

the devaluation of the Indian Rupees (assessed at around 20 crores) and has been achieved by adjusting the pace of various works in progress and drastically cutting back on rolling stock production and procurement. The estimate of expenditure on the Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock programme in 1967-68 has been placed at present at Rs. 305 crores. I may, however, assure the House that these measures are not likely to affect the capacity of the railways to handle any normal surges in traffic in the next year or two.

Relations with the two Federations of organised Railway Labour have been cordial throughout the year, and, with the inauguration of the National Council last January, we look forward to even closer and more fruitful consultations on matters of common interest.

Before I conclude, I should like to pay my tribute to the devoted service of railwaymen throughout this year and the manner in which heavy movements of imported foodgrains have been handled in spite of the shortage of covered wagons on both the broad and metre gauge and the very long leads necessitated by the limitations of port capacity to handle these unprecedented imports. I have no doubt that the same spirit and enthusiasm which the Railways have always exhibited in times of emergency—external or internal—will enable the Railways to meet in future also similar sudden and unexpected demands made on them. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking all railwaymen for the good job that they have done during the year.

12.43 hrs.

MINERAL PRODUCTS (ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF EXCISE AND CUSTOMS) AMENDMENT BILL*

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji

Desai): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mineral Products (Additional Duties of Excise and Customs) Act, 1958."

Mr Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mineral Products (Additional Duties of Excise and Customs) Act, 1958."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Morarji Desai: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.44 hrs

STATEMENT RE. ORDINANCE

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the explanatory statement giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Mineral Products (Additional Duties of Excise and Customs) Amendment Ordinance, 1966, as required under rule 71(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-13/67].

Shri Tenneti Vishwanatham (Visakhapatnam): Sir, may I know whether this Ordinance itself was placed on the Table of the House?

Mr Speaker: I am told that it was circulated.

Shri Tenneti Vishwanatham: We have not received. Then again, the statement of Reasons should accompany the Bill itself. The copy of the Bill was circulated at an earlier date and the Statement of Reasons is being given on another day. Actually, according to Rule 71 it must accompany the Bill.

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 20-3-67.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.