

shareholder is a matter about which the Company is not concerned.

#### **Foreign Military Bases in Indian Ocean**

767. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of existing foreign military bases in Indian Ocean;

(b) the names of the foreign powers having such bases; and

(c) steps so far taken to make the Indian Ocean a 'peace zone'?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) and (b). While the Government of India is aware of the existence of foreign military bases in the Indian Ocean as Diego Garcia, it has no precise information about the other foreign military bases in the Indian Ocean.

(c) The Government of India's support to the establishment of a Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean is well known. India has consistently espoused the proposal, along with the overwhelming majority of the littoral and hinterland States, in all international forums, including the United Nations and the Non-aligned Group. India has also lent full support to the proposal in all bilateral exchanges with other States. India has taken an active part in the proceedings of the UN Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, of which it is a Member and which has been charged with the implementation of the UN Resolutions on the subject.

#### **U.S. President's Observations on N.A.T.O.**

768. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the recent observation of the U.S. President, Mr.

Carter, regarding further accretion of strength of NATO; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto, in particular context of one of the close neighbours of India being a NATO ally?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes.

(b) None of India's neighbours is a "NATO ally". The Indian Government continues to hope for a relaxation of tension, not only between the super powers, and not only in Europe, but in other regions also, through efforts to promote peace, and avoid confrontation.

12.00 hrs.

#### **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT & BALANCE SHEET OF TELE-COMMUNICATION BRANCH OF INDIAN POSTS & TELEGRAPHS DEPTT. FOR 1974-75 AND INDIAN TELEGRAPH RULES, 1976.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet (on accrual basis) of the Telecommunication Branch of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department for the year 1974-75 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in library. See No. LT-351/77].

- (2) A copy of the Indian Telegraph (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 1976 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 36 in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 1977, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-352/77].

**CORRIGENDUM TO AUDIT REPORT ON ACCOUNTS OF THE AIIMS, NEW DELHI FOR 1973-74 AND ANNUAL REPORTS OF POST-GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH AND OF HINDUSTAN LATEX LTD., TRIVANDRUM FOR 1975-76**

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री  
(श्री राज नारायण) : मैं निम्नलिखित  
पत्र मन्त्री पटल पर रखता हूँ :

- (1) A copy of the Corrigendum (Hindi and English versions) to the Audit Report\* on the accounts of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 1973-74. [Placed in library. See No. LT-353/77]
- (2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 1975-76, under section 19 of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Act, 1966. [Placed in library. See No. LT-354/77]
- (3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Hindustan Latex Limited, Trivandrum, for the year 1975-76 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956. [Placed in library. See No. LT-355/77]

**REVIEW, AND ANNUAL REPORT OF MINERAL EXPLORATION CORPORATION LTD., NAGPUR FOR 1975-76 AND A NOTIFICATION UNDER MINES AND MINERALS (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT, ACT, 1957**

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI Biju PATNAIK): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
  - (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Nagpur, for the year 1975-76.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Nagpur, for the year 1975-76 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in library. See No. LT-356/77]
- (2) A copy of Notification No. S.O. 486 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th February, 1977, under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. [Placed in library. See No. LT-357/77]

**COAL MINES DEPOSIT-LINKED INSURANCE (AMDT.) SCHEME, 1977, NOTIFICATIONS UNDER EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUNDS AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS ACT, 1952 AND A STATEMENT**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Coal Mines Deposit-linked Insurance

\*The Report was laid on the Table

on the 25th August, 1976.

(Amendment) Scheme, 1977 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 647 in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 1977, under section 7A of the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948. [Placed in library. See No. LT-358/77]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (2) of section 7 of the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952:—

- (i) The Employees' Provident Funds (Second Amendment) Scheme, 1977 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 473 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 1977.
  - (ii) G.S.R. 534 published in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 1977 containing corrigendum to Notification No. G.S.R. 488(E) dated the 28th July, 1976.
  - (iii) The Employees' Provident Funds (Third Amendment) Scheme, 1977 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 571 in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 1977.
  - (iv) The Employees' Deposit-linked Insurance (Amendment) Scheme, 1977 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 648 in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 1977.
  - (v) The Employees' Provident Funds (Fourth Amendment) Scheme, 1977, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 677 in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 1977.
- (3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) on the action proposed to be taken on the Conventions and Recom-

mendations adopted at the Sixtieth Session of the International Labour Conference held at Geneva in June, 1975. [Placed in the library. See No. LT-359/77]

12.01 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**ALLEGED DOSSIERS ON JUDGES**

**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (CHIRAYINKIL)**: I call the attention of the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The reported statement of the Chief Justice of Karnataka about the dossiers of the Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court being prepared by the Central Government on the basis of their attitude towards 20 or 24 point programme."

**THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN)**: Sir, the reported statement of the Chief Justice of Karnataka speaks of dossiers having been kept on judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts indicating their attitudes towards the 20 Point or the 24 Point Programme. I may categorically state that the present Government is committed to preserving the independence of the Judiciary and is neither keeping nor has any intention of keeping dossiers on judges. What this Government values is an impartial Judiciary that decides cases in accordance with the law. Government is not interested in probing into the private political views of Judges. If any dossiers on the political views of judges were kept by any member of the previous Government, they have not been handed over to us.