

Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Supply and Rehabilitation for 1977-78.

12.27 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. DISCONTINU- ANCE OF INSTITUTION OF CIVILIAN AWARDS

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-676/77.]

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER CENTRAL EXCISE RULES, 1944.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944:—

(1) G.S.R. 479(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 1977, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(2) G.S.R. 480(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 1977, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-677/77.]

MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLU- TIONS SECOND REPORT

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI (Vijayawada): I beg to present the Second Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): As soon as we assumed office, we had the question examined whether the institution of Civilian awards namely Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards was in conformity with article 18 of the Constitution. The Attorney General, who was consulted, has clearly advised that on a harmonious interpretation of the word "title" in clause (1) of Article 18 as well as clauses (2) and (3) thereof, the Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards would fall within the prohibition of grant of titles and would be in his view, "contrary not only to the letter, but spirit of article 18(1)". Accordingly, Government have decided that the institution of awards should be discontinued. Those who have received such awards in the past are being informed that they will not be allowed to use these awards as titles on sign-boards, stationery or in any other manner and that if any recipient is found using the award as title, it will be withdrawn.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): I want to have one clarification on this.

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Please do not disturb me for two minutes. I beg of you.