

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: Sir, with your permission, I am challenging him. Let him say that Justice Ansari was appointed as the Chairman on 24-2-78.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, he was appointed as a member. Then the Chairman, Mr. Masani resigned. So, he was asked to hold the charge and he became chairman. His term starts from 24th February, 1978.

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: No, according to the terms and reference of the Commission, the term of the Chairman is for three years.

SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA (Kerala): Then what was the reason for his dismissal?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: There is no reason. His term automatically expired on 23rd February. So, the Government wrote a letter of appreciation. Whatever the hon. Member has said about the Hyderabad conference is also factually incorrect. He has been misled by someone. Professor Mansoor Hussain of the Usmania University, Hyderabad, wrote a letter for such a conference to the Ministry of Home Affairs. After due consideration, the Ministry of Home Affairs sent that letter to the Minorities Commission and requested it to examine it. The Commission thought that it should be proper to hold a seminar of all the minority religions and not of the Muslims alone and it is under the consideration of the Commission and the Ministry.

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: No, Sir, this is not correct. The Commission was given one lakh of rupees for the seminar and he was appointed Chairman in July 1978. His term expires in July 1981.

STATEMENT RE. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SITA RAM KESRI): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government business in this House during the week commencing 2nd March, 1981, will be general discussion on the Railway Budget for 1981-82.

THE BUDGET (RAILWAYS) 1981-82—General Discussion

SHRI V. B. RAJU (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, we have the second budget of the present Government which seems to reflect the shortcomings and also the absence of a firm policy on the part of the Government. Sir, one intriguing situation is that in the earlier Budget speech which was presented for 1980-81 by Mr. Kamalapati Tripathi, he had tried to find a scapegoat in the predecessor Government, that because of its bad handling of the situation, the carry-over had made it difficult for the new Government to administer the railways in this country. Sir, I will quote what he said at that time:

"The Government has had time to scrutinise the severity of the damage done to the economy inherited from the previous Government and has made an assessment of the factors that have brought about economic stagnation."

It is a frontal attack on the predecessor Government, that it created a mess. Further he said:

"Due to the setback in railway working in the last three years, the restoration of efficiency to 1976-77 level may take some more time. But I have no hesitation in saying that we have made a dent on the problem."