

## MESSAGES FROM THE RAJYA SABHA

**Secretary:** Sir, I have to report the following two messages received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 1955, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th March, 1955, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 1955, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th March, 1955, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

## HINDU MINORITY AND GUARDIANSHIP BILL.

**The Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Pataskar):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Joint Committee in respect of the Bill to amend and codify certain parts of the law relating to minority and guardianship among Hindus.

## COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

### TWENTY-THIRD REPORT

**Shri Kasliwal (Kotah-Jhalawar):** I beg to present the Twenty-third Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

## REMOVAL OF RESTRICTION ON MOVEMENT OF WHEAT

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** As the House is aware, the new wheat crop is now in sight. The State Governments and the trade are of opinion that there may be sizeable surpluses in parts of the country. The prospect of the crop in Rajasthan, the Punjab, Pepsu and Uttar Pradesh is good and surpluses are expected. It is necessary for protecting the interests of the agriculturist that suitable steps should be taken before the arrival of the crop, so that the prices do not register a sharp decline immediately after the harvest.

One such measure is the removal of zonal restrictions on the movement of wheat. Wheat is the only foodgrain whose movement is now controlled, and what is now proposed is a culmination of Government's policy of de-control.

The country is now divided into three wheat zones, namely, the Northern, the Western and the Eastern, six States forming a separate unit each. The purpose of this division was that, in view of the over-all deficit in wheat, the highly deficit pockets such as Bombay and Calcutta should be cordoned off and supplied from imported stocks, so that the demand did not push up internal prices, and to reserve the markets of these two cities for imported stocks in case India was called upon to take her full quota under the International Wheat Agreement.

There are apprehensions that the price of wheat may come too low in some parts of the country. As for imports, it is unlikely that the obligation to take the full quota under the International Wheat Agreement would be enforced, but even if this happens, such imports will be utilised to build up the proposed reserve. In view of the good crop in sight and the easy surplus position, there is little risk of wheat being in short supply. However,

as a precautionary measure, imported wheat will continue to be released at Bombay and Calcutta at the present issue price of Rs. 13-8-0 per maund. This will help as a balancing factor to check any unduly heavy drawal on the internal market to meet the demands of these highly deficit pockets.

Government are, however, aware of the necessity of watching the situation carefully for some time. They, therefore, propose that while the zonal restriction on the movement of wheat should be abolished immediately, flour mills in the Cities of Bombay and Calcutta should be allowed to purchase for the present indigenous wheat in the open market up to their requirements of three months. Necessary order to this effect will issue. This would help in creating a timely demand on internal markets and arrest the tendency of undue depression in the price level when the new crop comes in. At the same time, it will restrict the demand of mills to manageable limits.

The question whether the mills should be allowed to make further purchases of indigenous wheat or should be restricted to imported stock will be reviewed later. At the same time, Government are considering purchase of wheat at Rs. 10 per maund for specified periods in selected centres where the price is below that level.

#### GENERAL BUDGET FOR 1955-56

##### GENERAL DISCUSSION

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now take up the general discussion of the General Budget. As the Members are aware, the general discussion will continue till Monday the 21st March, 1955.

For the benefit of hon. Members, I would like to draw their attention to Rule 226(1) regarding the scope of discussion on the Budget as distinguished from the discussion on the Finance Bill. In the course of discussion on the Finance Bill, grievances may be brought to notice. That will be the proper occasion for that purpose. So far as the discussion of the Budget is concerned, under Rule 226

(1), the House will be at liberty to discuss the Budget as a whole or any question of principle involved therein. The discussion will be regarding the point whether the items of expenditure ought to be increased or decreased having regard to the importance of a particular head and also the manner in which the Budget is framed. Grievances not related either to the Finance Minister's speech or not directly arising out of the proposed expenditure will not be in order at this stage. They may be deferred for ventilation at the time of considering the Finance Bill.

Under Rule 226(3), I fix that fifteen minutes will be the time-limit ordinarily for every hon. Member, excepting the Finance Minister for whom one hour or more will be allowed, if necessary, for reply.

So far as Leaders of particular Groups are concerned, if they want some more time, they can take up to a maximum of thirty minutes, within the overall time-limit available to their parties.

**Dr. Lanka Sundaram** (Visakhapatnam): May I rise to a point of order? The House is going to debate very soon the Budget, and also eventually the Finance Bill as introduced here on the 28th of February. According to your order of the day, after this Budget debate is disposed of, the Demands for Grants will be taken up till the 12th of next month, and then alone the Finance Bill proper will come up before this House for disposal clause by clause.

Even before this House, under articles 109 and 110 of the Constitution commenced these debates, the debate on the Budget and the provisions of the Finance Bill was concluded in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th instant. I have before me here the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha, and on that date the Finance Minister made certain announcements. I would only briefly refer to the announcements.

**Mr. Speaker:** But I want to know what the point of order is.