

ended on the 31st day of March, 1963 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: I introduce the Bill.

13.7½ hrs.

**KERALA APPROPRIATION (No. 5)
BILL*, 1966**

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): 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 the State of Kerala to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1964, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year.

Mr. Speaker: 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 the State of Kerala to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1964, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year.

The motion was adopted.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: I introduce the Bill.

13.08 hrs.

**APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)
No. 3 BILL, 1966**

The Minister of Railways (Shri S. K. Patil): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain

further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1966-67 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1966-67 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration".

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur): Will both the appropriation Bills be taken together?

Mr. Speaker: They will be taken up separately. Only the first one is being taken up now.

An hon. Member: What is the time allotted?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: No time is allotted.

This is an Appropriation Bill, and, therefore, I am not going to take any long time over it. The point which I want to raise on this Bill is this. There is no question here of the efficiency or otherwise of the hon. Railway Minister. But what has been happening is this. During these five years that have gone by I have seen that the Railway Board has developed a tendency towards obduracy, and the hon. Minister, having a lot of correspondence to be entered into in his hands, has got into a difficult position and perhaps he has had to sign the letters as drafted by the officers concerned.

During the last four years I have written 268 letters to the Railway Ministry in spite of all the cogent arguments that I have advanced in support of the complaints that I have made or the suggestions that I have made, I generally get a stereotyped reply, a reply which is already known

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

‡Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri U. M. Trivedi]

to me. Not once has it been possible for me to secure redress of the grievances either of the personnel or of the public at large.

Very recently, I had written certain letters with reference to the National Railway Users' Consultative Committee of which the hon. Minister is the chairman. Before those suggestions have been placed before the Users' Consultative Council, I have received replies from the officers concerned that they have to find out for themselves whether a particular matter will be placed on the agenda or not. I very much resent this. It is not for these officers to decide what should be placed before the National Users' Consultative Council and what should not be placed.

Similarly, on the last occasion when the Appropriation Bill was being discussed, I brought it to the notice of the hon. Minister that in some cases punishments had been inflicted upon employees who were employed in the commercial side of the railway for having caused a loss of Rs. 2, Rs. 5 or Rs. 10, to the tune of Rs. 10,000, Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 46,000. Such a thing has never happened, and never happens, anywhere in any other part of the world. He was kind enough to tell me that if I gave him the details, he would look into it. I sent him the details. The net result? I got a reply, of course signed by him, that proper inquiries were made under the Discipline and Appeal Rules. I never said that they were not made. What I was pointing out was that this was not a fair way of dealing with an employee on whom for causing a loss of Rs. 2, a fine is imposed of as much as Rs. 10,000.

Similarly, I pointed out two glaring examples of patent injustice....

Mr. Speaker: Would they all be covered under the Appropriation Bill at this stage?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: I had no opportunity to speak earlier. I am concluding in two more sentences. Because the hon. Minister is here, I take this opportunity of conveying it direct to him, to his ears.

In one case, an inquiry officer came to a finding that the person concerned is not guilty. The language used was 'the story against him is made up'. This 'made up' was, after five years, read by another officer, another clerk, as 'made out'. He had not been punished; therefore, he should be punished. And he was punished. When he was punished, he brought it to the notice of the authorities concerned and said 'I have not done anything wrong. I am not guilty. This was a false charge against me'. But the man was dismissed from service. I brought this to the notice of one Minister, two Ministers, the third Minister, fourth Minister. The net result was the same thing. The man went to the High Court. The High Court did not entertain his writ petition. The High Court threw out the petition on this ground that he had not exhausted the remedy provided in the rules. The Court did not give a finding on the merits. This was brought to the notice of the hon. Minister. It was not looked into. But the same stereotype reply had been received.

May I, therefore, say to the hon. Minister that he should not depend so much on the officers and not merely sign the papers placed before him, but look into them himself? He must know that when complaints come from us, there is some force behind them. I do not want to take advantage of being an MP to derive any personal gain or anything of the kind. But when such letters are written by us, they must be looked into properly and they must be replied to in the proper perspective.

Shri S. K. Patil: I am very sorry if any inconvenience is caused to the hon. Member. But he knows that

hundreds and thousands of letters come from Members and from outside. They have to go through a process or machinery.

Some of the things he mentioned are not known to me. Surely he being an important Member of this House, and the leader of an important section of this House at that, is entitled to every consideration. He knows that so far as I am concerned, if there was any such thing, he could come to my office and discuss it with me. I could even call the officers. If I find that there is anything wrong, surely justice would be done. With this assurance, I would say that this does not directly arise at this stage. The hon. Member was probably not in the House when these grants were discussed.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1966-67 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

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

Shri S. K. Patil: I move:

"That the Bill be passed".

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

13.14 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)
No. 4 BILL, 1966

The Minister of Railways (Shri S. K. Patil): 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, 1964, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration".

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, 1964, 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 1 to 3, the Schedule, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

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

Shri S. K. Patil: I move:

"That the Bill be passed".

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.