

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE ON PLANTATIONS

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali). I beg to lay on the Table, copy of a statement showing conclusions of the Ninth Session of the Industrial Committee on Plantations held in Calcutta on the 23rd and 24th October, 1959 [Placed in Library, See No LT-1707/59]

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (KERALA), 1959-60

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai). I beg to present a statement showing Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Kerala State for 1959-60

12.17 hrs

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

DACOTITIES IN TRAINS

Shri Mohan Swarup (Pilibhit) Under rule 197, I beg to call attention of the Minister of Railways to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon

Dacoities committed on the 14 Down Upper-India Express on the 10th November, 1959 and on the Delhi-bound Upper-India Express on the 11th November, 1959

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) It is a fairly long statement. May I lay it on the Table of the House?

Mr. Speaker. Yes

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur) These are not the only two cases of robbery. We have been reading in the newspapers that constantly such robberies are occurring. There have been four cases of robbery within the last two months. Therefore, I request that some time may be allotted for discussing this question.

Mr. Speaker: Let me see. The hon. Minister may place it on the Table of the House. Hon. Members may read it. Hon. Members know the procedure in such matters. If they find that these incidents, dacoities, etc., have become very common and that immediate steps ought to be taken and a discussion ought to be held in this House, they know what to do and how to invoke the aid of Parliament for the purpose of having a discussion. The hon. Minister may place the statement on the Table of the House. It will be circulated if necessary.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan. I beg to lay the statement on the Table. [See Appendix I, annexure No 82]

12.19 hrs

STATEMENT ON OIL

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): The rapidly rising consumption of petroleum products is a clear index of the pace of industrialisation of the Indian economy. From two million tons in 1947, the total consumption is already about six million tons. Authoritative forecasts based on present trends and the likely size of the third Plan, are that consumption would increase to 14 million tons of crude oil equivalent by 1966, and at that rate, 25 million tons by 1971.

India's annual oil import bill (including crude oil for the three coastal refineries) is already of the order of Rs 100 crores per year. Lest the increasing foreign exchange cost of oil imports for the maintenance of the developing economy handicap the third Plan, the search for and production of oil within the country will be given the topmost priority in the third Plan as, for instance, steel was given in the second Plan.

Indigenous production of crude oil is hardly 0.5 million tons at present;