

Table a copy of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1987 (Hindi and English versions)—Union Government (Commercial)—Part VIII—Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, under article 151 (1) of the Constitution. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—6704/88]

Notfications Under Companies Act, 1956

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy under section 620A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) G.S.R. 596 published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 1988 declaring Messers Kalaimagal Mutual Benefit Fund Limited, Madras to be a 'Nidhi'.
- (ii) G.S.R. 597 published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 1988 declaring Messers Shenoy Nagar Benefit Fund Limited, Madras to be a 'Nidhi'.
- (iii) G.S.R. 598 published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 1988 declaring Messers Mini Muthoottu Mutual Funds Limited, Kozhencherry to be a 'Nidhi'. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—6705/88]

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): He has not denied that. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Prime Minister has given the interview to *Sunday* and he has very clearly admitted... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already written.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Prime Minister has admitted that commission was paid. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now you prepare the ground for discussion under Rule 193.

Shri Brahma Dutt to make a statement.

(Interruptions)

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: FIRE IN LOADING AREA AND AROMATIC PLANT OF MAHUL REFINERY OF BHARAT PETROLEUM CORPORATION LTD., BOMBAY ON 9.11.1988.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): A fire occurred at Bharat Petroleum Corporation's Bombay (Mahul) refinery on 9-11-1988 at about 12.00 noon in the loading area of the refinery. The fire spread to the aromatic plant of the refinery. The fire was extinguished in the loading area but the Naphtha in the storage tanks of the aromatic plant continued to burn. Five tanks in all caught fire.

Forty-six people working mostly in gantry area were injured and were hospitalised. Most of them were contract labourers. While three persons died on the spot, by November 14th the number of dead had reached thirty. The condition of ten is stated to be critical. All the injured are being treated in several hospitals of Bombay city. The refinery authorities have been asked to announce ex-gratia payment of Rs 10,000/- per-head for deceased and Rs 5000/- for seriously injured.

Three storage tanks have been almost destroyed and another two tanks have been seriously damaged. The pump house mainly used for loading Benzene and Toluene has been burnt out completely. Six lorries owned by a contractor, filled with Bitumen drums and other products have been completely or partially destroyed. One company car was destroyed.

[Sh. Brahma Dutt]

Aside from the disruption in production of Benzene and Toluene, preliminary estimates of loss are put at approximately around Rs 150 lakhs.

On receipt of information, Government deputed the Chief of the Safety Directorate under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to BPCL to assist the refinery authorities in putting out the fire. Government have also constituted a high powered committee of experts, headed by the Chief of the Oil Industry Safety Directorate to enquire into the cause of fire and suggest remedial measures to prevent recurrence of the same.

The refinery has brought back into operation its catalytic cracking unit on 11-11-88. The Crude distillation column is expected to be operated on 16-11-88. Steps have been taken to ensure that there is no disruption in essential supplies.

12.05 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

- (i) Demand for a uniform education policy throughout the country.

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL (Phulpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India towards a very important issue. Due to double education policy in the country, the brilliant students belonging to ordinary families are unable to get good education because Public schools and English medium educational institutions are charging 5 to 10 thousand rupees as donation for the admission per student. It is a matter of great regret that even after 40 years of independence importance is being given to English language at the cost of Hindi and other Indian languages. If a country is to develop, its national language, literature and the culture must be enriched. The basic foundation of our country is becoming feeble. This is the

reason that the condition of the educational institutions in the rural areas is deteriorating day by day because the children of high officials, and the capitalists are not there in these institutions. The result is that the children of the poor farmers and workers find themselves unable to get the high posts in the country.

I would urge the Government to adopt a uniform education policy in order to protect the interests of the country and the society so that the nation may emerge prosperous, powerful and integrated.

[*English*]

- (ii) Demand for enquiry into reasons for delay in recovering the amounts overcharged by the drug manufacturing companies.

SHRI SONTOSH KUMAR SINGH (Azamgarh): Crores of rupees have been overcharged from the poor consumers by the drug manufacturing companies. According to para 7(2) of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1979, money overcharged has to be refunded. For the last two years, the process of recovery is on, in accordance with the law, but authorities responsible for the recovery are not taking any interest to recover the amount from the drug manufacturing companies. In fact, in certain cases, the details of the amount to be recovered have not yet been calculated. In certain cases where the amount has been calculated, neither the companies have been reminded to deposit the amount nor reference has been made to the Collector of Revenue for the recovery. Despite raising the matter on the floor of the House, no responsibility has so far been fixed for inaction in this regard.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to enquire into the matter and fix responsibility for delay in recovering the amounts overcharged by the drug manufacturing companies.