

THE BUDGET (ORISSA), 1961-62

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND CIVIL EXPENDITURE (DR. B. GOPALA REDDI): Sir, on behalf of Shri Morarji Desai, I beg to lay on the Table a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Orissa for the year 1961-62.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): May I know from Dr. Gopala Reddi when exactly the Finance Ministry received the Orissa Budget sent to it by the State Government which, as we have been informed, was subjected to certain alterations by the Central Government?

DR. B. GOPALA REDDI: That matter can be raised when the Budget is discussed.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE MID-TERM ELECTIONS IN ORISSA

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI LAL BAHADUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House will recall that in the course of the debate on the Resolution approving of the President's Proclamation under article 356 in relation to the State of Orissa, I had occasion to observe that Government, in consultation with the Election Commission, were considering the question when the next elections to the Orissa Legislative Assembly should take place. It has now been decided that these elections should be held early in June, 1961.

Whenever a Proclamation under article 356 is brought into force, the Government's aim is always to restrict the period of the President's Rule in the State to the minimum duration possible. In the climatic conditions of Orissa, general elections during the period of the monsoon would be extremely difficult as during that period considerable areas are

inundated and communications are disrupted. If the elections cannot be held before the onset of the monsoon, they can only be held some time in December, 1961, that is to say, about two or three months before the general elections, which would hardly be justified. The choice, therefore, is limited to having elections early in June or at the time of the general elections in February/March next year. The Chief Election Commissioner is satisfied that administrative steps to be taken can be completed within the time for an election to be held in the early part of June. As I have already indicated, Government do not desire to prolong the period of the President's Rule to about 14 months until the next general elections. This appears particularly undesirable this year when the Third Five Year Plan is being launched and when it would be far better for a popular Government to implement new Plan in the first year. Government have, therefore, decided that in the balance, it would be desirable to hold elections to the State Legislative Assembly in the early part of June, 1961.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, during the last session I made a suggestion. We expressed our opposition to mid-term elections. Later on, I find that the P. S. P. also and the Ganatantra Parishad too, have passed resolutions opposing mid-term elections. Yesterday, I met our friends from Orissa in Calcutta and I found that no party there had been consulted at all, apart from the Congress Party of course. I do not know about the Ganatantra Parishad. No party had been consulted. How is it that one party, the Congress Party, unilaterally took the decision for a mid-term election, passed it on to the Government and the Government is making this announcement even before we are discussing the Orissa Supplementary Budget? It is not a question of monsoon; water scarcity will be there in very many areas. People will not have water in June. That is what I am told by