

12.27½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

FIFTEENTH REPORT

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): I beg to present the Fifteenth Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Central Inland Water Transport Corporation—Utility of Rajabagan Dockyard and other related matters.

12.28 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT

SHRI PURNANARAYAN SINHA (Tezpur): I beg to present the Twenty-fourth Report (English and Hindi versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes—Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Third Report on the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare (Department of Education)—Admission and other facilities for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Indian Institute of Management.

12.28½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE. SCHEME FOR REPLENISHMENT OF GOLD AGAINST EXPORT OF GOLD JEWELLERY

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Dharia.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): Sir, it is a long statement. So, with your permission, I would like to lay it on the Table.

Statement

Government have been considering a scheme to allow replenishment of gold against the export of gold ornaments and I had assured last week that it will be finalised by Independence Day. The House will be happy to know that the scheme has been finalised and I am making this Statement to apprise the Members of its salient features.

2 The scheme would permit exports of ornaments made of gold of 14 carats or higher purity. A minimum value added of 33-1/3 per cent over the value of pure gold content will be expected.

3 The scheme can be availed of by all Registered Exporters of Gem and Jewellery, cooperative societies of certified goldsmiths and public sector corporations both of Central and State Governments operating as Export Houses.

4 The scheme would provide replenishment of gold to the extent that it is used in the ornaments exported. Government will notify from time to time the price at which gold will be sold. This price will be fixed having regard to the international price of gold. Sales will be through the State Bank of India.

5 The scheme will cover export made by air-freight through the Custom Houses at Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Delhi against contracts supported by irrevocable letters of credit or cash-on-delivery basis. It is proposed to extend the benefits under the scheme to exports from other places in due course.

6 Eligible exporters should file their applications with the licensing authorities under the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports at the above places. Export licences will be granted by endorsement on shipping bills. The customs will allow the exports, after verifying the

weight and the purity of gold used in the items to be exported, and the export value. Immediately after the connected foreign exchange is realised, the exporter can apply for replenishment of gold—as pure gold—to the same licensing authority which passed the shipments.

7. The licensing authority will issue Release Orders to the exporters for the quantity and value of pure gold used in the items exported; both value and quantity shall be limiting factors in each Release Order. On production of such Release Orders, the State Bank of India will sell gold at the notified price ruling on the date of sale.

8. Suitable notifications are being issued. The Chief Controller of Imports and Exports will issue also a Public Notice giving the full details of the scheme.

9. The scheme will come into operation from the 21st August, 1978 and export applications can be made to the designated licensing authorities from that day onwards.

10. While gold ornaments (without stones) will be covered by this scheme, Government propose to evolve an integrated scheme covering gold studded jewellery as well. In the meantime, exports of studded jewellery will get the benefits provided under the existing scheme.

11. I am sure that the scheme will not only fetch more exchange-earnings for the country but will be able to provide gainful employment opportunities to hundred of our skilled goldsmiths.

12.29 hrs.

RE. LOOTING OF A RAILWAY TRAIN BETWEEN BHOPAL AND BINA—Contd.

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR (Pondicherry): Sir, I have made a submission.....

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MR. SPEAKER: About what matter?

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: Sir, in the noise you could not hear me. I have every right to put forward my viewpoint in this House, and if you are not going to permit me to make my statement, I will say that it will be very painful....

MR. SPEAKER: It is no use saying all that. The Minister has made the statement. He has said that he will look into the matter.

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: What I am saying is a very serious matter. A Member of Parliament from Arunachal Pradesh hurt his hand and he went to the Irwin Hospital. He could not speak Hindi; he could speak only English. Even though his hand was broken, he was thrown out of the hospital. You ask the other Members.... (*Interruptions*) I have never raised it. My friends were raising a number of points like that. Every time I used to get up on so many points, you used to pacify the situation. The hon. Minister has come forward with so many assurances, the Prime Minister has come forward with so many assurances, but they are trying to fool us in this country. It cannot happen like that.

Sir, the apology which the Minister has given is a dubious apology. He has not said what action he has taken. Yesterday, I was watching in the other House.... (*Interruptions*). Last night itself he could have done it, but he waited, read it in the paper and then only.... (*Interruptions*). With the powers in his hand, he could have suspended this officer and then come to us. Then we could have understood them.

Sir, we are here to protect the innocent and humble people of the south and the non-Hindi-speaking areas. If people are treated like this, merely because they are ignorant of Hindi language....

MR. SPEAKER: You are adding fuel to the fire.