

March 1981 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding extension of validity of notification No. 84/Customs dated the 19th April, 1980 exempting glass shell, when imported into India for the manufacture of electric lamp, from basic customs duty as is in excess of 10 per cent *ad valorem*, upto 31st December, 1981.

(iii) GSR 225(E) and 226(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 1981 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding extension of validity of notification No. 200-Customs dated the 28th September, 1979 and 52-Customs dated the 1st March, 1981 upto 31st March, 1982.

(iv) GSR 260(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1981 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rates of exchange for conversion of seventeen foreign currencies mentioned in the Notification into Indian currency or *vice-versa*.

(v) GSR 267(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1981 together with an explanatory note regarding continuance of total exemption of import duty on steel tubes meant for use in the manufacture of gas cylinders conforming to IS: 7285-1974 or IS: 7312-1974 beyond 31st March, 1981.

(vi) GSR 268(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1981 together with an explanatory note regarding continuance of total exemption of auxiliary duty on steel tubes meant for use in the manufacture of gas cylinders conforming to IS 7285-1974 or IS: 7312-1974. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2298/81].

(Interruptions)**

12.17 hrs.

At this stage, Shri George Fernandes and some other hon. Members left the House

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(i) MINUTES

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI (Sitapur): I beg to lay on the Table Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee on Papers laid on the Table relating to their Seventh Report.

(ii) SEVENTH REPORT

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: I beg to present the Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers laid on the Table.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

SIXTEENTH REPORT AND MINUTES

SHRI BANSI LAL (Bhiwani): I beg to present the Sixteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Damodar Valley Corporation and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: Now we take up Calling Attention.

Shri Rasheed Masood, Shri Rasheed Masood, Shri Rasheed Masood. He is not here.

Kumari Pushpa Devi Singh, Kumari Pushpa Devi Singh

श्री रशीद मसूद (रहारनपुर) :
स्पीकर साहब, मेरा नाम इसमें सब से पहला है।

[شری رشید مسعود (سہ ماہیہ)]

سیدکو صاحب میرا نام اس میں
سب سے پورے ہے -

अःरक्ष महोदय : मैंने तीन दका आप का नाम पुकारा था ।

श्री रसोद नसूद : मैंने सुना नहीं ।

شری رشید مسعود : میں نے
سنا نہیں -

अःरक्ष महोदय : मैंने आप का नाम लिया था ।

श्री रसोद नसूद : मैंने तो इतिहास वाक-
आऊट भी नहीं किया था क्योंकि मुझे वह
पढ़ना था ।

[شری رشید مسعود : میں نے تو

اس لئے واٹ آؤٹ بھی نہیں کہا تھا
کہونکہ مجھے یہ پڑھنا تھا -]

MR. SPEAKER: All right, he says he has not walked out.

12.20 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED STRANDING OF 400 INDIAN SEAMEN AT BASRAH PORT SINCE OUTBRAK OF IRAN-IRAQ WAR

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD (Saharanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:-

"The reported stranding of about 400 Indian crewmen aboard 22 mechanised vessels of India at Basrah port since the outbreak of Iran-Iraq war and the measures taken by the Government to bring them back."

(Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : चेम्बर में आकर बात कीजिए, कालिग अटेंशन यहां डिस्कस नहीं होती है ।

12.21 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARSIMHA RAO): Sir,

Following the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq conflict on September 22, 1980, three Indian ships and 22 mechanised sailing vessels are presently stranded in the war zone. After earlier evacuations, the number of remaining crewmen presently stranded is 402. In addition, a large number of foreign ships have also been stranded.

The Government of India are fully seized of the problems caused by the stranding of vessels and crewmen in the war zone. The Director General of Shipping has been in touch with the owners of the ships, as well as with the All India Sailing Vessels Association, in order to arrange the evacuation of the crewmen. As early as October 7, 1980, the owners of the sailing vessels were advised by the Director General of Shipping to repatriate their crew. Approximately 100 seamen have since been repatriated.

Sir, I am adding to the information that has been sent already in the written statement. This is based on the latest report we got this morning.

We have since received from the Director General of Shipping precise figures of seamen who are stranded and those who have been repatriated from the ports of Basrah and Fao. I had mentioned the figure of repatriated of seamen as approximately 100. The actual figures are as follows: from the more disturbed port known as Fao, 88 crew members pertaining to six sailing vessels that were stranded have already been repatriated. Another 110 members of the crew are now in the process of being repatriated both from Basrah and Fao. The total number of crew members thus either already repatriated or in the process of being repatriated is 198.