

stage did they seek admission as an observer or as a member in this Conference?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: No, Sir.

बूगी समाप्त करने का प्रस्ताव

@*149. श्री जैनुल बशर: क्या नौबहन और परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को सड़क परिवहन से संबद्ध संगठनों द्वारा किए गए इस दावे की जानकारी है कि यदि देश भर में बूगी समाप्त कर दी जाए ती पेट्रोनियम उत्पादों का इस तरह बचाया गया मूल्य सम्पूर्ण देश में वसूल की गई बूगी की राशि से कहीं अधिक होगा ;

(ख) यदि हां, [तो क्या सरकार ने इस दावे के बारे में स्थिति की जांच की है ; और

(ग) उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है और इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of India favours abolition of octroi duty. In view of its importance, the matter was discussed in the Chief Ministers' Conference convened by the Union Finance Minister in September 1980. The Union Finance Minister stated in this meeting that abolition of octroi was in the interest of States and should be removed in progressive stages. He suggested that as a first step, octroi should be given up in respect of places having population of less than two lakhs. He stated that loss in revenue could be met in some way or the other. The Union Finance Minister's suggestion

was, by and large, favourably received by the Chief Ministers. State Governments/U.T. Administrations have also been addressed in the matter by the Ministry of Finance impressing upon them the need for phased abolition of octroi.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Octroi is supposed to be a savage tax. Janata Party promised in its election manifesto to abolish octroi along with sales tax. But they could not do it. I would like to know the amount of octroi collected throughout the country and the amount expected in the shape of foreign exchange by abolishing octroi.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: The octroi in 1977-78 collected from 11 States and 2 Union Territories was around Rs.248 crores and, out this, two cities, Calcutta and Bombay, accounted for Rs. 71 crores. About 1,000 local bodies in the country are levying the octroi as on today.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: The Minister has not replied to the second part of my question.

MR. SPEAKER: You put the second question.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Sir, Part (a) of my question.

MR. SPEAKER: You put one supplementary at a time.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: My question was whether Government are aware of the claim made by the organisations connected with road transport that if octroi duty is abolished in the entire country, the value of the petroleum products saved thereby will be far more than the amount of the octroi duty collected in the country as a whole I think the Hon. Minister has not read my question. What I want to know is the amount of octroi in the shape of foreign exchange. This is my first question. Not the second question.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: According to recent estimates made, it is assessed that at these check-posts extra fuel

consumed is about 10 per cent of the total fuel consumption by the goods vehicles and if the octroi posts are abolished, there will be a net saving of 10 per cent in diesel oil consumption and to that extent, the Hon. Member can calculate the foreign exchange.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: In view of the amount of the foreign exchange expected to be saved, may I know whether the Government is prepared to assist the State Governments in case they are abolishing the octroi duty, to meet the expenses of the municipalities and local bodies.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: As already stated by me, on the 1st of January this year, the Finance Ministry has already addressed a letter to all the Chief Secretaries of the State Governments and the Union Territories Administrations to devise alternative ways to deal with the question arising out of abolition of octroi impost. On account of extra fuel wasted in these check posts, the calculations are that we are losing about Rs. 236 crores of foreign exchange.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA CHALDER: I would like to know whether the Central Government received objections from the Government of West Bengal against the abolition of octroi because the octroi duty fetches the West Bengal Government approximately Rs. 50 crores. In case the Central Government abolished this octroi duty in spite of opposition from the West Bengal Government, may I know whether the Central Government will compensate the full amount to the State Government of West Bengal. I would like to know whether the Central Government will compensate to other State Governments also.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: In the Conference of the Chief Ministers, New Delhi, the view point of the West Bengal Government was also placed. Thereafter the Finance Minister has addressed to all the Chief Ministers and he has made it clear that the resources will have to be found by the State Governments respectively; there will be no assistance on account of abolition of the octroi by

the State Government; that can be adjusted even in the sales-tax. These are the various proposals received from the State Governments, and the reaction of the Finance Ministry is that they are to be adjusted locally. *(Interruptions).*

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: There are two aspects of this question. One is wastage of oil and the other is wastage of time. I want to know how much time is wasted by way of detention of the vehicles, whether any estimation has been done....

MR. SPEAKER: It is just a matter of calculation.

Next Question. Mr. A. K. Roy.

Introduction of Private Contract System

*150. **SHRI A. K. ROY:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private contract system has been introduced to do the jobs of Gangmen in Dhanbad Division;

(b) the details of these contracts with particulars of salary and other benefits given to these labourers;

(c) whether these labourers are medically qualified to work in open Line particularly in Rajdhani route;

(d) the total number of casual Gangmen retrenched for want of sanction in Dhanbad Division since 1978; and

(e) the reasons and justification for introducing this private contract?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) No casual labour has been retrenched on Dhanbad Division since 1978.

(e) Does not arise.