

COUNCIL OF STATES

Saturday, 1th March 1953

The Council met at nine of the <clock in the morning, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SHRI ALLADI KRISHNASWAMI

MR. CHAIRMAN: Here is a letter from Shri Alladi Krishnaswami which says:

"Though I am improving in my health, as yet I am not in a position to undertake a journey to Delhi and take part in the proceedings of the Council of States. In the circumstances, I request the House will be pleased to excuse my absence during the current session of the Council of States."

Is it the pleasure of the Council that leave be granted to Shri Alladi Krishnaswami for remaining absent from all meetings of the Council during this session?

(No hon. Member dissented.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN ONEY BILLS

MR. CHAIRMAN: In pursuance of sub-rule (2) of rule 162 of the Council rules, I have allotted time for the completion by the Council of all the stages involved in the consideration and return of the Bills specified below including the consideration and passing of amendments, if any thereto, as follows:—

The Appropriation (Railways) Bill—24 hours.

The .Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 "Bill—half an hour.

The Appropriation (Vote on .Account) Bill—30 minutes-

"The Union Duties of Excise (Dis-tribution) Bill—2i hours.

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The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill—24 hours.

Shri Lai Bahadur.

MOTION FOR PAPERS RE ARREST OF CERTAIN M.Ps.

SHRI S. MAHANTY (Orissa): Before we proceed to the Legislative Business, I want to move my motion for papers. Sir, yesterday....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot move. I have to find out from the Minister concerned and after that I will give you time. I will take very early steps.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Would you not kindly give me at least 5 minutes?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We all know the facts. We have all read the morning papers and we know that Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and some others have been arrested. I don't know whether they have been released but...

SHRI S. MAHANTY: No, Sir. It is a matter of very urgent importance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not disallowing the motion. I shall adopt the procedure of consulting the Minister and then give you time.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Could I expect after a little while?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The rule says:

"If the Chairman is satisfied after calling for such information from the Member who has given notice and from the Minister as he may consider necessary, etc."

I shall put myself in touch or the Leader of the Council will put himself in touch with the Minister immediately and I shall try to give a decision as soon as possible.

THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (SHRI C. C. BISWAS): I shall immediately obtain the information.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA (Madras): Will Government stop the practice of issuing orders under section 144 and arresting important leaders and Members of Parliament?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a question.

**THE APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)
BILL, 1953**

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI LAL BAHADUR) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1953-54 for the purposes of Railways, as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: You don't want to make any remarks?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1953-54; for the purposes of Railways, as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration."

DR. R. B. GOUR (Hyderabad): Mr. Chairman, on this Bill that is proposed for consideration by this House, I shall deal only with certain points of expenditure. First and foremost, I shall take up the question of working expenditure on repairs and maintenance. That is the major item costing us Rs. 66,13,74,000. Now, on this question of expenditure, I should like to bring to the notice of the Government and the hon. Railway Minister that the major expenditure on this working cost, Repairs and Maintenance is on purchases. A very serious matter has come before us on this question of purchases from the

book "Indian Railways." The purchases have increased from Rs. 81.59 crores in 1947-48" to Rs. 97.66 crores in 1951-52. But the point is that this increase in expenditure is due to money going outside the country. The money is going out because the indigenous purchases have decreased from Rs. 74 crores in 1947-48 to 68.24 crores in 1951-52 whereas the imported material had cost us Rs. 7.59 crores in 1947-48 and it has inflated up to 29.32 crores in 1951-52. I am reading this from the Table on page 46 of the book "Indian Railways" that was supplied to us. It is very significant that the purchase cost has increased and this major amount is devoured: by the foreign countries from where the purchases are increasing. They themselves say that this is because foreign companies are charging us inflated prices. I will not tire the patience of the House and, of course, of the hon. Minister, by going into great detail but it is very evident from the report of the Public Accounts Committee that these foreign firms are* inflating the costs, that they give us an undertaking that they would give material at a certain cost but later they inflate the cost and we are compelled to give them the higher cost. I need not go into details of this or even quote the report because the entire report must have been studied' by the Minister concerned. The point is we want a categorical answer as to what steps the Ministry has taken to see that these firms don't inflate¹ their prices so that our money may not go outside the country to these foreign firms.

The other point is increase in the cost of stores and greater consumption of stores. This is what the Government give as one of the reasons why the costs have increased. But the question- is: what is this increase in the cost of stores and what is this increase in consumption? They say our country is now self-sufficient in, meeting our own needs of materials. Here we see that we are going to foreign firms more and more for purchases of stores and they are getting our money. So much so, that, in this