

for the year 1981-82 along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Silk and Art Silk Mills Research Association, Bombay, for the year 1981-82.

- (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-6616/83].

Life Insurance Corporation of India (Class III and Class IV Employees) Pay (Amendment) Rules, 1983, Annual Report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India for 1981-82 Union Govt. (Railways), Appropriation Accounts, Railways, for 1981-82, Part I—Review and Part II—Detailed Appropriation Accounts etc. etc.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Class III and Class IV Employees) Pay (Amendment) Rules, 1983 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 360 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 1983, under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6617/83].
- (2) A copy of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1981-82—Union Government) (Railways) (Hindi and English versions) under article 151 (1) of the Constitution. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6618/83].
- (3) A copy of Appropriation Accounts, Railway, for the year 1981-82, Part I—Review (Hindi and English versions). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6619/83].

- (4) A copy of Appropriation Accounts, Railways, for the year 1981-82—Part—Detailed Appropriation Accounts (Hindi and English versions). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6619/83].

- (4) A copy of Block Accounts (including Capital Statements comprising the Loan Accounts), Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Accounts, Railways, for the year 1981-82 (Hindi and English versions). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6620/83].

- (6) A statement (Hindi and English versions) correcting certain information contained in Notification No. 135/83*—Central Excises, dated the 30th April, 1983 (G.S.R. 371 (E))—[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6621/83].

12.23 hrs.

DIRECTION ISSUED BY THE SPEAKER UNDER THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

SECRETARY : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Direction 118A (Hindi and English versions) issued by the Speaker under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION Eighteenth Report

SHRI R.S. SPARROW (Jullundur) : Sir, I beg to present the Eighteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

12.24 hrs.

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE Elghth Report

SHRI D.L. BAITHA (Araria) : Sir, I beg to present the Eighth Report (Hindi and

*Notification was laid on the Table on 2nd May, 1983.

English versions) of the Railway Convention Committee on 'Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of the Committee on review of the working and financial results of the railways during Fifth Plan period (1974-78) and during 1978-80 and targets and achievements with regard to freight and passenger traffic during the Fifth Plan period (1974-78) and during 1978-80.

SHRI HARISH KUMAR GANGWAR (Pilibhit) : I want to make one submission only.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No. Calling Attention—Shrimati Usha Prakash Choudhari. Nothing will go on record. Anything said in the House without my permission shall not go on record.

12.25 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Harish Kumar Gangwar came and sat on the floor near the Table.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Difficulties being faced by farmers due to withering away of orange trees on account of shortage of water and disease of trees in Vidarbha.

श्रीमती ऊषा प्रकाश चौधरी (अमरावती) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्त्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर कृषिमन्त्री का ध्यान दिलाती हूँ और प्रार्थना करती हूँ कि वह इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें :—

“महाराष्ट्र के विदर्भ प्रदेश में पानी की कमी और पेड़ों की बामारी से संतरे के पेड़ों के सूख जाने के कारण किसानों द्वारा अनुभव की जा रही कथित कठिनाइयों और इस मामले में उन्हें केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा अधिकतम सहायता दिये जाने की आवश्यकता”

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : Owing to aberrant behaviour of the monsoon last year, large parts of the country, including Maharashtra, are experiencing drought conditions. According to the information furnished by the State Government, scarcity of water is particularly acute in 21 districts of the State. The districts of Nagpur, Amravati, Buldhana, Akola and Yeotmal falling into the Vidarbha region are amongst the affected districts.

2. Maharashtra is an important citrus growing State and has an area of about 28,900 ha. under citrus fruits as against a total area of 2.08 lakh ha. in the country as a whole. Area under orange cultivation in the Vidarbha region is reported at 20,200 ha. The State Government have reported that area under orange cultivation in this region has been badly affected by the current drought and water scarcity. However, the State Government are assisting the orange growers to tide over the difficulties. A sum of Rs. 1 crore has been sanctioned to be given as loan to the farmers for deepening wells. 25 teams of experts including Horticulture Extension Officers have been deputed to the affected areas for advising the farmers to adopt soil moisture conservation practices. Work of constructing percolation tanks is also in hand. The State Government are also considering as to what type of medium and minor irrigation projects can be undertaken in this area.

3. In addition to drought, this region is also suffering from a malady commonly known as citrus-decline. This has weakened the trees considerably and they are more prone to the vagaries of weather than the normal healthy trees. The reasons attributed to this decline are (i) sub-standard planting material (ii) unsuitability of soil (iii) poor nutrition and management (iv) lack of irrigation, and (v) viral, fungal and bacterial diseases. Citrus Plantations also suffer from white and black fly menace against which the State Government have been organising spraying operations. During 1980-81 a sum of Rs. 1.74 crores and during 1981-82 a sum of Rs. 98.16 lakhs were spent on these operations.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE