

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the State Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2007, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th August, 2007.

The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India".

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) 2007-08

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री नारनभाई रठवा) : महोदय, मैं 2007-08 के वर्ष के लिए अनुपूरक अनुदान मांगों (रेल) को दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

BILL INTRODUCED

The Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2007

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

RE. COMMENTS MADE BY INDIAN AMBASSADOR IN U.S.A.

श्री उपसभापति : गवर्नमेंट कुछ कहना चाहती है।...(व्यवधान)... स्पेशल मेशन नहीं है।...(व्यवधान)... यह नहीं होगा।...(व्यवधान)... इस तरह नहीं होगा। मंत्री जी, बोलिए।

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेश पचौरी) : उपसभापति महोदय, सुबह विदेश मंत्री जी ने यह कहा था कि वे वस्तुस्थिति जानकर अवगत कराएंगे कि वहां के राजदूत ने इस विषय में क्या बोला है और जैसे ही उनको इस बात की सूचना मिलेगी या मिल जाएगी, तुरंत इस सदन को हम अवगत कराएंगे। मैं विदेश मंत्री से पता कर लेता हूँ कि उनको यह सूचना यदि मिली है, तो वे उससे इस सदन को अवगत कराएं। यदि वे उस सदन में अवगत करा रहे हैं, तो इस सदन को भी अवगत कराएं।

...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : ...(व्यवधान)... What is your demand?... (Interruptions)... क्या करें? ऐसा कब तक चलता रहेगा? ...(व्यवधान)... कब तक चलता रहेगा?

...(व्यवधान)... Nothing will go on record. ...(Interruptions)... कौन वापस बुलाएगा? मैं बुलाऊंगा? ...(व्यवधान)... आप जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)... जाइए...(व्यवधान)... Mr. Jothi, it is not in my hand to call *back*...(Interruptions)... Please go ...(Interruptions)... Nothing will go on record. ...(Interruptions)... Nothing will go on record. ...(Interruptions)... Have some decorum. पाणि जी, आप बोल रहे हैं तो decorum से बोलिए प्लीज ...(व्यवधान)... ...(Interruptions)... The House is adjourned till 4 o'clock.

The House then adjourned at fifteen minutes past two of the clock.

The House re-assembled at four of the clock,
MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. External Affairs Minister. ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down...(Interruptions)... The hon. Minister wants to say something. ...(Interruptions)... पाणि जी, आप बैठिए। ...(Interruptions).. Please sit down. ... (Interruptions)...

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the hon. Members may recall that in the morning I shared some information about the observations made by our Ambassador, Mr. Ronen Sen, with the hon. Members of the House. I have received some further information and I would like to share with the hon. Members as we have already shared it with the hon. Members of the other House. I am just reproducing exactly the message which I have received from him. It should not be construed as a statement. "I have received several queries about a report datelined Washington DC, August 20, 2007, by Mr. Aziz Hanifa of Rediff India Abroad which quoted me extensively on the- India-US Civil Nuclear Agreement.

I had an off-the-record conversation with the correspondent giving some assessments on this subject. A number of the comments were, however, either misunderstood or misquoted or quoted out of context. For instance, I did not say that the Hyde Act could not be renegotiated, but said that the bilateral agreement could not, in my view, be renegotiated. With reference to the Hyde Act, I had expressed my assessment that it would not be amended in the foreseeable future.

Some of the comments attributed to me in this off-the-record conversation were, however, made by me in my personal capacity and do not reflect the positions of the Government. I fully recognize that such personal views, even in a private conversation, should have been expressed with better judgement and due decorum. For instance, my comment about, I quote, "running around like headless chicken looking for a comment here or comment there" was a tactless observation on some of my media friends, and most certainly not with reference to any hon. Member of Parliament. It was certainly not my intention to cast aspersion on any individual or organization. However, if I have unwittingly hurt any sentiments, I offer my unqualified apologies." This is the message I have received, ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): What about the drama and debate he is talking about? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Ahluwalia, just bear me out for a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him complete. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Most respectfully, I would like to submit for the consideration of the hon. Members, hon. Leader of the Opposition, that let the House have some patience and as and when fuller explanations, or other information will be available to me, I will be ready to share it with the House, but for the time being, I will request, most respectfully, to allow the matter to be rested at this stage. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the Leader of the Opposition.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Puducherry): Sir, there should not be any discussion on it now.

(श्री सुरेश पचौरी) : सर, इस पर discussion already होना है। बाकी अगर कुछ क्वेरीज बचती हैं तो discussion के समय raise की जा सकती है। ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Narayanasamy, no explanations on this. No comments will be made on this particular thing. The Leader of the Opposition has just got up and wants to say something.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: On what subject, he wants to speak.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I don't know ...*(Interruptions)*...

AN HON. MEMBER: Who are you to ask this? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, when the hon. Leader of the Opposition gets up, I can't say ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, Mr. Narayanasamy ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: As a Member of this House, I should know on which subject the Leader of the Opposition wants to speak ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, please ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, would you please clarify on which subject ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I cannot clarify...*(Interruptions)*... You got up; you are talking. He got up; he is talking. ...*(Interruptions)*... And the Leader of the Opposition ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, in the morning, he has already spoken on the subject. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, it is not the prerogative of only the B.J.P to speak on any issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are also Members of this House. ...*(Interruptions)*... We have got every right to speak in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, let me know on what subject he is going to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठ जाइये । ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठ जाइये । ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठ जाइये । ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: On what subject is he going to speak? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Madhya Pradesh): Now he is speaking in response to the current observations. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: ...rule or without rules. ...*(Interruptions)*... I want to know whether there are rules in this House or not. ...*(Interruptions)*... On what subject is he going to speak? ...*(Interruptions)*... Why have you given permission to him? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, on what subject are you speaking? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I want to know under what rule and on what subject he is speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... You see whenever the Leader of the Opposition gets up, I cannot say that he cannot speak.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : उपसभापति जी, आप एक नई प्रथा बना दीजिए । ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : मैं कोई नई प्रथा नहीं बनाऊंगा, जो प्रथा चल रही है । ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सुषमा स्वराज : वह आगे से एक कापी पहले Chief Whip को दें, तो वह बोलने देंगे, नहीं तो, वह बोलने नहीं देंगे । ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, we also want to say something on this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you want to raise it, you raise it. I will see what can be done.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am impressed by the intervention of the Chief Whip of the ruling misalliance. I think he needs a throat lozenge. It will improve his ability to speak in the House. Sir, the House is very aggrieved. The House is very aggrieved. and the House is aggrieved with good reason. This is truly a most exceptional situation that has developed that in the course of just one sitting or one day in the House, the

House ought to express its dissatisfaction about the conduct and utterances, statements issued by the representative of India, of course, appointed by the Government of India, but whoever is appointed as an Ambassador, or, High Commissioner of India, represents India, in which ever fashion he represents. I think, Sir, the House has very good reason to feel aggrieved because there are certain allegations and charges that are demeaning to the self-respect of the Members of the House, in fact, indeed, even the conduct of Business in the House itself. If civil servants and others were to openly comment on how the House goes about its proceedings, that would be a sad day, and I have to remind the hon. the Minister of External Affairs what I said earlier this morning that I am very concerned and disturbed by the fact that for the partisan purpose, the hon. the Foreign Secretary was summoned or directed to go and brief the partners of the misalliance on current development. Sir, that is a very sad development. I do wish to repeat that officers of the Government of India serve the Republic, not any one particular Party. The officers have no brief at all, Sir, to comment on the functioning of the House or any one Member or Members of the House. This is a serious situation and I am sure, Sir, the hon. the Minister of External Affairs, with the long experience that he has, will address it seriously because there is no other way to treat this whole thing. Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I would also like to say something on this on behalf of my Party. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no other Member would be allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is done, when there is a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*... You see, it is not a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not a statement where clarifications are sought. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please listen. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not a statement on which clarification is sought. ...*(Interruption)*... The hon. Minister has rightly said that he is reading the verbatim report which has been sent and he has said that as and when he receives any further information, he will inform the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, there is no point in opening a discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; there is no point in opening a discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*... I just allowed the Leader of the Opposition. ...*(Interruptions)*... Kindly, don't disrupt the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... On this subject, I cannot allow any debate. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please bear with me. ...*(Interruptions)*... The House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 A.M.

The House then adjourned at nine minutes past four of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 22nd August, 2007.