

SHRI H. M. PATEL: These are arguments which can be urged when the Bill comes up for discussion and not at the introduction stage.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Additional Emoluments (Compulsory Deposit) Act, 1974."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I introduce† the Bill.

11.12 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. ADDITIONAL EMOLUMENTS (COMPULSORY DEPOSIT) AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1977

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Additional Emoluments (Compulsory Deposit) Amendment Ordinance, 1977.

11.13 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1977-78

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dandavate.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): Sir, before you call the Minister, I want to raise a point of order. Article 75(4) says:

"Before a Minister enters upon his office, the President shall administer to him the oaths of office and of secrecy according to the forms set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule."

I do not want to take the time of the House by reading the Third Schedule. There is a case pending before a court.

MR. SPEAKER: I know. It is being argued in a court of law. Let us await the decision there whether the minister will continue as a minister or not. Why should we decide it here if it is pending before a court of law? I cannot allow any further discussion on this. I have given my ruling.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: In this situation, how can he present the budget? Suppose the court ultimately rules against him, the whole thing will be *ultra vires*. Even for a member the penalty is Rs. 500. For a minister it may be much more, may be Rs. 3000. How much penalty is he going to pay? This is a very relevant point.

MR. SPEAKER: The House can consider the situation after the judgment comes. Now, Shri Dandavate.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to place before the House the Annual Financial Statement for the Indian Government Railways showing the estimated receipts and expenditure for the year 1977-78.

2. After adoption of the Interim Budget presented on the 28th March 1977, I met representatives of trade unions, Industry and Passenger Associations, and also some eminent economists with a view to understanding their genuine grievances about the working of railways and inviting from them concrete suggestions to improve Railways' performance.

3. After these fruitful discussions, I have been thinking of streamlining the administrative machinery of the Railways and of providing better amenities and facilities to the travelling public, particularly the second class passengers.

Budget Estimates 1977-78

4. At the very outset I would like to inform the House that I have fulfilled the time bound assurance given to Parliament in the last session that all

†Introduced with the recommendation of the Vice-President acting as President.