

COUNCIL OF STATES

Monday, 26th May 1952

The Council met at a quarter past eight of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN

Dr. M. D. D. Gilder (Bombay).

Dr. Raj Bahadur Gour (Hyderabad).

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to inform the Members of the Council that I have received the following message from the President. The President writes :

I have received with great satisfaction the expression of thanks by the Members of the Council of States for the Address I delivered to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 16th May 1952.

BUDGET (GENERAL), 1952-53— GENERAL DISCUSSION

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we have general discussion on the Budget. Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon.

(No response.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Nawab of Chhatari.

SHRI A. S. KHAN (Uttar Pradesh) : Mr. Chairman, before I make a few observations about the Budget that has been placed before this House, I would like to submit that the period of three days that has been allotted for the general discussion of this Budget which is so huge is most inadequate. It will not be possible for us to examine thoroughly and do any justice to this Budget if we have no time at our disposal. The time, i.e., three days is, I should say, quite insufficient for the purpose. We are supposed to be elders in this House. Therefore, it is not possible for us to go through this Budget fully during this short period of only

three days. I therefore trust, Sir, that next year you will see that some more time is allotted for this purpose.

Now, coming to the Budget itself, I feel that, considering the economic situation in the country and also the atmosphere of misgivings and tension in the international field, our Budget is not bad. I have noted with great satisfaction when the Finance Minister said that he thinks that the downward trend of the prices has been beneficial. I agree with him absolutely there and I do hope that the Government will do nothing to stop this downward trend of prices because I think the man in the street stands to benefit thereby. I also noted that the Finance Minister said that the business people had to sustain some losses on account of the fall in prices. It is true, Sir. But I am sure our businessmen are not so unpatriotic as to come in the way of the masses of our country who stand to gain by the fall in prices. If the businessmen are not having the same amount of profit as they expected, it does not matter; the purchasing power of the rupee has gone up and therefore there is no real loss in that sense. I would even welcome a further pushing down of the trend of the prices. I would like to suggest whether the time has not come for the Finance Minister to reconsider our policy of devaluation.

Sir, during the last elections, we find that the people have shown their great confidence in the Congress organisation of the country. They have returned Congressmen in a thumping majority all over the country. This has meant more responsibility on the shoulders of the Congressmen. I am sure, Sir, that the Government as well as the Members of this House will leave no stone unturned to see that the era of abundance should dawn in India during next 5 years. There is no doubt some discouraging features had to be faced. There are famine conditions prevailing somewhere on account of drought, and somewhere on account of floods. But the Government has been doing its best to remedy as far as it lies in their power. Let us hope we are going