

आप उन के साथ बैठ कर प्रोसीजर तय कर  
लें, लेकिन बार बार इस को कहने का तो  
कोई फायदा नहीं है।

श्री श्री० श्री० भावलकर: अध्यक्ष  
महोदय, मेरा सवाल इतना है कि हिन्दी के  
विकाम के बारे में इस सरकार ने जो कुछ  
कार्यवाही की, कम या ज्यादा, वह  
अलग बात है, लेकिन 1971-72 का  
वार्षिक मूल्यांकन आज 1974 में आ रहा  
है। इस का मतलब यह है कि इस सरकार  
का हिन्दी के विकास के बारे में कोई मंशा  
शीघ्र काम करने का नहीं है। तो यह हम को  
फर्स्ट एण्ड दि लास्ट टाइम, शुरू में या अन्तिम  
में बताएं कि इस सरकार का मंशा क्या है?  
हिन्दी का विकास करना ह, अच्छी तरह से  
करना है, उस को यह बताएं। मैं आप की इस  
बात को मानता हूं कि इस का बार-बार न  
उठाना चाहिए लेकिन मुझे दुख होता है जब मैं  
देखता हूं कि 1971-72 वर्ष का वार्षिक  
मूल्यांकन इतनी देर से आता है। इस का  
कोई जबाब इन को देना चाहिए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: आप इन से बात कर  
लीजिए। रोज रोज इस चीज को यहां कहने  
से तो कोई फायदा नहीं है।

श्री श्री० श्री० भावलकर: 1971-72  
का मूल्यांकन दो साल बाद आया।

12.50 hrs.

# STATEMENT RE. CERTAIN CHANGES CONCERNING POSTAL SERVICES

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brahma-  
nanda Reddy to make a statement.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur):  
On a point of order, Sir.

As regards item No. 9, I would like  
to plead with you in the form of a  
point of order that he should not be  
allowed to make the statement.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot prevent  
it without any reason.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: If you  
read the statement, you will find that  
certain additional amount is to be  
charged from the people. (Interrup-  
tion) I would invite your kind atten-  
tion to the fact that the Express  
Delivery Service is being discon-  
tinued and about 1,600 Post Offices  
will no longer be kept open on  
Sundays. People will not get stamps.  
etc., from these post offices; they will  
have to go to Telegraph Offices or  
R.M.S. offices. In many villages we  
do not have telegraph office or R.M.S.  
office.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN (Kan-  
gra): What is the statement? Let  
him read it first.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am  
not as foolish as you are. I have got  
the statement with me. I do not  
know how he qualified....

MR. SPEAKER: He is the son of  
a former Chief Justice of the Supreme  
Court. He belongs to the family of  
lawyers. They have been lawyers  
since four generations.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I belong  
to the family of clerks. Still, I am  
more intelligent than he is. At least  
I read the statement before I speak.

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

In the statement it is said:

"At present the P & T officers observe 16 holidays per year (including the three National Holidays)...It has also been decided to suspend the working of Mobile Post Offices on Sundays and the three National Holidays...."

So, there will be no mobile post office on Sundays and the three National Holidays.

Then it is said:

"These decisions are expected to result in a saving of nearly Rs. 35 lakhs per annum."

I agree, Sir. Let them save.

"Taking into account the need felt by the public for a service under which articles can be posted and delivered under receipt, Government have decided to introduce a new service to be called the 'Recorded Delivery Service'. This service will be available for all classes of unregistered articles except parcels on payment of a fee of 65 Paise in addition to the usual cannot allow you..

An additional fee of 65 Paise will have to be paid for this. The Minister wants to make a statement. Nothing has been discussed either in this House or in the Consultative Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I cannot allow you..

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I have not concluded, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not to be discussed when it is laid on the Table.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Certain additional tariffs are levied. Can it be done through a statement like this? I want to have you ruling on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Whether this is authorised or not it is a statement. It can be laid on the Table. I cannot prevent it from being laid on the Table.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbrur): Unless they bring in the form of Supplementary Demands, through Budget, they cannot impose these levies.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a Bill. This is just a statement.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: He cannot do it. It must be accompanied by Budget proposals.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Nothing can happen without our knowledge.

श्री मधु लिमये (वांका) : जो आर्डर पेपर होता है उस में हर एक आइटम का विवरण ठीक होना चाहिए। आपको याद होगा कि पिछली बार रेल मन्त्री ने 140 करोड़ के नए टैक्स लगाए थे। उसके बारे में आर्डर पेपर में यह था :

"He will make a statement on the financial condition of the Railways."

यह कौन सा तरीका है? इसको साफ कहना चाहिये था कि रेलवे के फ्रेट्स और फेयरस बढ़ाने की प्रोजेक्ज। यह नहीं कह रहा हूँ कि यह बयान न दें। लेकिन डिसक्रिप्शन, वर्णन, सही होना चाहिए। आज आप इनको इजाजत न दें। डिसक्रिप्शन ठीक करके फिर कल को कार्य सूची में लाकर बोलने की इनको आप इजाजत दें।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: They are assuming executive power without Parliament's sanction.

MR. SPEAKER: That is the reason why if any member wants to get up to object to these, he gives advance information of the points he wants to raise.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: I was intrigued by this item, frankly speaking.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you kindly correct it and lay it later on, in the light of the observations made? I will also have a chance to see it.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): My humble submission is that this item on the agenda is completely misleading. Services cannot be equated with the imposing of certain taxes. We could not be expected to make submissions to you earlier about it. What is the matter that we are going to take up? In future, it should be made quite clear that if any hon. Minister wants to make a statement which has some financial implications and which cannot be divulged here, he should take your permission and make the statement. That privilege can be given to the Government. If any item is included in the Order Paper, it should be in the form which could be intelligible to the Members. But, here, it is not.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not sure about the proper form.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Can services be equated with taxes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY): I want to know what their objection is.

MR. SPEAKER: In the light of the objections raised, if you have any observations, you can make.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Our point is very clear that your description is very deceptive. You are imposing taxes whereas you have asked for permission to make changes

in the services. Services cannot be synonymous with taxes.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me listen to him. Why are you so impatient? You have spoken once.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: My submission is that there are one or two points here. One is that the Express Delivery system which is in operation now is being given up for very valid reasons and we have explained that also in the statement. The second one is that on certain days like the national holidays there is to be a closure except for a limited service in some post offices for selling postage stamps. It is a facility to the employees.

There is already a registered service. It is there. Now, we are introducing a recorded service where you go to the post office and pay a certain sum and get a receipt..

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: That is revenue.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: Not a question of revenue.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister explain. When the Minister makes a speech if there is any question of any interpretation in case of non-existence of any law etc., his speech will be the guide. It is more than enough. When he says, something is not like that, that is enough.

*(Interruptions)*

13 hrs.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: If you hear my statement everything will be clear to you.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All of you are speaking at the same time; if it is for a few minutes only one can understand, not all the time. I have asked him to explain it. Members may kindly listen to him.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY:

Under the existing Express Delivery Service, for an additional fee of 20 paise, delivery of certain postal articles is made through a special messenger. In a number of places, delivery is made on Sundays also. Since no special treatment for handling and conveyance of these articles, as distinct from ordinary articles, from the office of origin to office of delivery is practicable and since special messengers employed for delivery have to cover a much larger area than beat postmen, Express Delivery articles are often delivered late giving rise to complaints. The P&T Department has also been incurring a sizeable loss in providing this service without any commensurate benefit to the public. P&T Department has therefore decided to abolish this service with effect from 1st November, 1974.

13.03 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

About 1600 Post Offices and about 130 post offices with extended working hours from 3 A.M. to 8-30 P.M. are now kept open on Sundays the former mainly for delivering Express Delivery articles, and the latter in important business centres. With the proposed abolition of Express Delivery Service there will be no need for keeping these 1600 Post Offices open on Sundays. It is, therefore, proposed to keep these Post Offices completely closed on Sundays. Alternative arrangements will however, be made for sale of postage stamps and stationery either through Telegraph Offices or R.M.S. Offices which are open on Sundays. Regarding 130 post offices at present working with extended working hours, it is proposed to keep them open on Sundays only from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.

At present the P&T Offices observe 16 holidays per year (including the 3 National Holidays). On these holidays, there is delivery of unregistered articles, payment of T.M.Os, a clearance of letter boxes and sale of pos-

tal stamps and stationary for a limited duration. Considering the importance of the 3 National Holidays (Republic Day, Independence Day and Gandhiji's Birthday) when all Government offices and most of business establishments remain closed, Government have decided to close all Post Offices (except post offices with extended working hours) on these three days. It has also been decided to suspend the working of Mobile Post Offices on Sundays and the three National Holidays.

These decisions are expected to result in a saving of nearly Rs. 35 lakhs per annum.

Taking into account the need felt by the public for a service under which articles can be posted and delivered under receipt, Government have decided to introduce a new service to be called the "Recorded Delivery Service". This service will be available for all classes of unregistered articles except parcels on payment of a fee of 65 Paise in addition to the usual postage. The service envisages (a) grant of a receipt by the office of booking when you give the unregistered letter and (b) delivery of the article under receipt to the addressee. An advice of delivery can also be obtained by the sender on payment of an additional fee of 15 Paise. The service is expected to be utilised by the public as an alternative to the comparatively costlier Registered Service which costs Rs. 1.25 (and 15 Paise for acknowledgement). The service will be initially on an experimental basis and its continuance will be reviewed after a year.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, I rise on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: One by one. I shall hear you all.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: My objection is this. The decision is that all post offices with the exception of a very few post offices will remain closed on three National Holidays.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Banerjee, we are not discussing the statement.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: It has already been decided to suspend the working of the mobile post offices on Sundays and National Holidays. Mobile post offices were introduced after a great deal of discussion here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not a point of order. You are discussing this statement.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: My specific objection to this matter is this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall hear you. Let me clarify the position. I am not stopping you. We are only laying a certain paper. Mr. Limaye, you want to raise a certain point. Please listen to me. Let me clarify the position. The Minister is laying a certain paper on the Table of the House. This is the business. As far as I understand there are two aspects of the statement—one is the decision of the Government to reorganise the postal services—this is completely under his jurisdiction and ambit and he passes on that information to the House. There cannot be any discussion on that. The only sting is in the tail, as far as I can see. On this perhaps all of you are exercised that he has also sought to introduce or has introduced and he is only making an announcement that a new service is to be set afoot for which certain special charges are to be made. And, your objection as far as I can understand is that this is some kind of a taxation by the backdoor. This is not my opinion. I shall come to that later whether it is or it not a taxation. But, if you have any objection on that, you will confine yourself to that point but do not go into all other things that you have mentioned. Please conclude.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: This is what is stated in the statement. I quote:

"Taking into account the need felt by the public for a service under

which articles can be posted and delivered under receipt, Government have decided to introduce a new service to be called the "Recorded Delivery Service". This service will be available for all classes of unregistered articles except parcels on payment of a fee of 65 paise in addition to the usual postage."

When he says 'in addition to the usual postage', this is an additional revenue. He has not informed the House as to what he is likely to get out of that system.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have made that point. The point is very clear to me. I am not as wise as Shri Mahajan but I can understand you.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Let me complete it. The service envisages (a) grant a receipt by the office of booking and (b) delivery of the article under receipt to the addressee. An advice of delivery can also be obtained by the sender on payment of an additional fee of 15 Paise.

My basic objection is it an additional revenue. This service will be initially on an experimental basis and its continuation will be reviewed.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, here is a glaring instance as to how Government want to curb the power of Parliament by issuing executive order. The Government has stealthily entered four new services and curtailed old services and levying of charges will mean making provision for additional revenue for the Consolidated Fund of India. I condemn this trickery. The Minister should not be allowed to make the statement.

श्री जयू सिन्घे (बांका) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज सबेरे जब मैंने बहुत सारे लोगों को देखा तो मैं सोच रहा था कि श्री ब्रह्मानन्द रेड्डी

[श्री मधु लिमये]

आज कौन सा बकवास ब्रैवे जा रहे हैं और बूँक में ने रेलवे मिनिस्टर के बयान के बारे में यह देखा था—आइटम में लिखा था—

The other day Railway Minister came to make a statement, but he increased the fares and freights by Rs. 140 crores.

लेकिन उस में ब 140 करोड़ रुपये टैक्सेशन प्रपोजन्स लेकर आये। इस लिए इसके बारे में भी मुझे शक था। इस लिए मेरा पहला मुद्दा यह है कि अगर इन को यह बयान देना था तो यह आइटम इस तरह से लिखा जाना चाहिये था—

"Shri K. Brahmananda Reddy to make a statement regarding introduction of certain changes in postal services linked to the payment of additional fees.

जो इस का करैक्ट डिस्क्रिप्शन होता।

मेरा दूसरा मुद्दा टैक्सेशन वाला है—अगर यह सूचना हम लोगों को कार्यसूची में मिल जाती तो आज हम तैयारी कर के आते। मैं बिना तैयारी के मुँह नहीं खोलना चाहता हूँ। इस लिये मैं चाहता हूँ कि इन को आज इजाजत न दी जाए। करैक्ट डिस्क्रिप्शन लिख कर ये कल इस को लेकर आयें। फिर टैक्सेशन के बारे में हम को क्या कहना है, सब कुछ देख कर कल हम लोग आयेंगे। इस तरह से इस को चाहे चालाकी कहिये, डिस्प्रेशन कहिये—यह सदन की ठगने का प्रयास है।

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN (Kan-ga): Sir, there is basic distinction between a fee and a taxation proposal. A fee is always put on the services rendered. A taxation proposal has no relation to the services rendered. Sir, the proposal that has been made by the Minister is merely regarding a new service.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta-North-East): Sir, I shall be very brief. I do not agree with my friend, Shri Limaye, that this is a matter merely of a verbal manner as to the kind of a statement which should be made. I fear this is again a surreptitious use of the Government power by saving some money in certain services and collecting some more money by the introduction of additional services which would imply income and expenditure. The Government is tinkering with the Consolidated Funds of India without giving proper notice to this House. That is why, as Mr. Bosu pointed out, it goes to the root of the matter. Government should proceed better. Repeatedly we find the Law Ministry and other Ministries not coordinating their efforts. It gives us no pleasure to have to hold up the work of the House in this fashion, but we have to do it because it does seem that even in a small way, certain things are being done which mean tinkering with the Consolidated Fund of India. They have already given us a list of supplementary Demands and that sort of thing, they could have done this in a different kind of way and done their homework a little better than they have done. But the Law Ministry and the other Ministries under the leadership of their great Prime Minister are operating in a fashion which is completely indifferent to the parliamentary character of our Government.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: On a first reading, I had the impression that this statement was only a facade for raising taxes or for raising resources. But I do find from the statement that has been read out by the hon. Minister that the predominant objective of it is the reorganisation of services and as a byproduct certain savings emerge. I have absolutely no doubt about that. The predominant objective is not to raise resources. So, I should think that there cannot be much objection taken to his making a statement of the kind that he has made today. But the only point

is whether the House should not have been taken into confidence about the nature of the statement that he was going to make today. The House could not know the exact nature of the statement that he was going to make. Even if it involves a slight amount, an amount which is not very considerable....

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** It may be anything, even one paisa; what does it matter?

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:** I am saying that even if it amounted to a very small amount, he should have made it clear that this was also the implication of the statement that he was going to make. Otherwise, the House would not be put in a position to judge the statement properly and to make up its own mind about the statement that he is making today.

It is now a very valid point that the Consolidated Fund of India is also involved in this; there is going to be a change in the Consolidated Fund of India to some extent. So, it becomes an additional responsibility for the House to look into it a little more closely.

**श्री जगन्नाथराव जोशी :** (भाजापुर) :  
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, कार्यसूची के साइटन 9 में जो लिखा गया है, जैसा मधु लिमये जी ने कहा है—उस से पूर्ण बोध नहीं होता है। मन्त्री महोदय अपनी सेवा को सुधारना चाहते हैं, यह ठीक है, लेकिन इन दिनों में डाक-सेवा का काम बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ा है। ऐसी स्थिति में रविवार के दिन सैकड़ों डाक कार्यालय बन्द रहेंगे, तो इस से 35 लाख रुपये का लाभ होगा, परन्तु जनता को बहुत कठिनाई हो जायेगी। साथ ही साथ जो नई सेवा शुरू करने जा रहे हैं उस की कीमत बढ़ा कर 65 पैसा कर रहे हैं। वे सब मामले ऐसे हैं जिन को इस सदन की ध्यान-केंद्रित करने की आवश्यकता है, उस के बिना करना उचित नहीं होगा।

**SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY:** I am very sorry that this very honest attempt at reducing....

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** They say that the road to hell is paved with good, honest, intentions.

**SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY:**... expenditure is not appreciated by hon. friends. The point is this. Generally, when a Department like the P & T Department offers services to the public, they will have to watch what changes have become necessary, what the reaction of the public is to any service...

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** How is it relevant?

**SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY:** Absolutely relevant.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** It is not relevant at all.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Let us have some meaningful discussion. I have allowed—the hon. Members, and now they must allow the hon. Minister also the same right to reply. He is defending himself, hon. Members cannot object to that.

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL):** When did Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu bother about relevance?

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Dr. Inder Goebbels!

**SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY:** It becomes the duty of any department like the P. & T. Department to periodically assess their several items of service and see whether the public are appreciating it.

In that process, we have over a period of time tested it. This express delivery service is not serving the purpose it is intended to serve. Secondly, everybody in this country enjoys holidays, the national holidays.



[Shri K. Brahmananda Reddy]

specially. Why should not the P. & T. employees enjoy these holidays?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You employ more people.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: That is all right. But, I, speaking on behalf of my employees, feel, when they make a request that they should get these holidays, that it is necessary to see that they also get these holidays. Consequently, some post offices which have been doing this work have to be closed down. Therefore, there is a saving in expenditure.

Here as you have rightly seen, there is no question of our increasing expenditure. Here is a question of saving some expenditure.

Thirdly, with regard to the recorded delivery system which is proposed to be introduced, you must realise, and the public also should realise, that instead of everyman being compelled to have a registered service and pay more, we are providing an additional facility where it does not require registration. If I am doing something which is raising the rate or improving revenues, I can certainly appreciate the point made. But here if a certain gentleman wants a receipt at one end and a receipt at the other end, he is compelled to register the article and pay Rs. 1.25. Instead of that, we say 'You need not pay Rs. 1.25; you can by obtaining a receipt at the first end and also at the other end by paying only 65 P get the thing done'. Therefore, this is not a revenue raising business; it is a service improvement. It is within our competence to introduce this service.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Points of order have been raised and the matter can be settled by a ruling from me.

At the very beginning, I have said that as far as the reorganisation of the service within the department is concerned, it is entirely within the jurisdiction of the Government and they can do it any way they like. It is only when something goes wrong that we can criticise them. If they reorganise the services with a view to improving the public service and they come before the House and pass on the information, we should be happy with it. But, as I said, the only sitting is in the last paragraph. We are not doubting the intention of Government to render better service to the people by introducing a new service.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I doubt.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You may; I do not. The only point of order with which I am concerned and with which the House is concerned, is whether this new service amount to taxation. This is the only and the new charge would not limited question. If it amounts to taxation, then it is very irregular and the House must be seized of it. It cannot be treated in this way; just information is given that something is done. In this regard, I must congratulate my good friend, Shri Vikram Mahajan, that for once he has shown himself to be a real Supreme Court lawyer by striking or nearly striking the nail on the right head.

Now, whenever taxation is involved, I think art. 110 of the Constitution is attracted. But if you turn to art. 117, they make a difference between taxation and fees. I will read out the relevant portion.

Article 117(2) says:

"A Bill or amendment shall not be deemed to make provision for any of the matters aforesaid....

that is, within the ambit of Article 110, taxation, regulation of tax or al-



teration of tax or any kind of thing of that nature—

“by reason only that it provides for the imposition of fines or other pecuniary penalties, or for the demand or payment of fees for licences or fees for services rendered....

Now, I think, what the Minister proposes to do comes under this provision of the Constitution. It is not taxation. It is a fee which they propose to charge for their service which they propose to render. Therefore, I think it is quite regular and there cannot be any objection on this.

श्री जय लिये : इसमें 117 या 120 का सम्बन्ध नहीं है, रेलीवेट बात यह है क्या किसी नियम के तहत यह नयी फीस लादने का काम किया जायेगा और क्या इन नियमों या नोटिफिकेशनों पर बहस करने का और अपनी सम्मति देने का या इसको अस्वीकार करने का इस सदन को मौका मिलेगा ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You will have an opportunity. I think today itself, if not today tomorrow, if not tomorrow on Monday, we are taking up the Supplementary Demands for Grants. We have discussed the Finance Bill. Of course, this Session, we are going topsy turvy. I will give you special permission for this. We first passed the Finance Bill. Now, we are going to discuss the Supplementary Demands for Grants; it should have been the other way round. In view of this topsy turviness, I will allow you when we take up Supplementary Demands for Grants. Even if there is no demand in respect of the Ministry of Communications, in view of the Statement by the Minister, I will allow you a special opportunity to criticise this new service and the new fee.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: There can be a voting on that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You will have voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

श्री जय लिये : यह बताये इनकी सीबल एयारिटी क्या है ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: After my ruling, there cannot be any legal authority.

SHRI K BRAHMANANDA REDDY: What is the legal authority? It is for the Government to look into it and improve the efficiency of service.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There cannot be any question of legal authority after my ruling.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, May I point out that you have overlooked a very important part, that is para 4, which says:

“These decisions are expected to result in a saving of nearly Rs. 35 lakhs per annum”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why should you object to that?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am not objecting. My question is, why is it that this is not reflected in the Budget? Whenever we talk about revenue and whenever there is saving of expenditure also, this House is entitled to know the details. Sir, this is not the way.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have an opportunity.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: No Sir. Whenever we dispute the revenue, whenever we question the Government's attitude in respect of fresh levies, we are equally entitled to know the details of the savings that they have made and its repercussions.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have an opportunity.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: No, Sir. It applies equally to revenue as well as expenditure. They have said that there will be a saving of nearly

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

Rs. 35 lakhs and they have chosen not to reflect it in the Budget. Therefore, both the things are essential. You should revise your ruling. Otherwise, the House will be reduced to a mockery.

SHRI H. M. PATEL (Dhandhuka): Sir, without questioning your ruling, I wish to ask this question that when an item comes under the category of fees, supposing the fee is excessive supposing instead of 65 paise here 80 paise had been proposed, how would we know on what basis it was decided upon? Should all that not be indicated? And the other question is, whether the fee is not intended to cover more than the expenditure involved. The distinction between a tax and a fee is that, in the case of tax, you are going to have additional revenue, whereas in the case of fee, you are expected to cover your expenditure, that is on no-profit-no-loss basis. There must be some clear indication that while rendering this service, their intention is only to cover the expenses involved. Should that not be a consideration? Otherwise, at what time would the House have an opportunity of considering this question?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: An opportunity will come when we discuss the supplementary demands for grants

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Your ruling almost gives a completely free hand to them to put in a new service and charge for it an excessively high fee and an opportunity for discussing its appropriateness or adequacy would not be available to us. Every time they make any such change or introduce any new service, they should indicate that it is entirely on a no-profit-no-loss basis and it is purely to meet the expenses involved in rendering this service.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: I do not agree that the fee should not include an element of additional

resources. The fee cannot be exactly equal to the cost involved. The postal department has not been working on that basis so far. The postal department has always been yielding some resources for general development.

SHRI L. K. GUJRAL: Not since the time you were Planning Minister.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: No, no. We are not being made to know from para 5 what would be the additional impost on the community. He only tells us what would be the change in the rates.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA REDDY: There is no additional impost as such. Already Rs. 1.25 is paid for a registered article. Instead of that, we are providing a new service to the public that if they only want a receipt at one end and a receipt at the other end, they can have that service by paying 65 P. only. I cannot appreciate the objection.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: You said we can discuss it during the supplementary demands coming up today or tomorrow. If you are in the Chair, you will permit it. But if somebody else is in the Chair he may not permit it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If I am not there, you refer to my ruling.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: He may say, it is irrelevant. So, we want a separate opportunity to discuss this matter.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Madras South): Recently there was some charge of fees for the new telephones and when it came before the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, it was pointed out that there was no provision under the parent Act by which it could be done. So, ultimately they had to amend the parent Act. I want to know what is the difference between that and this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is something different.