

Jagaon and Raghunathapalli stations (Central Railway) on the 27th September, 1954. [Placed in Library. See No. S-511/56].

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Pratapgarh Distt.-West cum Rae Bareilly Distt.—East): On a point of information. The Government Inspector of Railways submitted this report in December, 1954, and it was published in October, 1955. May I enquire why it has taken such a long time to place it on the Table of the House? We are now in December, 1956.

Shri Gadgil (Poona Central): Another accident.

Shri Alagesan: The administrative Ministry concerned with this, is the Ministry of Communications. If it was found necessary to place it on the Table of the House, they should have placed it on the Table of the House. Since this matter of placing it on the Table of the House has risen in connection with the discussion that we are going to have on the 5th December,—since the question has risen in that connection—we are placing it on the Table of the House.

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILLS

Secretary: Sir, I have to inform the House that the following Bills, which were passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session, were assented to by the President during the last week.

- (1) The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1956.
- (2) The Abducted Persons (Recovery and Restoration) Continuation Bill, 1956.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am

directed to enclose a copy of the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Bill, 1956, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th November, 1956".

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 1956, by Dr. Shrimati Seeta Parmanand, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th November, 1956".

HINDU ADOPTIONS AND MAINTENANCE BILL AND HINDU MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Secretary: Sir, I lay the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha, on the Table of the House:

- (1) The Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Bill, 1956.
- (2) The Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 1956, by Dr. Shrimati Seeta Parmanand.

COMMITTEE ON THE ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Eighteenth Report

Shri Altekar (North Satara): I beg to present the Eighteenth Report of the Committee on the Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

I also lay on the Table a list showing the names of Members who were continuously absent from the sittings of the House for 15 days or more during the Thirteenth Session, 1956.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, on Friday, the 30th November, when I announced the programme

[Shri Satya Narayan Sinha]

and order of business in this House for the week commencing today, I said that I may have to add one or two Bills to the list and in that event would make a further announcement today.

With your permission, Sir, I would like to announce the addition of two Bills to the week's programme viz., the Finance Bill (No. 2) 1956 and the Finance Bill (No. 3) 1956, introduced on the 30th November. It is proposed to bring them forward for consideration and passing after the Representation of the People (Fourth Amendment) Bill. The list of business will be revised accordingly.

SEA CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

The Minister of Finance and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Sea Customs Act, 1878.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Sea Customs Act, 1878."

The motion was adopted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I introduce the Bill.

RESOLUTION RE PRESIDENT'S
PROCLAMATION RE KERALA

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): I beg to move:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 1st November, 1956, under article 356 of the Constitution, in relation to the State of Kerala."

The need for this motion has arisen from out of the re-organisation of the States in the country. The Travancore-Cochin State has now been en-

larged and we have the new State of Kerala. It is almost double the size of the Travancore-Cochin State and has a population of nearly 50 per cent more than what it had previously. There is no Rajpramukh now and a constitutional head will be in charge of the administration. For the time being, he will have to look after the administration, but as soon as the new legislature is formed, the Kerala State, which will have the status of a former Part A State, will enjoy all the powers and privileges along with other States.

As hon. Members may be remembering, I had the opportunity of moving a similar resolution in this House with regard to the Travancore-Cochin State, as it then existed, I think, on the 28th March. After that resolution had been adopted by this House, it was also placed before the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April. The Kerala State was then in the offing, but it had not come into existence. The period for which the proclamation was valid did not exceed six months. It would have come to an end on the 24th October. The new States were to be ushered into existence on the 1st November. There was thus a short gap of about a week between the 24th October and the 1st November. So, I moved a resolution again on the 31st August for the approval of this House. That resolution was also adopted by both Houses. I am making a similar request with regard to the new State of Kerala.

The House will, I hope, agree that it is absolutely necessary to have a proclamation for the administration of the affairs of Kerala. The elections are in the offing; they will be held in the course of the next three or four months and during this interval, steps will be taken to prepare the electoral roll, to place the new administration on a sound keel and basis and to adopt other preliminary measures that have in any case to be stabilised before any election can be held. In

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