'."

**DEMAND No. 7—WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION (FUEL)**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,75,82,000 be granted to the President, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1968, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)'."

**DEMAND No. 8—WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION OTHER THAN STAFF AND FUEL**

Mr Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,52,79,000 be granted to the President, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1968, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Operation other than Staff and Fuel'."

**DEMAND No. 9—WORKING EXPENSES—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,64,74,000 be granted to the President, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the

[Mr. Speaker]

31st day of March, 1968 in respect of 'Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses'."

**DEMAND No. 10—WORKING EXPENSES—  
STAFF WELFARE**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,39,36,000 be granted to the President, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1968 in respect of 'Working Expenses—Staff Welfare'."

**DEMAND No. 11—WORKING EXPENSES—  
APPROPRIATION TO DEPRECIATION  
RESERVED FUND**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,00,02,000 be granted to the President, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1968 in respect of 'Working Expenses—Appropriation to Depreciation Reserve Fund'."

**DEMAND No. 11-A—WORKING EXPENSES—  
APPROPRIATION TO PENSION  
FUND**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,01,67,000 be granted to the President, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during a year ending on the 31st day of March, 1968 in respect of 'Working Expenses—Appropriation to Pension Fund'."

**DEMAND No. 12—DIVIDEND TO GENERAL  
REVENUES**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,00,00,000 be granted to the President, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1968 in respect of 'Dividend to General Revenues'."

**DEMAND No. 13—OPEN LINE WORKS  
(REVENUE)**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,75,00,000 be granted to the President, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1968 in respect of 'Open Line Works (Revenue)'."

**DEMAND No. 14—CONSTRUCTION OF  
NEW LINES**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,70,90,000 be granted to the President, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1968 in respect of 'Construction of New Lines'."

**DEMAND No. 15—OPEN LINE WORKS—  
CAPITAL, DEPRECIATION RESERVE  
FUND AND DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,78,44,75,000 be granted to the President, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1968 in respect of 'Open Line Works—Capital, Depreciation Reserve Fund and Development Fund'."

**DEMAND No. 16—PENSIONARY CHARGES  
—PENSION FUND**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,37,69,000 be granted to the President, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1968 in respect of 'Pensionary Charges—Pension Fund'."

**DEMAND No. 2—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1967, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure'."

**DEMAND No. 4—WORKING EXPENSES—ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved.

"That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,08,13,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1967, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Administration'."

**DEMAND No. 5—WORKING EXPENSES—REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,89,79,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1967, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance'."

**DEMAND No. 6—WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATING STAFF**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,58,96,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1967, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Operating Staff'."

**DEMAND No. 7—WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION (FUEL)**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,80,82,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1967, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)'."

**DEMAND No. 8—WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION OTHER THAN STAFF AND FUEL**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,87,92,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1967, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Operation other than Staff and Fuel'."

**DEMAND No. 9—WORKING EXPENSES—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 88,87,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1967, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses'."

**DEMAND No. 16—PENSIONARY CHARGES—PENSION FUND**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 42,41,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1967, in respect of 'Pensionary Charges—Pension Fund'."

[Mr. Speaker]

**DEMAND No. 20—WITHDRAWAL FROM  
REVENUE RESERVE FUND**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,26,93,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1967, in respect of Withdrawal from Revenue Reserve Fund."

Shri Nambiar (Tirudhirappal):  
Sir, with regard to the speech made by the Minister while presenting his interim budget, I have to warn him and the country that what he is going to do is to come forward with an increase in passenger fares and freights when he presents the main budget. He has now stated that there is after all a deficit in the earnings for the year ending 31st March, 67 and he says he has to borrow from the general revenue. He has made all this preface only to create an atmosphere to come forward with a suggestion for increase in fares and freights. In page 7 of his budget speech he has said:

"This short-fall will have to be made good at the earliest opportunity, particularly since it is estimated that the expenditure from the fund in 1967-68 will be Rs. 110 crores, i.e. Rs. 11 crores more than this appropriation."

Therefore, I justifiably believe that he is going to increase the fares and freights. It is up to him to tell the country that he is not going to increase the passenger fares and freights, so that contingency will not arise. Why I am very particular about this is, already there is spiralling of prices. Therefore, if there is another dose of injection by way of increase in fares and freights, thereby adding to the cost of the commodities that are

hauled by the railways, viz. food and many other items, it will certainly add to the difficulties of the people.

13 hrs.

Apart from this, the Minister's speech requires a careful scrutiny in other respects also. He says there is a downward trend in railway revenue receipts, with which we agree, the reason being there is a stalemate in the general economy of the country. That is reflected in the railway earnings as well. Under cover of that he should not bring forward an excuse and say that he wants some more revenue by way of increase in fares and freights. Even with regard to the so-called budget deficit that he shows in his estimates, I may say, we know how the railway budget estimates are prepared. A lot of jugglery of figures is there, and I do not feel that it is a real deficit in the real sense for the reason that recently there was an increase in the rates of dividend paid to the capital-at-charge to the extent of 5 per cent. It is unknown in the history of any railway establishment in the world, let alone India, that a dividend of 5 per cent is granted . . .

Mr. Speaker: We will adjourn now for lunch and Shri Nambiar may continue his speech when we meet after lunch. Before we adjourn I may inform hon. Members that they may send in slips here to the Table before 14:15 hrs indicating the cut motions that they want to move. We will adjourn now and meet again after lunch at 14.00 hours.

13.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for  
Lunch till fourteen of the Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after  
lunch at Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]