

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI, R. DESAI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I make the statement on my recent visit to Sri Lanka, I have great pleasure in introducing to you and, through you, to the House my colleague Shri Rabi Ray, Minister of Health and Family Welfare.

14.17 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER
RE HIS VISIT TO SRI LANKA

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): Sir, on the invitation of the President of Sri Lanka I visited the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka from February 3rd to February 6th. I was also invited by the President of Sri Lanka to be the Chief Guest at their National Day celebrations on February the 4th in Kandy. I was accompanied by Shri Samrendra Kundu, Minister of State for External Affairs.

A copy of the Joint Press Statement issued at the end of my visit is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3251/79].

During the visit, I had several opportunities to discuss with the President, the Prime Minister and other Ministers of the Government of Sri Lanka a wide range of subjects of bilateral interest and to exchange views on regional and international issues. I am happy to note that we agreed that there are no bilateral outstanding problems between India and Sri Lanka. Our discussions centred mainly around ways and means of bringing about closer cooperation between the two countries in all fields especially in the areas of trade and economic exchanges as well as cultural and scientific relations.

I met members of the Indian communities both in Kandy and Colombo and representatives of various Indo-Sri Lanka Associations. It is gratifying that they are contributing signi-

ficantly not only to closer bilateral relations but also to the development of Sri Lanka. I had an opportunity of discussing the problems faced by some of the persons who are to be repatriated to India. Our Missions are already seized of their problems and I have directed them to facilitate the formalities required for repatriation. I reviewed with the Sri Lanka leaders the implementation of the India-Sri Lanka Agreement of 1964. The officials on both sides have been asked to streamline and improve various procedures in this regard. I also had a useful talk with the Leader of the Opposition.

I also participated in the inauguration ceremonies of the Kotmale Multipurpose Reservoir Project which is part of the prestigious Mahavali Development Scheme. The scheme will add considerably to agricultural production and power generation in Sri Lanka, and has good potentialities of development of Sri Lanka's economy. Hon'ble Members are no doubt aware that the feasibility study for this project was financed by the Government of India and prepared by an Indian company, Water and Power Development Consultants Ltd. India does not have very large material resources; yet we do provide assistance to our friends and neighbours in their national development and I would like to take this opportunity to restate our firm intention to do whatever is possible within our resources to assist in their growth.

During my visit, I was given the privilege of addressing members of the Sri Lanka Parliament. I was able to join with the colleagues of that august body in reaffirming the common dedication of our two countries to the democratic process and its relevance even to developing societies.

Sir, the main impression that I bring back from my visit is the overwhelming warmth and cordiality which the people and Government of Sri Lanka have for India and which

[Shri Morarji Desai]

I was personally able to experience and reciprocate. It is only natural that India and Sri Lanka should strengthen these deep bonds of friendship and work towards closer economic and material cooperation to the benefit of both our countries. But over and beyond that we share a common dedication to a democratic way of life, a belief in similar spiritual values and ethics.

I would be failing in my duty if I did not place on record my gratitude to President Jayewardene and Prime Minister Premadasa for the warmth and cordiality of the reception accorded to me and also for the many gestures of personal affection which they extended to me and my party during our entire visit.

14.24 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT ON SIXTH GENERAL ELECTIONS TO LOK SABHA AND GENERAL ELECTIONS TO KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1977, VOL. I, BIENNIAL ELECTIONS BROCHURE—AN ANALYSIS—COUNCIL OF STATES AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS (1974-75), NOTIFICATIONS UNDER COMPANIES ACT, NOTIFICATION MAKING AMENDMENTS TO DELIMITATION OF PARLIAMENTARY AND ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES ORDER AND NOTIFICATIONS UNDER M.R.T.P. Act

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Sixth General Elections to the Lok Sabha and General Elections to the Kerala Legislative Assembly, 1977—Volume I. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3241/79].

(2) A copy of Biennial Elections Brochure—An Analysis—Council of States and Legislative Councils

(1974-75) (Hindi and English versions). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3242/79].

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) The Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Fifth Amendment Rules, 1978, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 586(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 1978.

(ii) The Cost Accounting Records (Dry Cell Batteries) Rules, 1978, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 45(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 1979. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3243/79].

(4) A copy of Order (Hindi and English versions) issued under clause (d) of sub-section (3) of section 6 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 1976, published in Notification No. S.O. 26(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 1979, making certain amendments to the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1976, in respect of the State of Kerala, under sub-section (3) of section 8 of the said Act. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3244/79].

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 67 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969:—

(i) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (Recruitment of Members of Staff) (Second Amendment) Rules, 1978, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 594(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 1978.

(ii) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (Recruitment of Members of Staff)