

13.06½ hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL Sir I have to report the following message received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha —

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 17th December 1974 agreed without any amendment to the Sick Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Bill, 1974, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th December, 1974"

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13.07 hrs

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

MR SPEAKER The Committee on Absence of Members from the sitting of the House in their Eighteenth Report have recommended that leave of absence be granted to the following Members for the periods indicated against each —

(1) Shri A K Gopalan—11th November to 20th December 1974 (Twelfth Session)

(2) Shri Rasiklal Parikh—26th November to 20th December, 1974 (Twelfth Session)

It is the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee may be granted to him?

SOME HON. MEMBERS Yes

MR SPEAKER Leave is granted to them. The Members will be informed accordingly

13.07½ hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

SIXTY-EIGHTH REPORT

SHRI DHAMANKAR (Bhiwandi) I beg to present the Sixty-eighth Report of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Energy (Department of Coal)—Availability and Distribution of Coal

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COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

TENTH REPORT

SHRI B K DASCHOWDHURY (CoochBehar) I beg to present the Tenth Report of the Committee on Government Assurances

MR SPEAKER Shri Ramavatar Shastri

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना): आश्वासन समिति का आवेदन पेश हुआ है। नियमों के अनुसार जो अविश्वासन सरकार की तरफ से दिए जाते हैं उनके उत्तर तीन महीने के अन्दर मिल जाने चाहिए। इसके बारे में आपको पत्र भी लिखने जा रहा हूँ। मैंने पिछले सेशन और इस सेशन को मिला कर बिहार के प्राविडेंट फंड कार्यालय से संबंधित दर्जनों सवाल पूछे हैं और ज्यादातर का यही जवाब दिया गया है कि जनकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन की मंजूर पर रख दी जाएगी। तीन महीने के अन्दर अन्दर जवाब हमें का मिल जान चाहिए और जनकारी सभा पटल पर रख दी जानी चाहिए। 21 दिन के अन्दर जवाब नहीं दे पाते हैं वे चाहे एक कारखाने की बात ही पूछी गई हो और जिस में ज्यादा मेहनत भी नहीं पड़ती है। तमाम सवाल का जवाब यही दिया गया है कि सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और बाद में

[श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री]

सूचना सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी। सरकार को तीन महीने के अन्दर जवाब देना चाहिए। लेकिन मेरे पास अभी छः क्वेश्चन्स मौजूद हैं, जिन को तीन महीने से ज्यादा हो गए हैं—चौथा महीना हो रहा है, मगर अभी तक कोई जवाब नहीं दिया गया है। मैं ने 22-8-74 को चार सवाल पूछे थे, जिन के नम्बर ये हैं—

अध्यक्ष महोदय: यह बात आप मे चेम्बर में रख कर सकते हैं। मैं यह परम्परा नहीं डालना चाहता हूँ कि जब रिपोर्ट को प्रेजेंट किया जाये, तब भाषण शुरू हो जाये। मगर आप चाहते हैं, तो हल 377 में नोटिस दीजिए। यह बात गलत है।

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री: इन छः क्वेश्चन्स को चार महीने हो गए हैं। मैं उन्हीं क्वेश्चन्स के नम्बर बता रहा हूँ। निधम 377 में आप अनुमति देते नहीं हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: मैं यह कन्वेंशन नहीं डालना चाहता हूँ कि रिपोर्ट के प्रेजेंटेशन के वक्त इस तरह भाषण दिए जाय।

13.11 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

MINUTES OF FORTY-SECOND TO FIFTY-FIRST SITTINGS

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: (Chattrapur): I lay on the Table Minutes of the Forty-second to Fifty-first sitting of the Committee on Petitions.

STATEMENT RE. MICA AND SHELLAC

13.11½ hrs.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHAYAYA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Export of mica was

canalised through Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation with effect from January, 1972, and Mica Trading Corporation (MITCO) was set up, as a subsidiary of M.M.T.C., with effect from June, 1974. This Corporation is the specialised agency for handling all work pertaining to mica trade. Helping the weaker sections of mica industry and trade is one of the important objectives of this organisation.

For achieving this particular objective such processors, dealers and mine owners who have been in the export trade in the past and whose exports during any one of the last three years had not exceeded Rs. 7.5 lakhs are treated as weaker sections of the trade. There are about 400 to 500 processors, dealers, and mine owners in this category.

With a view to helping these sections, formerly M.M.T.C. and now, Mica Trading Corporation, has been purchasing mica from them for export. During the period from April to October, 1974, it has purchased, on an average, about Rs. 43 lakh worth of mica per month from these small producers, and MITCO's purchasing operations have not been affected on account of inadequacy of funds. Also, MITCO makes these purchases on a non-discriminatory basis from all processors etc in the category of weaker sections.

13.15 hrs.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair].

Floor prices of various grades of mica are determined on the basis of their availability for export and demand from foreign buyers. These floor prices were last revised for different grades in February, 1974.

A few years ago, exports of No. 6 loose splittings had dwindled and the mica products made from these splittings were meeting with serious competition from synthetic substitutes. In order to meet this situation, export duty of 40 per cent *ad valorem*