

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.

[Shri Morarji Desai]

manner of merger was not desirable. I had also clearly stated that it cannot be undone. I have expressed my views on the manner in which the merger was effected. I did so at the time of merger and I have done so ever since. I have always believed that even desirable objectives should not be accomplished in a manner which would arouse needless criticism and suspicion.

Sikkim being a constituent unit of India is a settled fact. There can be no question of unsettling it. I have made it clear to the Chogyal that he should adjust himself to the changed circumstances which was what I specifically reiterated in the course of the press interview.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: Sir, I have gone through the Prime Minister's statement very carefully and I am thankful to him that the Prime Minister has not used the word "annexation" though that was the word which was used in the headline of *Times of India* yesterday. But when I rise to frame my question, I do so with a lot of pain because, to my mind, this should not have been a matter of Calling Attention motion but should have been a matter of censure motion against the Prime Minister.

This is the first time in the history of independent India that a Prime Minister has expressed an opinion against the integration of an integral part of the country, even if it is a personal opinion. He has also expressed an opinion about the merger of Goa. Tomorrow, he may express an opinion against the integration of princely States. Not only that. This is also against the Thirty-sixth Amendment of the Constitution which was passed by this House, by the Parliament, of which the Prime Minister was a member. I have great respect for the Prime Minister. But

I must state that it is not a truthful statement. He has stated:

"I have expressed my views on the manner in which the merger was effected. I did so at the time of merger and I have done so ever since."

I have in my hand a copy of the debate of 4th September....

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Where have I said. I did it in the House? I did not speak in the House. Mr. Shyamnandan Mishra spoke. He was the deputy leader of my party at that time. He has said definitely about it.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: On September 4, 1974, the House debated the Thirty-sixth Amendment of the Constitution. Not only did the Prime Minister not speak against it but he also did not vote against it. Not only that. The members of his party of which Mr. Shyamnandan Mishra was also a member and was its deputy leader did not vote against it.

Now, if the Prime Minister says that he was not for it at that time and he did speak out, I can only say that I differ with that opinion. But my apprehensions are in another respect. If I may mention, the majority of population of Sikkim, about 72 per cent are Nepalese speaking people and it was these Nepalese speaking people who mainly led the agitation against the Chogyal and for the integration and merger of Sikkim with India. Sir, it seems to me, somehow or the other, that the Prime Minister has set his heart against these Nepalese speaking people also. I just referred to a brief statement that the Prime Minister made to the members of All India Nepalese Bhasha Samiti when they met the Prime Minister recently. According to the members of the delegation, they were treated very shabbily. The Prime Minister said to them, "I derecognise Nepalese language from this Sahitya Akademy" when it has already been re-

cognised by the Sahitya Akademy. He also said, "I ban the entry of the Nepalese people to the Indian Army, the Navy and the Air Force, if they insist on inclusion of Nepalese language in the Eighth Schedule."

If I may mention, I come from a State where Nepalese speaking people form a large part of the population and the present statement by the Prime Minister will create a further misapprehension in the minds of Nepalese speaking people who inhabit the northern part of West Bengal, parts of Assam, Sikkim and also large parts of Uttar Pradesh. So, at this stage, I think, that this misapprehension is still more because the statement came out on the day the Chinese delegation came to New Delhi. People may find a connection between the two that the day the Chinese delegation came to New Delhi, on the same day, the prime Minister of the country made a statement against the integration of an integral part of the country, of a State of the country, of people who are there in the country for so long. I think that the Prime Minister is a true Gandhian and I would like to ask him—since he has already said that he has not said certain things—whether in this Parliament he will tender, he will express, regret for the remarks made and also to the Nepalese speaking people so that their misapprehension may be allayed!

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I am very sorry Sir, that the hon. Member should have used the language which he used and made allegations against me which are quite unfounded. He will not succeed in putting Nepalese people against me, howsoever much he may try to do so, because I have no dislike of anybody. Why should they say things which are unfounded? I have never said these things. (Interruptions) I never made that statement. If you confront those people before me, you will realise that I did not make that statement. What is the meaning of imputing this kind

of a thing to me? If they have nothing else to say and if they say this, I have every sympathy with my hon. friends. I do not want to object to that. But this is not the way in which a debate of this kind should be carried on. He says: I am a true Gandhian. I am trying to follow Mahatma Gandhi truly. I cannot yet claim that I have completely become a true Gandhian in every sense in which Gandhiji was; I cannot claim that, but I am trying to approximate to his discipline. Now, one of the main requirements is that one should not be afraid of the whole world in telling the truth as one sees it. Whether others agree with it or not is not a matter of consequence. The consideration is that one must not speak for others; I speak for myself. It is not at all....

(Interruptions)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): You speak for the nation.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: If this is what they want, I will not say anything. I sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN (Satara): When the Prime Minister makes a statement to a foreigner it is in his capacity as the Prime Minister and it is misunderstood. (Interruptions) it is national interests which are more important and I think the Prime Minister owes an explanation and apology to the House and the nation.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I do not want to ask for any apology for these unfounded attacks on me. What is the meaning of this? There is no question of my apology (Interruptions). It is not as if I have said this today. I am the Prime Minister no doubt. But that does not mean that what I had said then, I was not entitled to say it then, and if what I said then is what I believe was right-

[Shri Morarji Desai]

ly said at that time, and if somebody asks me about it, how can I deny what I had said? Whatever the hon. Member may say, I am not going to yield to that at all. (Interruptions).

डा० रामजी सिंह (भागलपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय मैं आपके माध्यम से प्रधान मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने सिक्किम के विषय में जो बयान दिया है, उससे लोगों के मन में गलतफहमी हुई है। इतना तो निश्चित ही है कि सिक्किम जैसे सवाल पर जो कुछ उन्होंने कहा है, यह बड़ा सबैदनशील सवाल है लेकिन इसको व्यापक परिप्रेक्ष्य में देखना चाहिए।

मेरे मित्र जो अभी इसके सम्बन्ध में चर्चा कर रहे हैं, उनका ध्यान मैं उस समय की लोक-सभा की डिबेट की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ और उस समय सिक्किम का जिस प्रकार में भारत में विलियन करने का प्रयास किया गया था उसके सम्बन्ध में समूची दुनिया के अखबारों की कतर्न क्या बोलती है वह भी मैं आपके समक्ष रखना चाहता हूँ। मैं केवल यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सिक्किम का जो भारत में विलय हुआ वह ठीक हुआ, उसमें कोई दो मत नहीं है। प्रधान मंत्री जी भी उसको मानते हैं, लेकिन प्रश्न यह है कि साधन क्या है? साधन अगर अमूर्त होगा तो साध्य पर भी उसका कुप्रभाव पड़ेगा। उसका कुप्रभाव दुनिया में और खासकर पड़ोसी देशों में क्या पड़ा वह मैं आपकी सेवा में रखना चाहता हूँ।

आप देखेंगे कि इंडियन एक्सप्रेस में हमको हिस्टोरिक बलन्डर कहा गया था। बाका के 'इल्लिफाक' नामक लाजेंट गकलिटिंग पेपर में ३ में विंग फिश और स्माल फिश की संज्ञा दी गई थी। यू० के० के लिबरल समाचार-पत्र "शिशियन" ने कहा था

'It is an act of annexation'

बाद में भुट्टो साहब के वक्त में वॉशिंग्टन पोस्ट ने कहा था—

"Bhutto sees an excuse for arms aid . Swallowing up . ."

इसी तरह से नेपाल में भी इसकी बड़ी प्रतिक्रिया हुई थी और नेपाल की पंचायत के विदेश मंत्री ने जो वक्तव्य दिया था वह मैं पढ़कर आपका समय नष्ट नहीं करना चाहता। लेकिन मैं यह अवश्य कहना चाहता हूँ कि विदेश नीति तात्कालिक रूप से कितना भी हमको प्रभावित करे लेकिन अन्ततोगत्वा उसका क्या असर होता है?

आज मंजरे मैने नेपाल के एक सचर्चाशील साथी से बातचीत की और मैने कहा कि प्राइम मिनिस्टर का जो वक्तव्य हुआ है उस पर क्या उसकी प्रतिक्रिया है। उसने कहा कि हममें अच्छा और कोई स्टेटमेंट नहीं हो सकता था, जिसमें उन्होंने कहा कि (अध्यक्ष) मैं चीन की पीपिंग पीपल्स एजेन्सी का उद्धरण नहीं देना चाहता हूँ लेकिन यह इन लोगों की नेता श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी के वकील का वक्तव्य लोक-सभा में पढ़ना चाहता हूँ। इन्होंने चौथे मसोधन बिल पर कहा था कि

"This is a wishy washy Bill, a dangerous innovation not only Constitutionally but even more dangerous politically"

यह हमने नहीं कहा था (अध्यक्ष) श्री फैंव एन्थनी ने कहा था। (अध्यक्ष) हमारे विरोधी मित्रों का भी मुनने की महिष्णुता हानी चाहिए। नेपाल का पंचायन में कहा गया था कि एपी मन्त्रालय आप पंचायत आफ नेपाल शुड लर्न ए लेंशन फ्रॉम सिक्किम।"

उन्होंने कहा था कि अगर यही तराका है ता यह सत्रायू० एन० ओ० में उठाना चाहिए। नेपाल के उस साथी ने मुझे बताया कि उस अवसर पर नेपाल में बहुत ज्यादा प्रदर्शन हुए थे और नेपाल में एक मशय का वातावरण बन गया था। यही नहीं नेपाल और भारत के सम्बन्ध भी खराब हो गये थे (अध्यक्ष)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I am on a point of order.

This Parliament constitutes the people of the country who stand for the territorial integrity of the nation. In this Parliament there is an Hon. Member representing Sikkim. Now the Hon. Member seeks to justify the statement or the allegation made against this country and the Government in those days by certain foreign Governments, by Mr. Bhutto and some of the newspapers that the merger of Sikkim was wrong. He is trying to justify the stand. This Parliament is not to speak against the territorial integrity of the country: he should not be allowed to speak like this.

डा० रामजी सिंह : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं चाहता हूँ कि हमारे विरोधी मित्र थोड़ी देर और सुनें :

जहाँ तक सिक्किम के भारत में विलयन का प्रश्न है यह मान्य होना चाहिए कि 1947 में जब सिक्किम कांग्रेस की स्थापना हुई थी, तो उन्होंने कांग्रेसी सरकार को विलयन के लिए कहा था, लेकिन पच्चीस वर्षों तक कांग्रेसी दृष्टिकोण ने उस पर ध्यान नहीं दिया। 1954 में वहाँ के शासक, नामग्याल, ने नेहरूजी को पत्र लिख कर कहा था कि सिक्किम भारत में मिलाया चाहिए। उस समय सिक्किम को नहीं मिलाया गया था। लेकिन जब स्थिति बिगड़ गई, जब दुनिया में आप की छीछलेदर हुई, तब यह काम किया गया (व्यवधान)

मैं अपने विचार संक्षेप में कह कर प्रधान मंत्री जी से तत्प्राप्तपूर्वक कुछ प्रश्न करना चाहता हूँ : (व्यवधान)

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar): This is a very delicate matter. The Prime Minister has clarified his position that it was his personal opinion and my friend here is making political capital out of it. Here and now there should not be a

discussion. They should not try to make political capital out of these things.

डा० रामजी सिंह : क्या यह बात सच है कि सिक्किम के भारत के साथ विलयन का प्रावधान हमारे संविधान-निर्माताओं ने कुछ सोच-समझ कर ही छोड़ा था ?

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR (Quilon): Is he making a speech or asking a question?

डा० रामजी सिंह :
I am asking a question.

क्या सिक्किम के विलयन के समय एसेम्बली में अनियमितताएँ हुई थीं? क्या सिक्किम के विलयन पर हमारे पड़ोसी देशों, बंगलादेश, नेपाल, पाकिस्तान और सिक्किम आदि, में प्रतिक्रिया हुई थी? (व्यवधान)

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur):
I am on a point of order.

A Member has got every liberty and right to say what he feels, but can he say in these proceedings, while making a speech, anything against the interests of the nation? He is questioning the very merger of Sikkim with India. In his speech, he is talking against the interest of the country. You have to regulate this member in a proper manner.

डा० रामजी सिंह : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि जिस समय 36वें संविधान संशोधन में सिक्किम को एसोसिएट स्टेट का दर्जा दे कर हिन्दुस्तान की राजनीति के लिए खतरा उपस्थित किया गया था, वह खतरा था या नहीं? अन्तिम सवाल यह है कि क्या 1947 में सिक्किम स्टेट कांग्रेस की स्थापना के समय वहाँ भारत में विलयन की मांग की गई थी या नहीं और 1954 में प्रधान मंत्री नेहरू जी को विलयन के लिए पत्र दिया गया था या नहीं? अगर दिया गया था तो इतनी देर क्यों की गई ?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I do not want to generate any further excitement in the Opposition.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: We are very much excited.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I can understand your excitement but that does not mean that I should be excited, I do not want to add to that excitement and, therefore, I do not propose to reply to the questions put by the hon. Member.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: I think, you owe an apology to the nation.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Do not make a political capital out of this.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: There is no question of any apology whatsoever; I cannot do it.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: You owe an apology to the nation. If you do not do it, we will stage a walk-out.

Shri Yeshwantrao Chavan and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Idukki): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have written to you seeking permission to make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: In the view of our party, what has happened is a very very serious matter. We are really pained to see that the Prime Minister does not concede the seriousness of the matter. According to me, three points are involved in this. First, the statement of the Prime Minister that he made the statement in his personal capacity. Occupying an office has got its own constraints. When somebody occupies the position as the Prime Minister or the President of India, he has got certain constraints and when a remark is made

about a matter vitally concerning the Constitution and the picture of the state of affairs in this country, particularly when talking to a foreign journalist, one cannot take it as a statement personally made. I do accept his statement on its face value, but the claim that he can make a statement in his personal capacity concerning a matter which is so vitally concerning the country is a proposition which I am incapable of accepting. Therefore, I have got my objection to that.

Secondly, there is an oath that everybody takes. The oath is: I will uphold the integrity and sovereignty of the country. By so many processes, the country has come to existence and Sikkim is a part of the country. As it is a part of the country, every Member of Parliament as also the Prime Minister is obliged to uphold the integrity of the country and to say that the process by which that integration took place was objectionable is not upholding the integrity of the country. To that extent, the Prime Minister has violated the oath that he took when he assumed office. This is fundamental. If you say that the process was bad, if you say the means was bad, but say that the result is all right it is not upholding the integrity of the country. Therefore, I do expect the Prime Minister to withdraw that statement so that the conscience of the people of Sikkim may be set at, and so that the integrity of the country may be completely safeguarded. I do appeal to the Prime Minister to make a statement withdrawing that statement. I would like to hear what he has got to say about that.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I am not going to say anything.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: The Prime Minister says that he is not prepared to withdraw that statement. So Sir, in protest against the stand of the Prime Minister and to uphold the integrity of the country I and my Party stage a walk out.

Shri C. M. Stephen and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR (Trivandrum): I do not want to make a speech. But we also protest against the statement made by the Prime Minister and we walk out.

Shri M. N. Govindan Nair and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI GEORGE MATHEW (Muvattupuzha): On behalf of Kerala Congress, we also protest and walk out.

Shri George Mathew and some other hon. Members left the House.

श्रीमती चन्नावती (भिवानी): इस महाद्वीप के तीन टुकड़े बनाये—यह नेहरू डायनेस्टी की देन है। कश्मीर को हमेशा के लिए एक नासूर बनाकर रख दिया है: इस देश के लिए नासूर पैदा करने में इस डायनेस्टी ने बहुत बड़ा काम किया है लेकिन इस देश की प्रबल्लम्स को सत्त्व करने के लिए कोई भी काम नहीं किया। (व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Ahsan Jafri—not here.

Shri Ravindra Varma.

12.27 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): With your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 13th March, 1978, will consist of:

(1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

(2) Submission to the vote of the House of Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 1978-79.

(3) Discussion and voting on:

(a) Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1978-79.

(b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1977-78.

(c) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 1975-76.

(d) Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 1975-76.

(e) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1977-78.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR (Gorakhpur): I have already given notice of a privilege motion against a Police Officer. About that I would like to say something.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have already been informed regarding the position. Please do not raise that matter now.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR: Dr. Ambedkar, a respected leader of this nation—his photographs were torn out in Bareilly. About that also I have given a notice. It is a very serious matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is under consideration.... (Interruptions).

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR: कोतवाली पुलिस के अन्तर्गत यह हुआ है। In UP, the Police officers are behaving like this.... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is मने कह दिया कि वह ग्रण्डर कंसिडरेशन है the point of all of you getting up? It is under consideration.

Now Shri Vayalar Ravi.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: (Chirayinkil): The Minister has presented the business for the next week about which I would like to make one or two suggestions.