

14.32 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (No. 4) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1986-87.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1986-87."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

Sir, I beg to move** :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1986-87, be taken into consideration".

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1986-87, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. The question is :

"That Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause I Enacting Formula and Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be Passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill be passed."

Prof. Ranga to speak.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : Yesterday the Finance Minister was hard put to say how it was so very difficult to achieve economy although he was extremely anxious to achieve it. Because all the time the personnel and all these people are asking, in the light of the growing inflation and hike in prices, for more and more dearness allowances and so on. So many of us also, the Members of Parliament, want more and more grants for many more developmental schemes and so on. Alright, Sir we are not going to raise that question now although we used to ask for 5 per cent economy to be achieved by the Finance Ministry as the Minister in charge of this Bill has already told us that it is not only the Planning Commission but indeed it is the primary duty of the Finance Ministry to be the watch-dog of expenditure. It should keep its control on every spending Ministry. But whenever these Planning Commission schemes have come in the control that the Finance Ministry has been able to maintain has become less and less and the planning Commission has been asked to look into it. The Planning Commission too has not been successful. In the recent past we have created and rightly so a new Ministry for Plan imple-

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**Introduced/Moved with the recommendation of President.

mentation and we have an experienced Cabinet Minister placed in charge of it. He has been going round from State and in regard to two States he has given them good certificates. I do not know in what mood he was. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can ask for some clarification only at this stage.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Sir, we have introduced this 5 days a week with very good intentions. We were assured that the total number of working hours are being kept the same. Government's work would not suffer. Its efficiency would improve and so on and so forth. I would like the Government to give sufficient thought at least now in the light of the experience we have had of this 5-days a week. I know that several officers themselves are not very happy about it.

As things are unlike in European countries, there are not sufficient facilities available for our officers themselves to make the best possible use of these two full holidays that they get every week.

Secondly, people come from all over India to Delhi and to every State headquarter also. They are obliged to remain here in the city for two full days. Who is being benefited? It is the hoteliers. First of all the kind of hotels that the ordinary people should have are not available. There are five-star hotels which are too costly and then we know what sort of services they render; how much trade they carry on with these various drinks and other things that people would not like to have but, at the same time, they are being induced to enjoy and then suffer from all these things. People are suffering. That is why one of the States which has had some experience of this has already gone back to 6-days a week. I think Andhra Pradesh Government has done a very wise thing. I would like the Government of India also to give some thought to it. It is not good being blind to criticism. We have had experience of it. Let us pay some heed to the needs of the people, their views, their sufferings, their experiences and also the experiences of these officers. What happens is on Friday half a day is gone

because they are thinking of Saturday and on Monday two days of enjoyment lie on their head. Therefore, half a day in the morning of Monday they are not very very efficient in their work. So in all that we get is 4 days of good work in a week. Is that good enough? Let us examine that. We should certainly make experiments. I would like them to examine whether it is yielding good enough results. If they are satisfied, if the public are satisfied, in the light of experience of their officers if they are satisfied, and that this system should continue for some time longer before they take stock of things, let them do so. But there is need to examine the fruits, the results and the pains of this new experiment.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH (Surendranagar) : Sir, I would like to ask one question. It concerns the Department of Expenditure directly. It is a question which has arisen in the last two months. Two months ago, all the scheduled banks of this country raised their service charges from six paise to twenty paise per draft, three and a half times; or almost four times. They raised the service charges for clearing of all upcountry drafts and cheques. The people of India has thus to pay Rs. 100 crores for clearance of cheques etc. This will add to the inflation of this country. I have asked three questions also, but no justification has been given in the replies as to why it is being done and why these scheduled banks have been allowed to raise their service charges from six paise per clearance to twenty paise per clearance. All the traders and businessmen in this country will have to pay that much extra and the cost will naturally get passed on to the consumers. And this approximately Rs. 100 crores will have to be paid by the people.

I have also asked for a discussion under Rule 184, but I know that will not come up.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, out of a provision of Rs. 400 crores made for natural calamities, a sum of Rs. 125 crores only was granted for Rajasthan but only Rs. 92 crores have been provided to that State so

[Shri Girdhari Lal Vyas]

far. Please pay the remaining amount also to Rajasthan as soon as possible. Besides, 5 lakh tonnes of wheat was also promised to be given to Rajasthan. That also has not been given so far. You please make arrangements to give the same at an early date.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No further discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Besides, the State Government demanded Rs. 32 crores for drinking water, which amount should also be given immediately. The people there are facing acute hardship for want of water.

The entire funds due to Rajasthan should be provided as soon as possible.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No discussion Please.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : The labourers have not got their wages since 29th March, which has created a serious situation there and you say no no...

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : The people are dying for want of water. Therefore, funds should be provided to Rajasthan as soon as possible.

[English]

SHRI B.K. GADHAVI : I do not have any information that the wages have not been paid. If it is so, it should be addressed to the State Government and not to the Centre.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : How

sad it is ! If we do not get our salary for a month, we have to face a lot of trouble. There, the labourers have not been paid wages since January.

[English]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : The Central Government have not paid what they were required to pay to the State Government.

SHRI B.K. GADHAVI : The Central Government has paid, whatever they were entitled to.

[Translation]

5 lakh have been given for your ways and means.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Some amount is yet to be paid to Rajasthan. Please pay that amount also to the Rajasthan Government.

[English]

SHRI B.K. GADHAVI : It is for the State Government. What has the Central Government to do about it ?

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Perhaps, you have not gone through the verdict of the Supreme Court about the minimum wages.....(Interruptions)..... You sanctioned Rs. 125 crores but paid only Rs. 92 crores. The remaining amount too would have to be paid immediately.

(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No please. Not allowed. It will not go on record. Yes Mr. Gadhvi.

SHRI B.K. GADHAVI : Shri Digvijay Singh as also Shri Vyas raised certain queries. Technically, under Rule 216, I am obliged only to attend to the queries which may arise out of the demands with which I have

to come to this House and not others. Therefore, so far as commission charged by the Banks is concerned, I do not think that I can give him a reply. But I assure Shri Digvijay Singh that I will get the position examined and let him know.

So far as Prof. Ranga's point is concerned, I have stated that economic measures to curb expenditure are uppermost in our mind and whatever possible action we can contemplate, we are certainly likely to take. Until we curb our expenditure to a reasonable limit (I do not say that we should stop all the activities), we cannot reach our goal. Government is constantly doing this exercise of curtailing unnecessary expenditure and my colleagues in other Ministries know how much exercise is being done in this regard. His suggestion that we should look afresh into the whole concept of holidays is a good one and the Government will take note of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.47 hrs.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 1986

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will now take up Item No. 14 of the agenda.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT
(SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, with your permission, I would like to say a few words while moving the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 1986 for the consideration of the House.

The Merchant Shipping Act has provi-

sions for safe and efficient maintenance of Indian mercantile marine in a manner best suited to serve the national interest. Measures have been evolved from time to time for ensuring safety of life at sea and the protection of marine environment to preserve marine resources. In serving the country's trade, Indian ships ply on many overseas routes to all continents of the world. Similarly, ships of other countries call at all major ports and many of the intermediate ports of our country. In the overall sphere of safe operation of ships, the human element, viz. the competence and experience of the merchant navy officers and crew play a most vital role. The perils of the seas have to be countered both by the improved standards of construction of the ships and updated competence to operate the ships by the officers and the crew. The officers of the navigation and engineering departments are required to possess certificates of competency. These certificates are issued to persons who have complied with the training and operational requirements followed by examinations conducted by officers appointed under the Merchant Shipping Act.

Marine safety is of international concern. The need for an international standard with regard to crew qualifications and competence was deliberated at the International Conference on Training and Certification of Seafarers in 1978 and with the active participation of India, an International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers 1978 was adopted. The Convention lays down mandatory minimum requirements of training, experience and examination for officers and ratings sailing in various capacities on different categories of ships. A ship is required to be manned by a specified number of persons holding appropriate grades of certificate of competency. The ship is considered un-seaworthy if it is not manned in accordance with the Convention, and may not be allowed to sail from any port of the countries which are parties to the Convention. Our Government has ratified the 1978 Convention and it has come into force with effect from 15 February 1985.

The certification of ships officers are presently in accordance with Part VI of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.