

THE BUDGET (RAILWAYS) 1977-78

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHU DANDAVATE): Sir, I lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the year 1977-78 in respect of Railways.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL) 1977-78

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): Sir, I lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the year 1977-78.

REFERENCE TO REPEAL OF THE PREVENTION OF PUBLICATION OF OBJECTIONABLE MATTERS ACT, RESTORATION OF FEROZE GANDHI ACT AND RELEASE OF NAXALITES HELD UNDER MISA..

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, my friend Mr. Advani is sitting there. May I have an assurance from him that two Bills, one repealing the Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matters Act and the other restoration of the Feroze Gandhi Act, will be taken up this very week? I think the hon. Minister will very well introduce himself to the country by restoring the Feroze Gandhi Act and repealing the other Act. As far as we are concerned, we are giving full co-operation, so that you do this expeditiously. Let the Parliament start with the restoration of what has been taken away from us, namely, the Feroze Gandhi Act. It will be a very good gesture. I will appeal to my friend Mr. Advani, who was sitting with me—in fact, I am occupying his place now—to do this, to bring this change. I have introduced a Bill already for this restoration. If he does

not like that, well, the Government can bring it. I think it is better if the Government brings it. My bill can also be taken up with your consent. You can give permission that the Bill which is before the House can be taken up.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI): So far as the issue which Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has raised is concerned, my Government is committed to restoring the freedom of the Press fully, repealing the Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matters Act and the restoration of the Feroze Gandhi Act regarding the freedom that the Press has enjoyed in respect of the parliamentary proceedings. I look forward to being able to present these Bills.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: There should be no difficulty. It will not present any kind of difficulty.

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal): What about bonus and scrapping of Compulsory Deposit Scheme? The Minister should assure us that he will take necessary steps.

CHAIRMAN: You will have enough opportunities for raising these things.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I understand that MISA will not be repealed. It will be reviewed. I want the Central Government to take steps about it. Many of the Naxalite prisoners are in jail. Other prisoners are also there. I think the Government should give direction that all Naxalite prisoners in West Bengal and other places should be released. Two of them were hanged during the emergency. I will ask the Government to give some benefit to their families.

THE BUDGET (TAMIL NADU) 1977-78

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): Sir, I lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) of the estimated receipts and