

DELHI MOTOR VEHICLES (THIRD AMENDMENT) RULES

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Delhi Motor Vehicles (Third Amendment) Rules, 1967, published in Notification No. F.3(10)/67-Transport in Delhi Gazette dated the 13th March, 1968, under sub-section (3) of section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1459/68].

(2) A statement showing reasons for delay in laying the above Notification.

MINISTERS' (ALLOWANCES, MEDICAL TREATMENT & OTHER PRIVILEGES) AMENDMENT RULES

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other privileges) Amendment Rules, 1968, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 894 in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 1968 under sub-section (2) of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1460/68].

12.02 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO SINGAPORE, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND MALAYSIA

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): From 19th May to 1st June I visited Singapore, Aus-

tralia, New Zealand and Malaysia, in response to invitations from the Heads of the friendly Governments concerned. The cordiality and warmth with which we were received, not only by the Governments but also by the people, reflected the goodwill and friendship which they have for India.

I had visited Malaysia and Singapore before, though not as Prime Minister. But with regard to Australia and New Zealand, it was a voyage of discovery. Although we have known these two countries through our Membership of the Commonwealth and have had good and friendly relations with them, I felt that it was essential for us to have more direct contacts.

The central purpose of my visit was to make personal contact with the distinguished leaders of these countries, and to exchange ideas with them on current international problems and matters of mutual interest. The visit also provided an opportunity to strengthen our bilateral relations and to promote proper understanding of our problems, our policies, our endeavours and our achievements. I think I was also able to correct certain impressions which had been created in recent years because of our economic and other difficulties.

It was not my intention to seek specific agreements or to undertake negotiations on specific matters. However, the officials accompanying me availed of the opportunity to discuss, with their counterparts, matters relating to the furthering of bilateral cooperation in the economic, technical, scientific and cultural fields.

I had invited our Heads of Missions from Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore to meet me in Kuala Lumpur for consultations. They gave a first-hand assessment of the situation, and the thinking in these countries, on current problems, and of our developing bilateral relations. I am glad to inform the House that our relations with these and other coun-

South-East Asia (St.)

tries in the region continue to be good and are being further strengthened to our mutual benefit.

There is a large fund of goodwill for India and the recognition that despite her recent difficulties, India is a vigorous and peace-loving democracy. I was informed that Indian co-operation and participation in economic endeavours would be welcome. On our part, I reiterated our own earnest interest as well as desire to cooperate with them. We are already discussing possibilities of increasing our trade and of developing technical cooperation, joint ventures, etc. A Malaysian delegation has already visited us. Other delegations are expected.

As the House is aware, a sizable section of the people of Indian origin abroad live in some of these countries. Over a million are in Malaysia and Singapore. A majority of them have settled down as citizens of the countries of their adoption, and are contributing to the welfare and development of these two countries. I was assured by the leaders of government in both these countries that there is no discrimination against persons of Indian origin. They do have some problems, which are not unusual in the circumstances. Given goodwill on all sides, the difficulties should not prove insuperable.

Our own views on foreign bases have been expressed on more than one occasion. Our stand on Vietnam is also well-known and was further elucidated. These countries were, in varying degrees, concerned about the possible economic and political consequences of the changing conditions in the area. Naturally, we are interested in the South-East Asian region, which we would like to see as an area of peace, cooperation and prosperity. We believe that the security as well as future of the region lie in the stability, growth and rapid economic development of these countries, based upon such cooperation as their

sovereign and independent governments may choose to have.

The Governments of other friendly countries in this region had invited me and I should have liked to respond. I regret I was unable to do so on this occasion. We attach the highest importance to our relations with these and other countries of the South-East Asian region. Fortunately, we have very close relations with them and it will be our constant endeavour to further strengthen these relations, which are based on mutual cooperation and respect for one another's independence.

श्री रवि राय (पुरी) : इस पर बहम होनी चाहिये। फारेन पालिसी पर बहम होनी चाहिये।

MR. SPEAKER: Some Members have also written about it. I think the hon. Member over there has also written about it yesterday. They have told the Prime Minister also. Let us hear Dr. Ram Subhag Singh. He is going to tell us about the work for the next week. We will see whether he can provide some time for this also.

12.07 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): Sir, Government Business in this House during the week commencing 29th July, 1968, will consist of:—

- (1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
- (2) Consideration of the Statutory Resolution given notice of by Shri Yashpal Singh seeking disapproval of the Gold (Control) Ordinance, 1968 and the Gold (Control) Bill, 1968.