

12.04 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Vote on Account; Bill, 1988, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th March, 1988, 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 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation Bill, 1988, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st March, 1988, 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."

12.05 hrs.

STATEMENT CORRECTING CERTAIN
INFORMATIONS GIVEN ON 24.3.1988 IN
REPLY TO CALLING ATTENTION RE
SITUATION ARISING OUT OF THE
STRIKE BY EMPLOYEES OF DELHI
TRANSPORT CORPORATION

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): On 24.3.1988 I made a Statement on the Floor of this House in response to a calling Attention Notice by Sarva Shri Suresh Kurup, Ajit Kumar Saha, Chintamani Jena, Sudhir Roy and Ananda Pathak, regarding the situation arising from the strike by employees of Delhi Transport Corporation. While replying to the points raised by the Honourable Members, I had stated that the Seventh Five-Year Plan document has said that Government must change over to 40% privatisation in transport section in Delhi, and that, therefore, we are not going against any settled policy. The induction of private operators in passenger transport is part of the accepted policy of the Government. In the Seventh Five-Year Plan document approved by National Development Council, the broad policy in this regard has been laid down as follows:

"Considering the demand for passenger transport in the context of the difficult resources position, the alternative of private operators meeting the shortfall would be actively pursued, within the framework of an assured policy regarding the future role of private transport." (Page 220-Vol. II- Seventh Five-Year Plan 1985-90).

This policy has been reiterated in the Annual Plan 1987-88 as well as in the Mid Term Appraisal of the Seventh Five-Year Plan which was approved by the National Development Council on 19th March, 1988.

The parameters governing the extent of private sector participation in passenger transport in Delhi have been settled in consultation with the Planning Commission. During the periodical reviews held by the Planning Commission it has been specifically laid down, as early in 1983, that 40% of

[Sh. Rajesh Pilot]

the fleet of D.T.C. at any time would consist of private operated buses. This has been reiterated at subsequent discussions and it was also clarified that more private operated buses may be inducted keeping in view that their number should not exceed 40 % of the total fleet in operation under D.T.C.

In the Annual Report of D.T.C. for 1985-86 which has also been laid on the Table of the House, the projection of D.T.C. for the Seventh Plan on the assumption that 40% of the fleet at any time would consist of private operated buses, as suggested by the Planning Commission, was also given.

In answer to Unstarred Question No. 3491 on 17th March, 1988, I had also stated that the existing arrangement in Delhi already provided for plying of private operated buses under D.T.C. operation upto a limit of 40%. Therefore, the specific parameter that 40% of the fleet of passenger buses in Delhi would be privately owned is a part of well-accepted and known policy of Government. While the policy is thus clearly laid down and privatisation to the extent of 40% is also well-settled, the figure of 40% mentioned in my statement is not specifically mentioned in the Seventh five-year Plan document. As my statement on 24.3.88 is likely to give an impression that the specific figure of 40% has been mentioned in the Seventh Plan document, I would like to clarify the position as mentioned above. I would like to express my sincere regrets for any inaccurate impression that may have been created as a tolet result of my statement and for any inconvenience caused.

12.08 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

(i) **Need to send another Study**

team to Rajasthan to assess the need for financial assistance to meet the drought situation in the State.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): A high power Study-Team of the Central Government comprising six secretaries extensively toured Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts of Rajasthan and recommended an allocation of Rs. 195.00 crores for employment programmes, for the period between November, 1987 to March, 1988.

Daily-wage rate for labour has been fixed at Rs. 10.50 in the State. On the basis of this rate an amount of Rs. 216 crores should have been sanctioned for employment programmes in the State.

By fixing a ceiling of Rs. 137 crores as relief amount at the rate of Rs. 8 per worker as daily wages the Ministry of Agriculture has not only made it difficult for the State to fight the drought situation but also made the financial position of the State weak.

Hence, the Central Government is requested to raise the expenditure limit to Rs. 216 crores for the period between November, 1987 to March, 1988 so that Rajasthan can overcome the drought situation. For the period between April, 1988 and July, 1988 the Central Government has fixed the expenditure limit at Rs. 77.50 crores which is insufficient. This amount is even less than the allocation for the corresponding period last year, which was Rs. 84 crores. In the ensuing summer season the drought situation will further worsen and 30 lakh labourers will have to be provided with employment. The State Government has sent a supplementary report seeking the expenditure limit at Rs. 497.86 crores.

I would urge the Centre to send a Cen-