

[Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma]

recommendations contained in their Fifty-fifth Report on Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Ltd.

- (2) Seventy-first Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fiftieth Report on Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (Marketing and Distribution).
- (3) Seventy-second Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fortieth Report on Role and Achievements of Public Undertakings.

11.04 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-NINTH REPORT

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta—North-East): I beg to present the Hundred and Seventy-ninth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on Paragraph 32 of the Report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73, Union Government (Civil) relating to Production of Polio Virus Vaccine (Department of Health).

11.05 hrs.

AGRICULTURAL REFINANCE CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): I beg to move:*

"That the Bill further to amend the Agricultural Refinance Corporation Act, 1963, be taken into consideration".

This Bill is to enable the Agricultural Refinance Corporation to step up its promotional activities and to

play a developmental role in a more effective manner in future. The proposed amendments would remove the inadequacies in the Act for enabling the Corporation to play the role envisaged for the ARC in the agricultural development of the country during the Fifth Plan and after.

As the House is aware the Agricultural Refinance Corporation was established under the Agricultural Refinance Corporation Act, 1963, to augment the resources available for the provision of medium-term and long-term finance for agriculture. The Reserve Bank of India, the State Co-operative Banks, Central Land Development Banks, scheduled commercial banks and the Life Insurance Corporation of India are the main shareholders. Of these, the State Co-operative Banks, Central Land Development Banks and scheduled commercial banks are in the institutions eligible for refinance facilities from the Corporation.

The Corporation raises its funds by way of (i) share capital from its members, (ii) loans from the Central Government, (iii) borrowings from the open market by issue of bonds, (iv) loans from the Reserve Bank of India's National Agricultural Credit (Long-term operations) Fund and (v) temporary borrowings from the Reserve Bank of India.

Besides the considerable expansion in the business operations of the Corporation during the Fourth Plan period, certain other important changes in its working have also taken place during this period. In the initial years, while it provided assistance covering mainly schemes on land development and minor irrigation, a deliberate attempt was made in these years to diversify its activities by providing assistance for schemes covering hitherto unconventional fields of agricultural activities like dairies, fisheries, warehousing, etc. In these years the Corporation also undertook

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.