

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : I can give you one figure. I cannot tell you the number of breakdowns every day, but the position has certainly improved. The average daily breakdowns in 1951 were 54. Now, they have been reduced to 40.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND : Will the hon. Minister kindly see that some of the Ministers occasionally have a bus ride as a first step towards introducing a classless travel and a classless society ?

(No answer.)

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : I want to make a submission. As you know I had given notice of a motion and therefore will you kindly allow me to ask a few questions ?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : He said that he will not put any supplementaries.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Conditions change.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : That is not true.

Is the hon. Minister aware that bus fares charged in Delhi are about the highest ?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : That is so.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Will the Minister state as to why this should be so ?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : There is a difference of only a pie or two.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Between what services ?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : Between Bombay and Calcutta.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Between Delhi on the one side and Calcutta on the other.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Is the Minister aware that for a run of about 6 miles in Calcutta they charge 2 annas ?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : That may be so but we cannot reduce the rate just at present.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Will the Minister consider the desirability of introducing services at an interval of 5 minutes in the peak hours and at an interval of 15 minutes in other hours ?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : I shall certainly consider that but I cannot give any promise just now.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Will the Minister kindly state as to whether the previous General Manager was dismissed as he stated that a new Manager was appointed in July ?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : He has not been dismissed. He belonged to the Railway Services and he has gone back.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Is the Minister aware of all the irregularities that were revealed in the audit report of 1950-51 of this Service ?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : I am aware of that.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Has Government taken any action on that report in regard to the management of this concern and if so, what ?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : The audit report is still under consideration and we do propose to take action against any person who has been found guilty. In fact there is no doubt that the accounts were in a very unsatisfactory position. We are trying to clear up the mess and put it on a regular basis.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SHRI ALLADI KRISHNASWAMI

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will pass on to the next item.

I have to inform hon. Members that the following letter has been received :

from Shri Alladi Krishnaswami :

"Since my return after the last session, I have been ill and in bed and as yet I am not able to walk about. In the circumstances I request you to accord permission under article 101(4) of the Constitution to be absent from all meetings of the Council during the current session."

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

(No hon. Member dissented.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Permission to remain absent is granted. Mr. Tyagi's Appropriation Bill.

THE APPROPRIATION (No. 3) BILL, 1952

THE MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI) : Sir, I beg to move :

That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for these twice of the financial year 1952-53, as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration.

This Bill arises out of the Supplementary Demand voted by the House of the People on 12th December 1952. A copy of these Supplementary Demands has already been laid on the table of the House and copies thereof have also been circulated to the hon. Members.

The Demands for which this Bill authorises withdrawals of moneys from the Consolidated Fund of India amount to Rs. 10.36 crores, of which Rs. 8.99 crores are in the Revenue Section of the Budget and the balance of Rs. 1.37 crores in the Capital Section.

The largest single item in the Revenue Section is that of Rs. 4.30 crores for payment of compensation to sugar factories on account of reduction of controlled prices of 1951-52 stock of sugar. The House is fully

aware of this and has already passed a Bill on it. The entire payment will be covered by the proceeds of the special excise duty now levied on sugar so that ultimately there would be no expenditure to the Government.

Of the balance of Rs. 6 crores, a sum of Rs. 1.23 crores is required partly for additional expenditure on existing schemes of relief of displaced persons and partly due to fresh influx of refugees from East Pakistan. This involves no new policy.

It also includes a sum of about a crore of rupees (Rs. 98 lakhs) largely for payment of compensation for damages to immovable property during the last war in certain areas of Assam and Manipur and for payment of terminal compensation in respect of lands and buildings requisitioned during the war. The provision in the original Budget on this account was made on a rough assumption as to the value of claims, which require detailed verification at spot, sometimes in the absence of reliable records. This is not a new item of expenditure but has been in existence since partition and is gradually dying.

A payment of Rs. 50 lakhs to the Coal Mines Stowing Board on account of the proceeds of excise duty on coal and coke is another major item. This is a statutory payment under an Act and follows the actual collections of duty, which become known only after the close of the year. The payment in effect represents reimbursement of duty already collected by Government.

Purchase of paper by the Stationery and Printing Department is expected to cost Rs. 47 lakhs more this year. This has been necessitated by larger indents from the paying Departments like Posts and Telegraphs and Defence, which will reimburse the whole of this expenditure.

A sum of Rs. 25 lakhs has been included for payment to the State Governments of the arrears of bonus they earned on internal procurement and export of indigenous foodgrains. The Scheme has been discontinued with effect from 1st January 1952