



Dictation NO. 5

I am thankful to you for having given me this opportunity long last

to say a few words on the Budget. Already, much has been said and

I think the Finance Minister, has come in for his share of

congratulations as well as criticisms. So, there is not very much to

say but I should like to say a few words.

The increased development expenditure and the absence of any new taxation has earned for the Budget a good response even from the business men. I speciall welcome the relief given to the middle



classes by raising the exemption limit of (100) income-tax in respect

of personal income. No doubt, this is some relief to the middle

classes. But I would request the Finance Minister, if the could, to

raise this exemption limit from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 6,000 as that would

give substantial relief to the middle classes.



I am indeed glad that the Taxation Enquiry Commission has been

appointed with Dr. John Mathaias the Chairman, and I am sure that

many of the Vexed problems may be solved through this

Commission. At the same time, I would request the Finance



Minister to PUT Off the ESTATE (200) DUTY Bill for the present,

since this Enquiry Commission has been appointed and they may go

into this question. For, I feel that it is not an opportune moment to

put on more taxes on the people. Already, as Mr. Gadgil has pointed

out there are so many taxes on the people. The people are over



burdened by taxes and they are just trying to recover their stability.

So, in regard to Estate Duty, I would ask him to consider about it.

My reason for asking it to be postponed is, as I have said, that the

people are still (300) facing economic distress. And then, our

Government is not able to offer the amenities which other countries



have, where the estate Duty exists, such as free compulsory

education for children, free medical aid, homes for the poor and the

destitute, old age pension, etc. So, my humble suggestion is that this

point may be considered by the Taxation enquiry commission. I

agree that there is a brighter side of the picture and that instead of



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The increased development expenditure and the absence of any new taxation has earned for the Budget a good / RESPONSE even from the businessmen. I specially welcome the relief given to the middle classes by raising the exemption limit of (100) income-tax in respect of personal income. No doubt, this is some relief to the middle classes. But I would / request the Finance Minister, if he could, to raise this exemption limit from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 6,000 / as that would give substantial relief to the middle classes.

I am indeed glad that the Taxation Enquiry Commission has / been appointed with Dr. John Mathai as the Chairman, and I am sure that many of the VEXED problems may / be solved through this Commission.

At the same time, I would request the Finance Minister to PUT OFF the ESTATE (200) DUTY Bill for the present, since this Enquiry Commission has been appointed and they may go into this question. For, / I feel that it is not an OPPORTUNE moment to put on more taxes on the people. Already, as Mr. / Gadgil has pointed out, there are so many taxes on the people. The people are over-burdened by taxes and / they are just trying to recover their STABILITY. So, in regard to Estate Duty, I would ask him to consider / about it. My reason for asking it to be postponed is, as I have said, that the people are still (300) facing economic DISTRESS. And then, our Government is not able to offer the AMENITIES which other countries have, where the / Estate Duty exists, such as free compulsory education for children, free medical aid, homes for the poor and the DESTITUTE / old age pension, etc. So, my humble suggestion is that this point may be considered by the Taxation Enquiry Commission. / I agree that there is a brighter side of the picture and that instead of continually HARPING ON our poverty, / we should also see the bright side. We are making encouraging progress towards laying the foundation of a welfare State. (400)