

allocation for broad gauge, Bongai-gaon to Gauhati. I hope, in geometrical progression the same allocation will increase. That will pay rich dividends.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: You cannot anticipate the Railway Budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Assam for the services of a part of the financial year 1980-81, be taken into consideration

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are no amendments. 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 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

STATEMENT RE: ARREST AND RELEASE OF SOME MLAs AND OTHERS FROM ASSAM

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS. (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like to make the following statement:—

At about 10.45 A.M. on 11-6-1980, 28 persons were arrested at the Rafi Marg-Rajpath Crossing for violation of prohibitory orders under section 144 Cr. P. C. A case, FIR No. 326, under section 188, IPC, at Police Station, Parliament Street, has been registered.

Out of the 28 arrested persons, 17 are MLAs from Assam, including Shri Golap Borbora, ex-Chief Minister of Assam, and Shri Dulal Chandra Barua. The remaining 11 persons are from the Yuva Janata. Their leader, who has been arrested, is Shri Vikram Singh. The 28 persons courted arrest peacefully.

It may also be mentioned that the 17 MLAs had been sitting on dharna since 9th June, 1980. This was converted into a 24-hour fast on 10th June. Today, they courted arrest. They were produced before the Metropolitan Magistrate, Parliament Street, today. They were admonished by the Magistrate and released.

श्री मनीराम बागडी (हिसार) : सभापति महोदय, मैं जानकारी गृह मंत्री जी से चाहूंगा। जो गिरफ्तारियां हुई है गिरफ्तारी से पहले वह गृह मंत्री जी से मिले थे या नहीं और उन्होंने अपनी ममम्या रखी थी या नहीं ? अगर रखी थी तो आप ने उस का कोई मुकम्मल जवाब दिया या उसका कुछ हल निकालने कि कोशिश आपने की या नहीं की ! (इंटरप्शंस).....

क्या गृह मंत्री बतायेगे कि मत्याग्रहसे पहले (व्यवधान) में तो पृष्ठकर ही छोड़गां। आखिर इसमें एक्स चीफ मिनिस्टर गिरफ्तार होने पर मजबूर हुए है और इसमें एम०एल०एज० भी गिरफ्तार हुए है। आप यह भी सोचे कि वे गैरहिन्दी भाषी इलाके के लोग है। आप इसका मजाक मत उढाये बल्कि आप बडी संजीदगी के साथ इस पर सोचे। यह कोई मामूली बात नहीं है।।

सभापति महोदय : ऐसे जो स्टेटमेन्टस हीते है उन देर एक्सप्लेनेशन वगैरह नहीं होना है। आपने मजकरने चाहा तो मैने मना नहीं किया।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: (Diamond Harbour) For your information, there are two sets of rules; one is the rules of procedure and another is the Bagri rules of procedure.

श्री मनी राम बागड़ी । कायदे तो ठीक है । यह लोक सभा कायदे से चलनी चाहिए । लेकिन कई दफा जो रिवाज होते हैं वह भी कायदे बन जाते हैं ऐसी बात नहीं है कि पुराने रिवाज कभी नहीं जाते हैं जरा के मुताबिक रिवाजों को बदला भी जात है । आज यह जरा है कि इस रिवाज को डालो कि अगर ऐसा सवाल आए तो उसका जबाब दिया जाए ।

17.32 hrs.

SMUGGLERS AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE MANIPULATORS (FORFEITURE OF PROPERTY) AMENDMENT BILL

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): I beg to move†:

“That the Bill to amend the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976, be taken into consideration.”

The object of this Bill is to remove difficulties at present encountered in the working of Section 12 of the Act. The Appellate Tribunal for Forfeited Property constituted under Section 12 of the Act consists of a Chairman and two Members. It cannot dispose of a case unless both the Members and the Chairman are present at the hearing of the case. The result is that whenever a Member or the Chairman is absent either on leave or for some other reason, the Tribunal is unable to function. The present amendment provides that

†Moved with the recommendation of the President.

the powers and functions of the Tribunal may be exercised by a Bench consisting of any two Members.

Opportunity has also been availed of to implement the assurances given to the Lok Sabha Committee on Subordinate Legislation by empowering the Tribunal to prescribe appropriate fees for inspection of records and registers in the Appellate Tribunal or for obtaining copies of any part thereof.

I may mention here that this Act came into force on 25-1-1976 after replacing an earlier ordinance of 5-11-1975 on the subject. The Competent Authorities who are entrusted with the administration of this Act have, upto the end of March 1980, initiated forfeiture proceedings in 1965 cases. The approximate value of the properties covered by these proceedings amounts to Rs. 31.40 crores. Out of these 1965 cases, forfeiture orders have been passed in 929 cases involving properties of the value of Rs. 9.13 crores. This Act, therefore, has been very successful in acting as a deterrent against smuggling activities in the country.

I request that the Bill which has been moved to amend the Act may kindly be considered and be passed by the House.

MR CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

“That the Bill to amend the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976, be taken into consideration.”

This is a very innocuous Bill.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Jaipur): I would like to have one information, with your permission, from the hon. Minister and that is with regard to this—that approximately in 2000 cases the forfeiture procedures have been initiated involving a sum of Rs. 31 crores but actually orders have been passed in a