

ASSENT TO BILL

SECRETARY: Sir, I lay on the Table the Sugar Undertakings (Taking Over of Management) Amendment Bill, 1981, passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 24th November, 1981.

ARREST OF MEMBER

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that I have received the following wireless message dated 2nd December, 1981, from the District Magistrate, Indore (M.P.), today:—

“Shri Phool Chand Verma, Member, Lok Sabha courted arrest and he was arrested under Section 151/107/116(3) Cr. P.C for agitating regarding price rise of sugarcane in Malwa Shahkari Sakkar Karkhana Barlai in Indore District (M.P.). Shri Verma was arrested at 5 P.M. on 2-12-81 and has been housed in District Jail Indore, for not furnishing security to keep peace. His case has been fixed for 5-12-81 before S.D.M., Sawer at Indore (M.P.).”

15.15 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. RECONSTITUTION OF THE LAW COMMISSION

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Members have from time to time made enquiries about the working of the Law Commission and its reconstitution. Government shares their anxiety that the Law Commission should be an

effective instrument of law reform and improvement in judicial administration.

2. With this end in view, the Government have reconstituted the Law Commission consisting of the following Members.

2.1 Shri K.E. Mathew, retired Judge of the Supreme Court has consented to be the Chairman of the Commission.

2.2 The following have agreed to serve as Members.

(1) Shri Nasirullah Beg, retired Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court; and

(2) Shri J.P. Chaturvedi, retired Judge, Allahabad High Court.

2.3 Shri V. V. Vaze has been appointed as Member-Secretary of the Law Commission.

3. In order to enable the Commission to deal effectively with specialised problems, whenever necessary, one or more part-time Members would also be appointed to the Commission depending upon the nature of the topic which has been taken up by the Commission for its consideration.

4. The Commission would start functioning with effect from 14th December, 1981.

5. The terms of reference of the Commission have also been amplified by making it one of the functions of the Commission to recommend to the Government measures for bringing the statute book up-to-date by repealing obsolete laws and enactments or parts thereof which have outlived their utility.

6. I am separately placing on the Table of the House a copy of the terms of reference of the re-constituted Law Commission.

Statement

Terms of References of Law Commission to be re-constituted from 14-12-1981 to 13-12-1984.

(1) To keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the times and in particular to secure —

(a) elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction in costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decisions should be just and fair.

(b) simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice.

(c) improvement of standards of all concerned with the administration of justice.

(2) To examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of state Policy and to suggest ways of improvement and reform and also to suggest such legislation as might be necessary to implement the Directive Principles and to attain the objectives set out in the preamble to the Constitution.

(3) To revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.

(4) To recommend to the Government measure for bringing the statute book up-to-date by repealing obsolete laws and enactments or parts thereof which have outlived their utility.

(5) To consider and to convey to the Government its views on any other subject relating to law and judicial administration that may be referred to it.

12. 18 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

POWER SHORTAGE IN INDIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY WITH PARTICULAR RELEGENCE TO MAHARASHTRA

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Energy to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :—

“Power shortage in the different parts of the country with particular reference to Maharashtra.”

12. 18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI) : Sir, Power is such a vital input for the country's economic activities that I can fully appreciate the anxiety of the Hon. Members in regard to power shortages prevalent in some parts of the country. As I have assured the House on more occasions than one, my Ministry is fully alive to the situation and has been taking all possible measures to bring about a steady improvement in the performance of the power sector.

2. At the outset, may I remind the hon. Members that, in order to be in a position to cater for the emerging power requirements in the different sectors of the economy and to sustain a high rate of growth, we projected an ambitious programme of adding nearly 20,000 MW of new generating capacity during the Sixth Plan period. With this order of expansion of installed capacity in