

[Dr. P. Subbarayan]

man, Calcutta Port Commissioners, the River Surveyors' Association decided to call off the strike and all the Assistant River Surveyors on strike returned to duty on the morning of the 4th March, 1960. I am glad to say that during the period of the strike shipping movements in and out of the Calcutta port remained unaffected.

12.14 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ORDER OF DISCUSSION ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS IN RESPECT OF THE GENERAL BUDGET.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): With your permission, Sir, I should like to announce the order of discussion and voting of Demands for Grants for the various Ministries in respect of the General Budget. Any changes in this schedule necessitated by unforeseen circumstances will be duly intimated to the House. The order is:

Law

Education

External Affairs

Information and Broadcasting

Food and Agriculture

Transport and Communications

Home Affairs

Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs

Community Development and Co-operation

Commerce and Industry

Health

Steel, Mines and Fuel

Defence

Labour and Employment

Rehabilitation

Irrigation and Power

Works, Housing and Supply
Finance.

Mr. Speaker: The other day when we were sitting in the Business Advisory Committee, this list or schedule was prepared, and we allotted time. It came up yesterday also, but we did not allot any time for the Atomic Energy Department and for Law. Two hours were provided provisionally for Atomic Energy and three hours for law. The hon. Minister said that Law might be given five hours and that the Atomic Energy Department might not come up for discussion this year. We wanted to know the reaction of the hon. Prime Minister, whether time was to be allotted for it. The Business Advisory Committee was in favour of not having it and allotting that time for Law.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: As desired by you, Sir, I consulted the Prime Minister and he said he was not particular about it, and therefore the two hours allotted for Atomic Energy we have added to Law.

12.16 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO 2 BILL, 1960

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): 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 service of the financial year 1959-60 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1959-60 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

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

Shri Jagjivan Ram: 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.

GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with further general discussion on the General Budget.

Before Shri Eacharan continues his speech, I would like to make an announcement. We agreed that with a view to complete the business for each day, the time taken immediately after the Question Hour for miscellaneous work will be added on to the rest of the day.

Today we are starting at 12.20, and therefore we will continue till 5.20. Such time will be added every day so that the work of the day may be completed.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): I have no objection to adding, but we should not add on days when there is

a half-hour discussion on the Order Paper.

Mr. Speaker: We shall try. Today we do not have a half-an-hour discussion.

Shri V. Eacharan (Palghat): Yesterday I was speaking about the agricultural producers. When we speak about this, we have to understand the conditions of the agricultural labourers also. They are the only section in the country who are not getting adequate and fair wages.

All the industries have revised their wage structure according to the cost of living index and profit margin, but the condition of the poor agricultural labourers who are producing food for the country has not changed. I think the Labour Ministry also has not thought of their problem.

The industrial labourers use to get all benefits. They have bonus, overtime, fixation of their wages, paid holidays, maternity benefits, machinery to settle their disputes etc., but the agricultural labourers have no such benefits.

All the industries have revised their wage structure according to the cost of living index and profit margin, when the prices of the agricultural commodities go up, the labourers are paid in cash, and when the prices of the agricultural commodities come down, they are paid in kind.

The Labour Ministry should understand the difficulties and the disparities in the wage structure of this section of the labourers also. According to the data published by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the average wage rate of the agricultural labourer in India is 17.5 annas per man, and 10.8 annas per woman.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may speak a little more slowly and a little more loudly and with confidence in himself.