

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Shri Pranab Mukherjee to move a motion for consideration, of the Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009.

GOVERNMENT BILL

The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I beg to move:

That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amount spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2007 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The question was proposed.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, I have small submission to make. Sir, this Appropriation Bill was laid yesterday, and it is being introduced just now by the Finance Minister. This is about the extra money spent during the financial year ended on 31st March, 2007. They could have brought it in 2008; they could have brought in February when they brought the interim Budget. So, what was the reason for delay? I would appreciate if he can just explain it. We do not want to discuss this matter. Because it talks about the Ministry of Company Affairs expenditure, a small amount, the defence services, Army, and, then, the interest payment and repayment of debts, and the Ministry of Mines expenditure, I just want to have an explanation from him. That is all.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, with your permission, I would like to say that it is correct, and it has also been the practice, that during the presentation of the regular Budget, sometimes, we raise the supplementary demands for the approval of the hon. Members. Supplementary demands are anticipated as and when the Members come to know, when the various Ministerial colleagues demand from the Finance Ministers that some more money, additional allocation is to be given, it has been the practice of every Finance Minister, whether he sits this side – every Finance Minister will be sitting this side. Whether they sit that side or this side, they assure their Ministerial colleagues that they will bring it as 'the supplementary demands'. That is the supplementary demand. But, sometimes, it happens that whatever expenditure was assessed was processed, but, as per the parliamentary practice, it was intended that every expenditure is to be approved by the Parliament. So, how to regularise it? This is being regularised, when the GAG draws the attention of the Government to these excess payments. It is discussed in its report and it is mentioned in its report. It is taken into account. The CAG's recommendations go to the PAC and the PAC makes its recommendations and gives directions to regularise it and get the approval of the Parliament for these excess payments. This practice goes on every year. That is why, at the time of the

presentation of the Budget, there are Supplementary Demands every year, which you may have noticed. This time if didn't bring the Supplementary Demands because after the Interim Budget, the General Budget came. But from November onwards it will come and it will come again at the time of the regular Budget in February, 2010 as well as some excess grants which will be allocated in the intervening period. This report is available only in January-February.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the question is:

That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2007, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, with your permission I beg to move:

That the Bill be returned.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Special Mentions for 15th July. Dr. Subbarami Reddy. He is not here. Shri Tariq Anwar.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand to take remedial steps to fight the drought due to delay in moonsoon in the country

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (Maharashtra): Sir, I would like to bring to your kind notice the following matter of urgent public importance that the water level in major reservoirs across the country has gone down to 11 per cent of the total storage capacity raising concerns over its impact on Agriculture as monsoon condition continues to remain grim. There is every possibility of acute shortage of drinking water in the country if the rainfall situation does not improve. The weekly report of important reservoirs, released by the Central Water Commission, reveals that the storage capacity of water in reservoirs located in the country is neither sufficient for drinking purpose nor for agricultural activities.

Sir, the present situation will definitely affect agricultural activities as well as power production in the hydel power plants. We have ample stock of food in the country but if the North India remains rain