

is in charge of the finances of this country. To assist him two committees have been appointed: one is the Estimates Committee and the other is the Public Accounts Committee. Originally, the Finance Ministers themselves were in charge of the Public Accounts Committee. It is unfortunate that in some State, in spite of best efforts the Minister seems to be in charge of it. It is wrong; it ought not to be so. It is entirely a matter for the House and the non-official agencies to criticise the Government. The expenditure is done by the Government; the estimates are prepared by them. The wealth of advice and experience of the non-official section must be placed before the House. Therefore, it is quite in keeping with this that the suggestion that non-official Chairman, drawn from the Opposition, ought to be there, has been made. I agree with it in principle, but I have been finding this difficulty.

As the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has just now said we are at the fag-end of this Parliament. Let me not make an experiment now. God willing, if we meet next after the General Elections we shall try to give effect to it.

Shri M. R. Masani (Ranchi-East): Sir, I am sure that your statement is eminently satisfactory to all sections of the House and in view of that I suggest the question of pressing that amendment does not arise.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Sir, I withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was, by leave withdrawn

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on

Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May 1961 and ending on the 30th April, 1962."

The motion was adopted.

12.34 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MOTION RE: ASSOCIATION OF MEMBERS OF RAJYA SABHA

Shri Barman (Cooch-Bihar-Reservd-Sch. Castes): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that they do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May 1961 and ending on the 30th April, 1962, and to communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by the Rajya Sabha."

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta-East): Sir, I wish to submit that in view of the discussion that was taking place on the last motion, it may not be understood that we have any grouse against the outgoing Chairman or anything of that sort. We wish to thank the outgoing Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. He has done a good job. The amendment was suggested only as a matter of principle.

Shri Barman: I am grateful for the kind remarks made by the hon. Member.

Mr. Speaker: There was nothing personal in the discussion that took place. The outgoing Chairman has done exceedingly good work. I have always appreciated the work done by him.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): We all endorse what you have said.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that they do agree to

[Mr. Speaker]

nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May 1961 and ending on the 30th April 1962, and to communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by the Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

12.36 hrs.

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—Contd.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS—Contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Transport and Communications. The Hon. Minister of Transport and Communications.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): As I began yesterday, I wish to thank hon. Members who complimented the working of the Department in the past year. My colleagues the Minister for Shipping and the Deputy Minister for Civil Aviation have answered the points that were made by hon. Members who spoke before them. There are two or three Members who spoke after them and who made certain remarks on these two Departments which I shall deal with in the course of my speech.

In the first place, as Mr. Masani is very anxious to go away, as he has got an engagement, I would deal with his remarks. He was quarrelling with the way allocations have been made for the Railways and the road transport. I am sure Mr. Masani realises, as much as I do, that the railways are a national asset and therefore we should not do anything to injure the working of the railways. I do feel

that road transport will have a future. As he has himself said, the building of railways is more costly than the building of roads. Therefore, wherever roads could be utilised, no railways need be built. Government will try their best to see that this policy is adopted. But at the same time, I would like to warn Mr. Masani, because he is a person who is so enamoured of the private sector, that there is the danger of the public sector coming into road transport as well.

Most of the State Governments are in favour of road transport being nationalised because they feel it will add to their income, and as Mr. Masani realises as much as I do the revenues given to the States are not ample enough for their work and therefore they have got to think of increasing their revenues and road transport is one of the things they are considering. As it is, we have stopped them from doing it till the end of the Third Plan. But at the same time there is this aspect and I am sure hon. Members will keep this in mind.

12.41 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Mr. Masani remarked that we did not possess enough guts, as he called it, in this Department to get more allocations for our services. As my hon. colleague explained, it is not always possible in this world to get what you want. You can try no doubt and I can assure Mr. Masani that we have tried our best. But there are priorities in planning with which the Government as a whole have agreed. Therefore, having agreed with the planning and the priorities given to it, we will try to abide by them and not press for things which are not easily available because we are dealing with limited amounts. As

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.