

sible. The facts are before the House. So far as the locational disadvantages are concerned, and the query as to why these units were established in those areas, you will agree with me in this matter that after taking all the factors into consideration, a public sector unit is established. The commitment of the Government is also to promote backward areas and to make such factories viable so that infrastructure could be built and this could add to the development of the backward economy in those areas. It will also generate sufficient employment. These are broad national objectives and the public sector—this also I must repeat—cannot just be judged in terms of definable and quantifiable profits. Because, it has certain social and regional obligations also. So, when Hindustan Paper Corporation units were established, I care was taken to establish them in such far-flung areas like Nagaland—I agree that because of the lack of infrastructure and also because of inadequate supply of raw-material and such other disadvantages, many people do not want to go to Nagaland. But tell me, Dr. Rajhans, how many people from Delhi, those who are officers and doctors for example, who are posted in rural areas, how many of them are willing to leave the urban centres and go and serve the people or discharge their duties in the rural areas? That will not detract us from our commitment to promote the development of areas which need development. We might have lost a few crores of rupees. That is all right. We have incurred loss. But the fact is that the Government's commitment to develop Nagaland, for example to develop Assam or to develop any backward regions of Kerala or any State for that matter, is of utmost importance. After all, who will shoulder the responsibility, if Government does not do it? Therefore, the Government cannot be held at fault and I think you will agree that we are committed to the balanced regional growth. That is one of the major commitments of the Government. And it is because of this neglect that many regional problems are now getting accentuated. Therefore, on this score, the Hon. Members will agree with me it was done to meet the commitment of the Government.

About the other suggestions given by my friends, Shri Harish Rawat and Shri Vriddhi

Chandra Jain and my friend on the other side, we will keep all these suggestions which have been given in our view. I assure you, we are going all out to improve the condition of the Hindustan Paper Corporation because we have sunk tonnes of money into it; we have sunk more than Rs. 800 crores into the Hindustan Paper Corporation. So, it will be one of the priority items on our agenda, and I assure you that we will do our level best to improve its working and functioning. If there is any mismanagement, you are all free to point out I invite you: if there is any instance of mismanagement or corruption, please bring it to our notice, to the notice of the Government, and we will take the severest possible action. We will not condone any case of corruption or mismanagement.

18.26 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—*Contd.*

[*English*]

Notification under Customs Act, 1962

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): On behalf of Shri Janardhana Poojary, I beg to lay on Table a copy of Notification No. 459/86-Customs (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 1986, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 62/85-Customs dated the 17th March, 1985, so as to prescribe basic customs duty of ten per cent on wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled whether or not planed, sanded or finger-jointed of a thickness exceeding 25.4 mm (1 inch), under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3192/86].

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to reassemble tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18.27 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, November 13, 1986/Kartika 22, 1908 (Saka)*