

is Rs. 174 crores. Since a large amount is required for revival of this unit, I want to tell the hon. Member and also the House, because the hon. Member wants to know whether the Government of India wants to take over this unit, whether the Government of India wants to nationalise this unit—I may humbly submit that the Government of India is not in favour of either taking over this unit or nationalising this unit because so far as the nationalisation question is concerned, it does not fit in the criteria that are laid down by the Government of India for nationalisation; we feel that this unit is not fit for revival. If the Government of Bihar wants to nationalise, then it is for the Government of Bihar to consider it and take whatever necessary action they propose to take or they intend taking in this matter. As I have already mentioned, if the Government of Bihar wants to nationalise or wants to revive some of the units, to the extent possible we are here to extent all support that we can to the Government of Bihar. We have already said this to the Government of Bihar. In fact, they demanded that the Government of India should nationalise, and we have made it very clear to the Government of Bihar that we are not in favour of nationalisation. We have made it clear that, if the Government of Bihar wants to nationalise, it is for them to take a decision in the matter. So, there is no question of the Government of India either taking over or nationalising this unit. If the Government of Bihar comes forward with any concrete proposals, certainly the Government of India will consider.

12.33 hrs.

STATEMENT *Re* : FREIGHT RATES FOR SALT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : Hon. Members may recall the general discussion on Railway Budget which took place in March 1985 and my reply thereto on 20th March 1985. The revised fare and freight rates have accordingly taken effect from 15-4-1985. However, some of the Hon. Members had made mention about giving some relief in the matter of freight rates for salt for human consumption. We have been giving considerable thought to

this matter. In deference to the wishes of the Hon. Members and on grounds of sentiment, I have decided to exempt salt for human consumption from the levy of the 10% supplementary charge, on consignments moving over 500 kms. I, therefore, announce that the 10% supplementary charge imposed on goods traffic with effect from 15-4-1985 will not be leviable on salt for human consumption with effect from 1-6-1985.

12.35 hrs.

ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ABOLITION) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARADWAJ) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the abolition of the Legislative Council of the State of Andhra Pradesh and for matters supplemental, incidental and consequential thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the abolition of the Legislative Council of the State of Andhra Pradesh and for matters supplemental, incidental and consequential thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI H. R. BHARADWAJ : I introduce the Bill.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I think this is a non-controversial Bill. It can be taken up immediately.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now it is only the introduction stage.

12.37 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(i) Need to give top priority in the Seventh Five Year Plan for irrigation projects in India

SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI (Ratnagiri) :