

Measures taken by Public Undertakings to effect economy

2485. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of the Central Public Undertakings are incurring wasteful expenditure on unproductive items;

(b) whether the Bureau of Public Enterprises have issued or propose to issue instructions to various public undertakings to effect economy in their functioning;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) the measures taken by the public undertakings to effect economy during the year 1977 and with what results; and

(e) what is the total saving in 1977 shown by the various undertakings as a result of effecting economy?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) It would not be correct to say that a number of Central Government enterprises are incurring wasteful expenditure on unproductive items. The enterprises are aware of the need to exercise maximum economy and to produce the best results from the resources employed by them.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e). Instructions issued by Government are aimed mainly at reducing surplus staff, expenditure on office contingencies, travelling allowances, non-industrial over-time, foreign tours etc. Restrictions have also been imposed on construction of office and residential accommodation. The public enterprises are required to observe these instructions. Though it would be difficult to give a precise estimate of the total savings effected as a result of the implementation of these measures, there is ample evi-

dence to indicate that substantial savings have been effected. The public enterprises have, apart from effecting savings also directed their efforts towards improving their performance and making a substantial contribution to their own finances and to the general revenues.

Grant of Loans for House Building to Employees in the United Commercial Bank, Patna

2486. SHRI MADAN LAL SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that in the United Commercial Bank, Patna some members of the Unions of Bank employees have been granted loans for house building even without their having purchased land for houses,

(b) if so, is the Government going to investigate into the irregularity; and

(c) if so, by what time will the enquiry be completed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) United Commercial Bank has reported that the housing loans sanctioned to their employees at Patna branches of the bank, are in accordance with the Staff Housing Loan Scheme of the bank and that no one, who was sanctioned a loan for building a house, has failed to purchase land for the purpose.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

12 00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ACCOUNTS OF COFFEE BOARD FOR 1973-74

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): On behalf of Shri Arif Baig, I beg to lay on the Table

a copy of the Certified Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coffee Board for the year 1973-74 and the Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1745/78].

ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR 1976-77

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1976-77, under sub-section (3) of section 14 of the National Cooperative Development Corporation Act, 1962. [Placed in Library See No. LT-1746/78].

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER CENTRAL EXCISES AND SALT ACT, 1944 AND ANNUAL REPORT OF UNITED INDIA FIRE AND GENERAL INSURANCE CO. LTD., MADRAS FOR 1976 AND A STATEMENT RELATING THERETO

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQARULLAH): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:—

(i) The Central Excise (Third Amendment) Rules, 1978, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 444 in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 1978.

(ii) The Central Excise (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1978, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 445 in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 1978. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1747/78].

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi* versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Annual Report of the United India Fire and General Insurance Company Limited, Madras, for the year ended 31st December, 1976 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(ii) A statement explaining that Government are in agreement with the above Report and therefore no separate Review on the working of the Company is being laid [Placed in Library. See No LT-1748/78].

12.01 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT MERGER OF SIKKIM

SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrackpore): Sir, I call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The reported statement by the Prime Minister that Sikkim merger, was wrong"

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): Sir, the Hon' Members are exercised over the report of the press interview which I gave and which has been published in the newspapers on the question of Sikkim. I have not used the term 'annexation'; I spoke of merger. In response to a specific question by the correspondent I observed that the

*English versions of the documents were laid on the Table on the 23rd December, 1977.