

in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5861/88]

12.03 hrs.

[English]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Hundred and Nineteenth Report, Hundred and Eighth Report and Hundred and Ninth Report

SHRI R.S. SPARROW (Jullundur) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee :

- (1) Hundred and Nineteenth Report on Blocking of funds—Idle equipment.
- (2) Hundred and Eighth Report on the action taken on 52nd Report (Eighth Lok Sabha on (i) Purchase of Residential Building at San Francisco and (ii) Avoidable Expenditure—Purchase and Repair of building in Dublin.
- (3) Hundred and Ninth Report on action taken on 49th Report Eighth Lok Sabha) on Union Excise Duties—Irregular grant of exemption on production in small scale units for and on behalf of large scale units.

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. PRICE POLICY FOR RAW JUTE FOR 1988-89 SEASON

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : The Government have fixed the minimum support price for W-5 grade of jute in Assam for the 1988-80 season at Rs. 250 per quintal. The corresponding prices for other varieties/

grades will be fixed by the Jute Commissioner in the light of normal market price differentials. The minimum support price for the basic variety has thus been increased by Rs. 10/-, i.e. from Rs. 240 per quintal in the 1987-88 season to Rs. 250 for the ensuing season.

The Jute Corporation of India will undertake price support operations as and when required. The Corporation would take its decisions in respect of jute transactions on a commercial basis and make its purchases from the cultivators at the prices that may be warranted by the prevailing market conditions, but in no case below the minimum support price.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. Not like this.

12.05 hrs.

[English]

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Central Advisory Committee for National Cadet Corps

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of section 12(1) of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may Direct one member from amongst themselves to serve as a member of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps for a term of one year from the date of election, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder.”

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

**Not recorded.

"That in pursuance of section 12(1) of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct one member from amongst themselves to serve as a member of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps for a term of one year from the date of election, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

[*Translation*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to fix remuneration price for mustard.

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

Last year the price of mustard was Rs. 1100/- per quintal which has come down to Rs. 600 to 650/- per quintal. The farmer puts his heart and soul to grow good crop and for this, he used good quality seeds, costly fertilizers and other inputs but he does not get reward for his hard labour. What to say of remunerative price, he does not get even cost of production. Similarly, the prices of 'Taramera' and 'Toriya' are falling. The crops of mustard, Taramera and Toriya have come in the market and if no attention is paid towards this aspect by the Government, it will affect the farmers adversely.

Hence, I humbly request to the hon. Minister of Agriculture to fix the prices of mustard atleast Rs. 1000/- per quintal so that the farmers could get remunerative price of their crops and reward to their hard work.

12.07 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

(ii) Need to reduce the prices of drugs in view of the reduction in Customs duty.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH (Azamgarh) : The Ministry of Finance have

reduced the custom duty on 235 intermediates used for the production of bulk drugs. No steps have, however, been taken to pass on the benefit of duty reduction to the consumer and the benefit has been appropriated by the producers. Custom duty on certain intermediates required for the production of decontrolled drugs has also been reduced. Since there is no price control on such drugs, benefit of duty reduction is never passed on to the consumers.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government that machinery be evolved to ensure that the benefit is passed on to the consumer.

[*Translation*]

(iii) Need to waive recovery of land revenue from the farmers of Lucknow and Unnao districts of Uttar Pradesh affected by hailstorms.

SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD (Mohanlalganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my Lok Sabha constituency covering Lucknow and Unnao districts of Uttar Pradesh had to face unprecedented hailstorms five times since 14 February, 1988. All the crops of wheat, mustard, Arhar and Gram were destroyed in the Development Block Mall of Tehsil Malihabad of district Lucknow and the Mango crop of Tehsil Malihabad Mango Belt has been badly affected by it.

The entire crop of wheat and other crops were badly affected by heavy hailstorms in Development Block Kakori and Sarojini Nagar of Lucknow Tehsil. The crops of wheat, gram, mustard, Arhar, sugarcane and opium have been totally ruined in Mahanlal Ganj Tehsil.

The crops of wheat, mustard and other crops of all villages of ores development block of Hasanganj and all the villages of Tehsil Hasanganj of district Unnao have been badly damaged. The Rabi crops of block development Asoha of Purva and Hiloli have been worst hit.

The whole area was already drought affected and the whole Kharif crop had been ruined. Now a dreadful situation of