

[SHRI T A PAI]

money should be spent for providing housing for the lowest class of employees in the Railways and that we should go in for a big programme of housing for this class

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU Have you got a time-bound programme for re-opening of the Martin Burn Railway?

SHRI T. A. PAI I am quite impatient about completing any project that I wish to take up. But please don't prescribe any time limit because any commitment made to the House is very sacred. But I can assure you that I will take keen interest in it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU Any idea? Two months, six months?

MR SPEAKER You better meet him in his room and discuss it. Now, the question is

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President to make good the amounts spent during the year ended 31st day of March, 1971 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof—

Demands Nos '5 and 16'

The motion was adopted

12.56 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)
NO 5 BILL*, 1972

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T A PAI) I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts

spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1971, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year

MR SPEAKER Now, the question is.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March 1971 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year

The motion was adopted

SHRI T A PAI I introduce** the Bill

Sir I beg to move that the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March 1971, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year be taken into consideration

MR SPEAKER Motion moved.

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1971, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration"

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 23rd November, 1972

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

†Moved with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) rose—

MR. SPEAKER: What about the gentleman whose name you gave?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Please substitute, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: We all know that Mr. Pai is well-versed in economics but we do not see much of its application in his new assignment of Railways.

Sir, I have said time and again that our Indian Railways suffer from over-capitalisation. Let us forget about it for the time being. We have known that the value of the assets of the Martin-Burn Railway is next to nothing. The material value and the real market value of the assets is very little; but with that little capital, it had rendered wonderful services. It was carrying 35,000 to 40,000 people every day. These people belong to low income group, people getting Rs. 50 to Rs. 250 a month. They used to get monthly tickets for Rs. 17 for a distance of 30 miles. Now they spend Rs. 55 against that amount of Rs. 17. They should think not merely in terms of rupees, annas and pias, but in terms of providing social services. Otherwise, what for do we want expansion of the public sector?

13.00 hrs.

I would like to ask Shri T. A. Pai whether he would be so kind as to tell us here and now, because three years have passed and we have seen at least four Railway Ministers since the abolition of the Martin Burn Railways, that we shall have a good day today and we shall hear from him, so that we can convey the same to the suffering 50,000 or 40,000 people, that he has adopted a time-bound programme and within a reasonable time that he might consider fit, he may be able to complete the work. I am not trying

to be unreasonable to him. He may please tell us here and now when he thinks that he will be able to run the first train on the light railways

SHRI S M. BANERJEE (Kanpur)
The SS Light Railways also

SHRI T. A. PAI: The problem is that it is not that the assets are to be considered of zero value; that may be so in the books of the Martin Burns. But the hon. Member would concede that we have to acquire it by a process of nationalisation before we run it. So, apart from the legal steps that have to be taken in this matter, we have to find out how much of this rolling-stock is in a working condition, what things have to be done to the track, and this survey has been completed just now. We have had discussions with the West Bengal Government as to what steps are necessary to be taken in this behalf, and we are also opposing the liquidation of this company before the High Court of Calcutta.

I cannot tell the hon. Member whether it will be done within three months or six months, because once it goes to the High Court, there could be any number of difficulties raised. Therefore, I would request the hon. Member to bear with me when I say that I share his anxiety. In fact, I started the process after I came here, on the argument that 60-62 lakhs of people were using one line and they had made their habitation, depending upon the existence of this line and, therefore, all other arguments did not appear to be very relevant. Of course, I do hope that Parliament will concede that today, on the suburban traffic, we are suffering a loss of about Rs. 12 crores, and whenever they hold out the efficiency of the railways in question, they have also to bear this and permit us to make these losses, if the suburban traffic has also got to be supported. In fact, I would like to have a separate policy regarding the suburban traffic, because

[SHRI T. A. PAI]

the suburban development is closely linked up with the housing programme in this country and the problem of urban development is also part of it.

So far as the SS Light Railway is concerned, again, it was taken over by somebody in public auction. He has already dismantled a part of it, and the problem is for us to consider whether it should be a light railway or whether it can be substituted by a broad gauge railway, and, therefore, a survey is under consideration. We have also been discussing this matter with the Chief Minister of UP who is equally anxious that this problem should be solved.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am more anxious than the Chief Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1971, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3, the Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3, the Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI T. A. PAI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

13.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Food Corporations (Amendment) Bill.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): Sir, there is a serious matter. It seems yesterday the revenue intelligence authorities had summoned the Bal Yogeswar for interrogation regarding the allegations which have been made. It seems—this is the information I have got—he went there accompanied by three Members of Parliament as well as several other disciples, I do not know. These people did not permit the revenue intelligence authorities to question him alone, separately, in confidence; they insisted that everything must be done in front of them. As a result the interrogation could not take place; the whole thing was spoiled. I want to draw the attention of the Government; the Prime Minister is here. It is a serious matter.

If that is the way they are working, how can this be done?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): The day before yesterday, I raised this point on the floor of the House and the hon. Speaker was good enough...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why do you raise it again, then?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I have further information. This man is owning two aircraft which are based in America and is also maintaining Swiss Bank accounts. The matter is coming through the Press to use every day. Yet the Government never bothered to make a statement, taking

the House into confidence. We want you to tell the Government, whether they are going to....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: They have heard you.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: make a statement.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): I want to submit another point, apart from that. You are aware that in Jullunder all the working journalists and non-working journalists are on strike. We have been writing to the Labour Minister and raising this issue here. Some statement should come from the hon. Minister. My second point is about the UNI. A solemn promise was given.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This was raised before.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Morning and evening, several times it was raised. Something should be done. I am told the Labour Minister is going away.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : ग्वालियर
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, बाल योगेश्वर.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Not the same please; some other point if you want to raise. This is not a debate.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मैं डिबेट
नहीं कर रहा हूँ। मैं एक जानकारी
आप को देना चाहता हूँ

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not on the agenda. Even so I have allowed some Members, if they have some points to make. You are raising the same thing.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am raising an important point. One of the disciples of Bal Yogeswar has declared at Gwalior that there was no case pending against him.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Anyway Government will look into this; they have heard you.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Let them come forward with a statement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): We are looking into it.... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please. The Minister has volunteered to say that they are looking into all these things.... (Interruptions). I am only concerned with the order of the House.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It has been quoted in the Press; it should either be contradicted or confirmed.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: An allegation has been made and he should make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am on my legs; kindly listen to me.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: We are quite sure you are on your legs; I know you are on your legs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. This has been raised. It is on record; Government has heard it. The Minister said he was looking into the matter. I am concerned with the order of the House; I cannot compel them. They may come forward. They have heard the House. No more of this please.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The Home Minister is here; the Finance Minister is here.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The hon. Members have raised it here. This information, in a way, has come to us also. We are looking into this. We shall get the correct facts.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Is he going to make a statement or not? Let us know that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is getting facts.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: This does not help us. Now, you are not on your legs, may I point out to you? I am making a submission.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is getting facts; naturally these have to be placed before somebody. He says he is getting the facts. He is not saying it privately; he is saying it in front of the House. Naturally when he is able to collect the facts, he will have to place the facts....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Today or tomorrow?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are pressing the point too far.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I know who were the members. I can name them. (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Shinde.

14.11 hrs.

FOOD CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill further to amend the Food Corporations Act, 1964, be taken into consideration."

The main object of the Bill is to extend the audit control of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India

to the accounts of the Food Corporation of India. At present, the accounts of the Food Corporation of India. At present, the accounts of the Corporation do not come directly within the purview of the Auditor-General. The accounts are audited annually by a team of professional auditors appointed by the Corporation from among a list of auditors approved by the Central Government on the advice of the Auditor-General. The Joint Committee to whom the Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Bill, 1969 was referred had in their report on that Bill recommended that as substantial sums of money from the Con-India, the Comptroller and Auditor-General should be empowered at least to conduct a supplementary or test audit of the accounts of the Corporation, as in the case of a Government company. This Bill, therefore, seeks to make provisions in the Food Corporations Act, 1964 empowering the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India to direct the manner in which the accounts of a Food Corporation shall be audited, to conduct a supplementary or test audit of the account of a Food Corporation, and to comment upon or supplement the audit report of the professional auditors. The provisions contained in the Bill for this purpose are similar to the provisions applicable to a Government company in the Companies Act, 1956, and are consistent with the practice adopted in respect of other public undertakings.

The Bill also seeks to extend the Food Corporations Act to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The act at present extends to the whole of India except Jammu and Kashmir. It is necessary to extend the Act to Jammu and Kashmir also.

Under the Act, Corporation has to obtain the previous approval of the

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.