

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Under Section 51 of the Union Territories Act this is not required to be laid on the Table of the House. There is no legal compulsion to lay it on the Table of the House. That is why it has not been done.

SHRI SEZHIYAN: Sir, we are not satisfied about it. He says, there is no compulsion. In that case why it was placed on 28th March? Regarding Presidential Order of 29th March seeking to withdraw about Rs. 65 crores from the Consolidated Fund of Pondicherry what happened? They were opposed again and again; but they were coming again and again to place it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I examined this thing. I examined this this morning also. And, after hearing the Minister, again I come to the same conclusion, that this should have been laid before the House. If you go into technicalities there is no end to this.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I submit to your direction, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Budget, finance, this and that—on these, it is as you know, the basic right of Parliament to know about these things.

Of course, all other matters can be remedied or rectified. But, this is a basic matter. And at the earliest that should come before Parliament. But, if you go on defending it, there is no end to it.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I beg to present a statement showing Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Union territory of Pondicherry for the year 1974-75.

13.36 hrs.

TOBACCO CESS BILL*

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill for the levy and collection, by way of cess, of a duty of excise on virginia tobacco and a duty of customs on tobacco, for the development of tobacco industry and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill for the levy and collection, by way of cess, of a duty of excise on virginia tobacco and a duty of customs on tobacco, for the development of tobacco industry and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

13.37 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET 1975-76—GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Minister will reply to the debate. Shri Tripathi.

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): Sir, there is a long list waiting.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Already three days are over.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: Still you have got one hour.

MR. SPEAKER: The Business Advisory Committee fixed the time. If it goes beyond that, I am not bound to accommodate all of them.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: Sir, it is still possible.

MR. SPEAKER: We can accommodate you all when the demands for grants come up. I shall try to accommodate all of you.

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.