

[Shri R. K. Khadilkar]

(iv) G.S.R. 643 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th April 1970 containing corrigendum to Notification No. G.S.R. 101 dated the 17th January, 1970. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3558/70]

(v) The Customs and Central Excise Duties Export Draw-back (General) Twentieth Amendment Rules, 1970 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 660 in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 1970. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3562/70]

(vi) The Customs and Central Excise Duties Export Draw-back (General) Twenty-first Amendment Rules, 1970. (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 661 in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 1970. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3563/70]

Tripura Foodgrains Movement Control Amendment and Sugar Amendment Order

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :—

(1) The Tripura Foodgrains Movement Control (No. 2) Amendment Order, 1970 (Hindi version) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 427 in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 1970. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3564/70]

(2) The Sugar (Price Determination) Third Amendment Order, 1970 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 644 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd April, 1970, [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3565/70]

12.06 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILL

SECRETARY : Sir, I lay on the Table the Finance Bill, 1970 passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 15th May, 1970.

12.07 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: STRIKE BY RAILWAY FIREMEN AT MADRAS

MR. SPEAKER : He may lay it on the Table.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : I lay the statement on the Table.

Statement

On the Southern Railway there are two Sectional Unions viz. The All India Loco Running Staff Association and the Southern Firemen's Council which draw their membership from a few categories of Railway staff such as the Loco Drivers, Shunters, Firemen etc. These associations have not been recognised by the Railway Administration in consonance with the accepted policy of the Railways to avoid multiplicity and fragmentation of Unions. There are two recognised Unions on the Southern Railway who represent all categories of Railwaymen on the Southern Railway including the Loco Running Staff.

The unrecognised Sectional Unions on the Southern Railway referred to above have, in the past also, on two occasions (in January and July '68) caused disruption to traffic in pursuance of their demands most of which were already under negotiation with the recognised Unions.

The present agitation started off with a hunger Satyagraha from 4th May '70 to 7th May '70. On the 10th of May 1970, a large number of employees en masse presented sick reports to the Loco Foremen concerned,

claiming that they were sick and accordingly refrained from discharging their normal duties. The agitation started at Basin Bridge, Arkonam, Tondiarpet and Madras Area and gradually spread to broad-gauge portion of Madras, Guntakal and Olavakkot Divisions. Subsequently, all Divisions of the Southern Railway were affected in varying degrees. Out of a total sanctioned strength of about 7000 staff, the number of employees on strike varied from 1057 on 10.5.70 to 3161 on 14.5.70. This caused considerable disruption to traffic and though the Railway maintained most of the main line mail and express trains with the aid of the loyal section of the Running staff, most of the passenger trains and goods trains had to be drastically curtailed.

On the 11th May 1970, after two days of consideration, the Southern Railway Administration issued a notice calling upon all employees, who had resorted to stoppage of work, to resume duty by 12.00 hours on 12.5.70 failing which they would be treated as on illegal strike.

A large number of employees, however, remained away from duty. I held a meeting with the representatives of the recognised unions, viz. S/Shri T. V. Anandan, M. P., and K. H. Kulkarni, General Secretary, representing the N. F. I. R., and Shri Priya Gupta, General Secretary of A. I. R. F. Both the recognised Federations stated that the demands put forward by these employees had already been put forward by them and were in the process of negotiation. They were also in agreement with the policies followed by the Ministry of Railways of not recognising sectional and category-wise associations. Shri J. M. Biswas, M. P. and a few others met the Deputy Minister for Railways and pointed out that they would endeavour to bring the staff back to duty if they could be given an assurance that the earlier assurances given by the Ministers would be implemented in full. They were given such an assurance in writing by the Deputy Minister for Railways.

Subsequently, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was contacted by me and I brought to his notice the trouble and loss that has been entailed by the disruption to traffic and requested him for assistance in our endeavour to restore normal conditions. Appreciating our stand, the Chief Minister issued an appeal to the staff asking them to

resume work and assuring them of his good offices in settling the dispute. Consequent on this appeal, the leaders of the striking employees met the Chief Minister and decided to withdraw their agitation with effect from the after noon of 15th May, 1970. I have arranged to meet some of these employees today in the afternoon to ascertain their view point and their grievances.

The demands put forward by these employees have varied from time to time but 9 demands have been listed in the Tamil pamphlet brought out by them and in their earlier resolutions. The main demand appears to relate to an alleged failure to implement an earlier assurance in connection with the agitation in July 1968. I am told that all assurances given earlier have been implemented, but when approached by Sarvashri K. Ananda Nambiar, J. M. Biswas and T. V. Anandan I undertook to review the position and fulfil any commitment that remained unfulfilled.

With regret I have to report that on this Section alone the Indian Railways have incurred a loss of approximately one crore.

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13.08 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : STRIKE BY DOCK WORKERS AT MADRAS PORT

MR. SPEAKER : He may lay it on the Table.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND
REHABILITATION (SHRI D. SANJI-
VAYYA) : I lay the statement on the Table.

Statement

I am happy to inform the House that the strike by the workers under the Dock Labour Board, Madras and the workers of the Food Corporation of India in Madras port which had commenced on April, 30, 1970, has been called off with effect from Saturday, May 16, 1970.

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13.09 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (TWENTY-FOURTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 1970

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : Sir, I beg to