

12.18 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO. 3) BILL*, 1976

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): 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 1975-76.

MR. SPEAKER: 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 1975-76."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI SUSHILĀ ROHATGI: I introduce† the Bill.

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 1975-76, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: 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 1975-76, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3, the Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 and 3, the Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI:
I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

12.18 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1976-77—GENERAL DISCUSSION

MR. SPEAKER: We take up the Railway Budget. Twelve hours are allotted for this.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): The Railway Minister, while presenting this Budget, has claimed manifold achievements and spectacular improvement in the railways' transport capacity. However, the reports that he has submitted along with the Budget papers do not prove his claim. The railway economy has been one of stagnation and even the Railway Convention Committee, which has submitted its report very recently, has categorically stated that it is very precarious. I pointed this out in my speech last January when there was a debate on the Resolution on the Railway Convention Committee's recommendations. But the picture that the Minister has tried to portray here is that the health of the railway economy has improved and that it is now out of crisis. This is not a reality. A close analysis will expose the real position.

The total route kilometres increased during 1974-75 work out to be only 67. So, you are arranging your railway finances without new lines, and many areas still remain undeveloped and regions are kept backward. Actually,

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†Introduced/Moved with the recommendation of the President.