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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 19th April, 1955

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-42 A.M.

FINANCE BILL

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

**Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala—Bhatinda):** I beg to present a petition signed by five petitioners in respect of the Finance Bill, 1955.

FINANCE BILL

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now resume further consideration of the Finance Bill, 1955. Out of the ten hours allotted for the general discussion of this Bill, about four hours have been availed of yesterday. This would mean that the general discussion will continue practically the whole of today, and hon. Members will get 15 minutes more, if we can do that.

**Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore):** Yesterday when the House rose for the day, I was called upon to speak.

I admire the readiness of the Finance Minister in coming forward to reduce some of the tax proposals that have been made in the Finance Bill.

**Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur):** I do not find the Finance Minister here, or for that matter any Minister in charge.

**Mr. Speaker:** He is just coming. He is sent for.

**Shri Ramachandra Reddi:** In the Finance Bill, he had asked for taxation revenue to the extent of Rs. 17.7 crores, but in his speech yesterday he has reduced it to Rs. 8.8 crores i.e. a reduction of 50 per cent. I am reminded of Telugu saying that the master goes on committing mistakes only to correct them. If it had been possible for the Ministry to correctly study the situation and assess the commodities which they are going to tax, we would have had a less disheartening picture in the very beginning. It looks as if it is the policy of the Finance Minister or Government that they ask for one rupee while they require only four annas, and later on reduce it to eight annas and ask us to be satisfied with that, whereas again only four annas is the money required for the final transaction.

I am afraid this policy could not help proper budgeting. Year after year I have been finding that such proposals are made in the beginning, and in the end they go on reducing the tax proposals to a large extent. I am afraid this contagion is spreading to the other departments also, because we found this year that the Railway Ministry also started giving us a little bit of disheartening picture of their rates structure and later reduced it on the advice of this House. But I would suggest that they would be able to mitigate all this trouble if they understand the situation properly and assess the commodities in the due manner. Otherwise unnecessary worry is created both in the country as well as in Parliament, and perhaps to