

[Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao.]

Then it also says :

"...the proceeds from the enhanced duties which were estimated at Rs. 20 crores would be utilised..."

MR. SPEAKER : So he has not made any such statement. He denies having made any such statement.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : He has raised a number of other issues. I would like to be advised. I am very new, Mr. Speaker, to membership of the Cabinet. But it has been suggested by the hon. member that no member of the Cabinet can speak on any subject other than the particular portfolio with which he is concerned.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : In policy matters.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : I want to be quite clear on this because it becomes extremely difficult for me to speak for the rest of my life only on transport and shipping. I am not sure whether I will be able to put myself under that restraint, that I should speak on nothing except transport and shipping. If that is a part of the procedure of Cabinet formation, I would like to be advised, because it then becomes very difficult to function.

MR. SPEAKER : Neither Shri Patodia nor any other hon. Member can do that.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : On a point of clarification. When this news appeared, did he issue a denial of the report ?

MR. SPEAKER : He has denied it here.

SHRI RANGA : The question is whether he took the public into confidence and denied the newspaper report immediately thereafter.

MR. SPEAKER : Bill to be introduced. Shri Morarji Desai.

CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Customs Act, 1962.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Customs Act, 1962."

The motion was adopted

SHRI MORARJI DESAI : I introduce the Bill.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377—

Contd

Enhancement of duty on Petrol and Diesel Oil—Contd.

SHRI RANGA : I am afraid you have been a bit too quick for us. I thought the Minister wanted to say something in regard to the clarification asked for by my hon. friend.

MR. SPEAKER : He has denied it on the floor of the House in the presence of members. It is no record that he has not said that. I think that is more than enough. He must accept it. What else could he do ?

SHRI RANGA : You may come to that conclusion. But you should be a little patient with us after having been patient with us for so many minutes when the matter was raised.

MR. SPEAKER : What does he want me to do ?

SHRI RANGA : The only question is : why is it that the Minister did not catch time by the forelock and contradict the wrong statement attributed to him published in no less a newspaper than *The Statesman* earlier than today ? Why should he have waited ?

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*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.