

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

SECOND REPORT

SHRI A P SHARMA (Buxar) I beg to present the Second Report of the Committee on Petitions

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COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

REPORT OF STUDY GROUP I

SHRI BUIA SINGH (Rupn) I beg to lay on the Table the Report of Study Group I of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Bhopal, Nagpur, Bhilai, Rourkela and Calcutta, in February, 1972

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12-27 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET 1972-73—

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Contd

MR SPLAKER We will resume the general discussion on the general budget Nobody on his legs—well, Shrimati Sheila Kaul

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL (Lucknow)

Mr Speaker, Sir, the budget presented by the hon Finance Minister has generally been welcomed by all sections of the house Under the circumstances through which the country had to pass, I do not think we could have got a more balanced budget than what has been presented

True, the present budget was not the first which came after the last annual budget The House had to consider the sanctioning of a stiff dose of taxes in the supplementary budget that was presented in the mid-year in the wake of the economic difficulties which came about due to the influx of the refugees from our neighbouring country of Bangla Desh.

The hon Finance Minister had stated in the house while presenting the budget that he

did not foresee any appreciable increase in the prices In fact, if I am not wrong, he did not foresee any increase, as according to him, the new taxation proposed was not likely to affect the general price index

I would not like to dwell too much on many of the taxed commodities I would only take up three items—steel, aluminium and lottery tickets Steel and aluminium are basic materials for the economic development in our country Even a marginal increase in the steel price has a reverberating effect on all aspects of the industry In foreign countries, raw iron and steel are taxed only after great consideration, and I hope when the hon Finance Minister considered this proposal, he must have given his full attention before announcing it in the House

The House has already learnt that the railway budget will be showing a marginal surplus I am afraid this may not be the ultimate position because of the proposed tax on steel The railways are the main consumers of steel produced in the country and they will be affected directly due to the present tax proposal The marginal surplus shown in their budget would be of no comfort to the railways in the very near future, and I feel that ultimately the railway will continue to show financially itself in the red What we can expect again in the next annual budget is another tax from the railway to offset this deficit which would come around on the railway users and especially on the passengers

Steel is now coming more into use in the building activities that are flourishing in the country. The Government on the one hand has been seeking schemes for lowcost housing projects, and at the same time, developing a system which will make low cost housing nearly impossible The tax on steel is going to rebound on the ordinary man who has been dreaming of building a small house for himself I feel some sort of safeguard must come around for the small builder who is not out to make profit but simply wants to build his house to live in Even those who contemplate sharing their houses must also contemplate now on increasing the rents Rents of all houses are directly based on the expenditure involved in building the premises. The house holder will now seek an upward revision of rents which will adversely affect those who do not have a proper roof of their own. The