

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : The leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

12.23 hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

Third Report

[English]

KUMARI KAMALA KUMARI (Palamau) : Sir, I present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

12.24 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : STRENGTHENING OF PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND CONSUMER COOPERATIVES IN MIZORAM

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : Sir, After the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Mizoram, a Group of Ministers and a Team of senior officers visited Mizoram during the last week of July, 1986 to identify some measures which could accelerate the development of Mizoram. Supply of essential consumer items at reasonable prices to the people of Mizoram is of crucial importance. In this context, certain measures were considered

in the Department of Civil Supplies to revitalise and strengthen the Public Distribution System and cooperative infrastructure. The Government have decided to take the following measures :

- (i) The godown maintained by the State Trading Corporation at Silchar would be exclusively used for servicing Mizoram for supply of imported edible oils. For streamlining distribution as well as to keep the retail prices at reasonable level, full transport subsidy will also be given from Silchar to nine focal points viz. Aizwal, Lunglei, Lawngtalai, Kolasib, Aibawk, Champhai, Kawlkulh, Saitual and Lokichera.
- (ii) Financial assistance upto Rs. 10 lakhs on the basis of hundred per cent subsidy is being sanctioned during the current financial year to Government of Mizoram for supply of levy sugar and iodized salt in small packs under the Public Distribution System.
- (iii) A sum upto Rs. 10 lakhs will be given as share capital contribution to Mizoram Marketing and Consumers' Federation for expansion and diversification of their consumer activities.
- (iv) Additional financial assistance of Rs. 2.50 lakhs will be given to Mizoram Marketing and Consumers' Federation to enable them to open retail outlets at Lunglei, Mamit, Kolasib, Champhai, Tlabung, Serchhip and Saiha.
- (v) For upgrading managerial skills of the officers handling public distribution work in Mizoram, a training programme will be organised in the month of October, 1986.