

[Mr. Speaker]

- (10) Shri K. Kelappan
- (11) Shri N. C. Chatterjee
- (12) H. M. Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo
- (13) Shri Jaipal Singh
- (14) Shri K. Subrahmanyam.

INDIAN INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922.”

The motion was adopted.

Shri Tyagi: I introduce the Bill.

RAILWAY BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the General discussion of the Railway Budget. Before the discussion commences, I have to announce to the House that I fix the maximum time-limit for speeches as 15 minutes for each hon. Member excepting the hon. Minister of Railways for whom 45 minutes or more will be allowed, if necessary. We will now start with the discussion.

Shri P. C. Bose (Manbhum North): Sir, it is somewhat peculiar that out of the thirteen paragraphs of the Railway Budget speech of the hon. Minister nine or ten are exclusively devoted to the question of the regrouping of the railways and with regard to all other questions with which the public are concerned it has been disposed by one single sentence at the concluding part of the speech. That sentence reads as follows:

“Need I assure the House that it will be my constant endeavour to maintain the steady progress achieved in operating efficiency, to foster better and closer relations and understanding between labour and administration and to continue to improve the scale of amenities made available to the travelling public and labour.”

This one sentence disposes of all the other points with which the public at large are concerned.

I do not want to minimise the importance of the question of regrouping. Recently there have been various controversies and agitations over this issue. However important this question may be, I feel that the hon. Minister should have dealt with the other points which are of importance to the public.

The grievances of the public may be counted by hundreds and I do not propose to enumerate them one by one. But I would like to speak on a few points which are of importance and call for the immediate attention of the authorities concerned.

The first point is with regard to the difficulties undergone by third class and inter class passengers. There is lack of accommodation and sanitary arrangements in the compartments. Any person who has travelled in third or inter class compartments would testify to that. If you happen to occupy a corner seat in the compartment you cannot approach the latrine due to the heavy crowd. I know the case of a small boy who wanted to go to the latrine and his father tried his best to carry the boy to the lavatory but could not succeed due to the overcrowding. Meanwhile the boy did the mischief where he was. As a matter of fact there was no alternative for him. In that dirty condition of the compartment the passengers had to travel a long distance, for there was no sweeper available in the intermediate stations to clean up the compartment.

With regard to inter-class compartments, very few are provided in a train: generally one and sometimes two. The passengers do not get seating accommodation. What is the good of one or two first and second class passengers getting all the facilities they want and the rest going without them. This is a matter which should be attended to at once by the authorities concerned.

There is another point with regard to third class passengers. Railway magistrates go about from station to station, catch hold of persons travelling without tickets and after a summary trial fine them Rs. 15 or 20. If the person cannot pay the amount he is sent to the nearest police lockup and he has to remain there until he pays the fine. I know the case of a villager, a very honest man, who had a case in a court in a nearby town. The booking office counter was so overcrowded that he could not purchase a ticket in time and since he had his case in a sub-divisional court he got into the train without a ticket. He was caught and in a summary trial the magistrate fined him