

MR. SPEAKER : Only Members who have put the question are entitled to ask clarifications. There is a specific procedure. Why do you deviate from it? I shall not take notice of any deviations.

12.18 hrs

STATEMENT RE. OBSERVANCE OF MAY DAY AS HOLIDAY IN LOK SABHA

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : Sir, as I submitted yesterday we as a nation have a much larger number of holidays as compared to any other nation. Even so, with a view to identify ourselves with the struggles and aspirations of the working class, we agree that the May Day may be observed as a holiday. But we will have to forego at least one other holiday in lieu thereof. Accordingly, our House too may not sit on Monday the 1st of May, but Government Business scheduled for that day may kindly be taken up in the following days by foregoing another holiday in this week or in the next, that is, Saturday.

May I also repeat that the whole system and basis of Public Holidays in our country needs revision and the matter is receiving the consideration of the Government. I sincerely hope that in this task we shall receive the willing cooperation of all sections of our community and in particular of the Members of Parliament, belonging to all parties and groups, with a view to maintain and enhance the momentum of production and the growth of our economy.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : It has been declared a holiday, as far as we are concerned. But we want it to be declared a public holiday for the entire nation.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : To do this many steps have to be taken by many organisations. Therefore, we have left it to them by saying "it may be declared a holiday".

MR. SPEAKER : I am very happy that the Minister has agreed to this suggestion. But the other alternative is also worth noting. My suggestion is that, instead of sitting on one Saturday, we may forego the discussion on one Demand. Are you prepared for that?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : We will sit on one Saturday.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : The session may be extended by one day.

MR. SPEAKER : Many Members have already fixed up some appointments for Saturday. So, they will be inconvenienced. Further, it cannot be any Saturday; it has to be a Saturday; before the 12th.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Let us sit tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER : We can have extra sitting by one hour for two days. Then we would be losing only 3½ hours.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam) : We can forego the lunch hour on some days.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, for three days we will forego the lunch hour. In that way we will save our Saturdays.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : While welcoming this announcement, I would suggest that either the Prime Minister or the Labour Minister should request the employers to declare it a holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Mr. SPEAKER : Government will take note of his suggestion

12.22 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

RAF PLANES IN ANDAMAN GROUP OF ISLANDS

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table, in pursuance of an assurance given by me on the 13th April, 1972 during supplementaries on Starred Question No. 395, a statement clarifying the information given by me regarding landing of R.A.F. planes in Andaman Group of Islands. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1872/72]

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER EMERGENCY RISKS (GOODS) INSURANCE ACT, EMERGENCY RISKS (UNDER-TAKINGS) INSURANCE ACT, ETC. ETC.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English Versions)