

Shi Satya Narayan Sinha: Sir, as you are aware, this matter was discussed in the last meeting of the Business Advisory Committee and Government is considering this point. For the last seven or eight years we have been following this practice. So far as this year is concerned, nothing can be done at this stage because the discussion on the Railway Budget has already started there. So far as next year is concerned, as I have promised to you Government is considering the matter and whatever is possible will be done.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Other wise also, the discussion becomes somewhat stale here.

Mr. Speaker: I have already taken up this matter and drawn the attention of the Government to his point through the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. I also feel that certain rights and privileges enjoyed by the Members of this House should not be curtailed in any manner. The convenience of Government alone cannot be a valid reason for curtailing, the privileges of this House. Government have to see that the discussion on the Budget takes place here first and then in the other House, because it is the privilege of this House to discuss that and to make any modifications or sanction the grants without any modifications. If they discuss it first and then we follow it, it would amount to reversing the process. Therefore, it would not be possible for this House to agree to that curtailment of its rights. I have already drawn the attention of Government to this matter and, I am sure, it will not happen again.

Bills to be introduced.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur): May I make one request in regard to this matter? It is all very well, as you have suggested, that in future the Government might not do it; but the point that still remains is—as I am told and, I think, it is correct—that concessions are....

Mr. Speaker: That would not be done.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: But that has already been done. I am most respectfully submitting that it is not merely the question of discussion but it is a question of announcement of concessions in the Upper House. That is the point to be considered.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: May we also have an assurance that, as the General Budget is going to be discussed in the other House first, any concessions of similar nature will not be announced, indicated or hinted at there by the hon. Finance Minister?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I have spoken to the hon. Finance Minister and he has given an assurance that no kind of concession, if there is any, will be announced in the other House.

12.18 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)
BILL*, 1963

Mr. Speaker: Bills to be introduced.
Shri Swaran Singh.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): Sir, with the permission of Shri Swaran Singh, 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 service of the financial year 1962-63 for the purposes of Railways.

Mr. Speaker: It would be a novel procedure if the hon. Minister is present here and it is stated by his deputy that he is going to move it with his permission.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Swaran Singh): It should have been with your permission, Sir.

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Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Minister is not present then, of course, some of his deputies can do that. But when he himself is present, he ought to move it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): I submit with all respect that you have warned the hon. Ministers in the past about this matter but they are still persisting in this behaviour; I do not know why.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur): I think, Shri Swaran Singh is not all right.

Mr. Speaker: We will deem it to have been moved by the hon. Minister himself.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): Is there any request from the hon. Minister?

Mr. Speaker: If I am directing that, it is all right.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is anticipating your permission.

Mr. Speaker: There cannot be any permission by the hon. Minister, who is present, to his deputy.

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 service of the financial year 1962-63 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Swaran Singh: Sir, I introduced the Bill.

12.20 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up General Discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 1963-64.

Dr. Ranen Sen (Calcutta East): Sir, I rise to oppose the Railway Budget presented by the hon. Railway Minister.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur): Oppose the Railway Budget?

Dr. Ranen Sen: My opposition to the Railway Budget is due to the fact that certain indirect taxation proposals have been introduced in the Budget.

Mr. Speaker: He is opposed to the proposals.

Dr. Ranen Sen: I am explaining, Sir. My contention about this year's Budget, as far as I understand, is that the hon. Railway Minister wants a sum of Rs. 19 crores to be allotted under different heads for his Ministry. Already, within a few hours of the presentation of the General Budget by Shri Morarji Desai, there has been a sharp rise in prices all round throughout the country. The Railway Budget presented by Shri Swaran Singh is the first step taken towards this price rise in the country. I am rather astonished to find that in presenting the Budget the hon. Minister has not expressed any concern either for the public or for the railway employees who, in fact, have built up such a big organisation as the Indian Railways that we find today.

It is well known that the present Indian Railways is a very big enterprise. It started almost from a scratch after the British left India. I would request the hon. Minister just to recollect as to how many times railway freight and passenger fares have been increased during the last 15 years.

I also ask him to recollect that always in this Parliament, hon. Members of this House have criticised the Railway Ministry for certain omissions and commissions of the Ministry.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.