

12.11 hrs.

*At this stage, Dr. A. Kalanidhi and
Shri N.V.N. 'omu left the House)*

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Eighteenth Report

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : I beg to present the Eighteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighty-third Report of the Committee (7th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Industry—Motor Cars.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the employees of the rural banks ..

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the subject. No question.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I have given notice of an Adjournment Motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No question. Not allowed. I have disallowed.

Shri Mullapally Ramachandran.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER ; I have gone to the call-attention motion.

12.13 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

Non-fixation of Minimum Release Price for Coffee

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Commerce to the following matter of urgent Public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :—

“The situation arising out of the non-fixation of minimum release price for coffee despite the recommendations made by the Coffee Board resulting in crisis in the coffee plantations and the steps taken by the Government in that regard.”

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : Sir, The minimum Release Price for coffee is fixed on the basis of cost study conducted by Cost Accounts Branch of the Finance Ministry from time to time. The MRP includes the cost of cultivation plus 10% post tax return on networth.

The MRP was last revised on 17-12-1983 by raising it from Rs. 5.5 per point. No coffee is sold in domestic auctions below this reserve price.

The MRP revision resulted in an increase in domestic prices of the order of 20%, but as a result of the MRP revisions the growers earnings went up only by 8%. This was because of the fact that the returns on 60% of the coffee which is exported are not affected by MRP. Return on exports is however much higher than domestic sales.

The last revision in MRP was based on study carried out in 1982 and was implemented in 2 stages to avoid a sudden increase in domestic prices which might effect domestic demand adversely.

*Not recorded.