

CULTURE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Ram Dulari Sinha, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Aluminium (Control) Amendment Order, 1986 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 441 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 1986, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3072/86]

Annual Accounts and Review on the working of the Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore for the year 1984-85

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 1984-85 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 1984-85.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3073/86].

12-12 hrs.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

[English]

Summary of Work

SECRETARY GENERAL : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 'Parliamentary Committees (Other than Financial Committees Summary of Work' (Hindi and English versions) pertaining to the period 17 January, 1985 to 30 May, 1986.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

Minutes

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI (Dharamapuri) : I beg to lay on the Table Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Twentieth to Twenty-third sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the current Session.

12.13 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

[English]

Tenth Report

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : I beg to present the Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

12.14 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : SIMPLIFICATION AND RATIONALISATION OF DIRECT TAX LAWS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : The Honourable Members will recall that in my Budget Speech I had indicated that an exercise towards simplifying the direct tax laws has been undertaken with a view to bring out a new simplified Direct Taxes Code. In pursuance of this objective, a group of experts of the Central Board of Direct Taxes held extensive deliberations and came out with a number of proposals for simplifying and rationalising the existing provisions of the three direct taxes Acts. These suggestions were considered in the Ministry and tentative proposals have been formulated. Since these proposals are likely to have far-reaching effects, I consider it necessary to publish the same for eliciting public opinion before a final view is taken.

I lay a copy of the Discussion Paper, which I propose to issue for public opinion, on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3074/86]

The Government hopes that the proposals contained in this Paper based on Trust in the taxpayer will be subjected to wide discussion and generate a healthy national debate not only in the House but also outside by the public and the experts. This debate will help the Government in rationalising the provisions and simplifying the procedures and to come up with proposals that will encourage voluntary compliance which is so essential for the fiscal system in a country like ours. After a careful consideration of the suggestions and comments received by 30th September, 1986, the Government proposes to come forward with comprehensive Amendment Bill in the next Budget Session of the Parliament and with a common Direct Taxes Code within the Financial Year 1987-88.

I may add that at page 8 of the paper in para 8.4, sub-para (c) should read as follows and not as already printed :

“4 (c) The onus of proving all the elements of the offence except culpable mental state will remain with the Income-tax Department. The onus of proving the absence of the existence of culpable mental state will now be with the assessee.”

12.17 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : SITUATION ARISING
OUT OF FLOODS IN VARIOUS
PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(DR. G. S. DHILLON) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, reports have been received from various State Governments about the situation arising out of floods during the current monsoon. *(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Sir, let him lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : You may lay it on the Table.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki) : We want to hear the statement. We want to know what action is taken by the Government. *(Interruptions)*

DR. G. S. DHILLON : Reports have been received from various State Governments about the situation arising out of floods during the current monsoon. Certain areas of the following States have been affected by floods in varying degrees :

(1) Andhra Pradesh, (2) Assam, (3) Bihar, (4) Haryana, (5) Himachal Pradesh, (6) Jammu and Kashmir, (7) Karnataka, (8) Kerala, (9) Madhya Pradesh, (10) Orissa, (11) Punjab, (12) Rajasthan, (13) Uttar Pradesh and (14) West Bengal.

As per reports received from the State Governments so far floods/heavy rains have affected 71 districts in these States. A total population of 46.95 lakhs in an area of 9.86 lakh hectares, including 3.61 lakh hectares of cropped area, has been affected. Over 37,000 houses are reported to have been damaged. It is unfortunate that 172 persons have lost their lives and 7 persons are missing.

The State Governments have taken relief and rehabilitation measures to alleviate the distress of the affected people. Even though the responsibility of carrying out the relief and rehabilitation activities is primarily that of the State Governments, Government of India is fully alive to the situation arising out of natural calamities, maintains a close liaison with the State Governments and renders all possible assistance with a view to mitigating the distress of the affected people.

As the members are aware, the financing of relief expenditure is based on the recommendations of the 8th Finance Commission and Government decisions thereon. The Margin Money available annually to the States