

Prime Ministers' Conference

already turned out, while at the same time fully maintaining the output of steam locomotives as in the past. The output in the Integral Coach Factory has been steadily increasing, and is also being diversified to cover various types of coaching stock; during the last year the factory turned out 598 coach shells, and 644 coaches are expected to be turned out during the current year. Wagon production has suffered difficulties owing to shortage of materials, but these are being steadily overcome. During 1961-62, as many as 19,100 wagons, in terms of four-wheelers, were manufactured, compared with 11,964 in the previous year. The present rate of production exceeds 2,250 per month; this rate will be improved upon in the coming years. Most of the major line capacity works needed to cope with the anticipated rise in traffic during the Third Plan period and which take time for execution, have either been sanctioned already or else are ready to be taken up during the current year. The Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock programme for the year 1962-63 has been placed at Rs. 295 crores, which is the highest in recent years. The details of the works of new line constructions are given in the White Paper and the Budget documents.

13. May I assure the House, Sir, in conclusion that it will be my constant endeavour to maintain the good relationship established with employees on the Railways and the steady progress achieved in the operating efficiency of Railways as well as in the standard of service rendered by them. I have no doubt that railwaymen of all grades, with their long record of achievement and devotion to duty, will rise to still greater heights in a common endeavour to fulfil the difficult task set before the Railways. I am equally confident that I can count on the support and encouragement of the Parliament and of the members of the public outside, to enable me to discharge the heavy responsibilities entrusted to me.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members will be able to get the budget papers in the Lobbies.

There is an important statement to be made by the Minister of External Affairs. I will request the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs to make it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Before that, may I make a request to you, Sir? It was the painful experience of most of us on this side of the House in the First Lok Sabha—I do not know whether the position improved in the Second Lok Sabha—(An Hon. Member: It continued.) to witness the rather unedifying spectacle of almost empty Treasury Benches during the discussion of the Railway Budget and General Budget.

An Hon. Member: No, no.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I would, therefore, earnestly request you to direct the Treasury Benches, the Ministers concerned—the entire Council of Ministers—to be present in full strength during the discussion of these Budgets when hon. Members make their speeches (Interruptions).

Sardar Swaran Singh: I presume there will be either the Minister in charge or one of his Deputies or someone else representing them who would be there

Shri Priya Gupta (Katihar): Each Minister is a part and parcel of the Cabinet. Therefore, whenever any Budget is discussed, each and every Minister should be present.

13.12 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: COMMON-WEALTH PRIME MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): On behalf of the Prime Minister, I wish to make the following statement:

"Some weeks ago, Mr. Mac-Millan, Prime Minister of the

[Shrimati Lakshmi Menon]

United Kingdom, consulted me about holding a meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers in London to consider the question of the United Kingdom's relations with the European Economic Community and also the international situation. He suggested that the Prime Ministers might on this occasion be accompanied by their Finance or Trade Ministers and that the meeting might take place early in September. I welcomed the idea of such a meeting and informed Mr.

MacMillan that the date suggested by him would be convenient to me. There have been further consultations among the Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth countries, and it has now been decided that the meeting will commence on the 10th September".

13.13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, April 21, 1962/Vaisakha 1, 1884 (Saka).