

(7) A copy of the Bihar and Uttar Pradesh (Inspection of Boundary Pillars) Rules, 1970 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 1971 in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 1970 together with corrigendum thereto published in Notification Nos. G. S. R. 291 (English version) and 292 (Hindi version) in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 1971, under sub-section (2) of section 36 of the Bihar and Uttar Pradesh (Alteration of Boundaries) Act, 1968. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-67/71]

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORKING AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPANIES ACT

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (English and Hindi versions) on the working and administration of the Companies Act, 1956, for the year ended the 31st March, 1970, under section 638 of the said Act. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-68/71]

12.45 Hrs.

STATEMENT RE. ARREARS PAYABLE BY SUGAR FACTORIES TO SUGAR-CANE GROWERS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): Sir, some Honourable Members have expressed concern at the large arrears of sugarcane price payable by sugar factories to the growers for the season 1970-71. According to the information received from sugar factories for the week ending 28th February 1971, the total price of sugarcane purchased by the factories during 1970-71 was Rs. 172.27 crores out of which Rs. 117.82 crores had been paid leaving arrears of Rs. 54.45 crores. This amount is 31.6 per cent of the total cane price due, which is no doubt very heavy. The arrears of cane price for sugarcane purchased during 1969-70 season were Rs.

4.31 crores as on 28th February 1971. This works out to 1.3 per cent of the total cane price due for that season. If arrears of cane price in Maharashtra and Gujarat where most of the factories are co-operatives and where payment is governed by the bye-laws of the Cooperative Societies are excluded, the total arrears of cane price for 1970-71 would be nearly Rs. 41 crores. Further, while the season is on, factories can make payment of the sugarcane price within fourteen days of the delivery of the cane. Thus nearly Rs. 20 crores may be in the process of payment. Nevertheless the arrears due for payment are very substantial and the Government share the concern and anxiety of the Honourable Members in this regard. It is the duty and responsibility of sugar factories to make payment of sugarcane price promptly at the latest within a fortnight. Government of India take serious note of the failure of the factories in the discharge of this elementary responsibility of theirs.

State Governments have been advised again and again to take stringent, and where necessary, coercive measures against the defaulting factories to ensure prompt payment of sugarcane price to them. They are being advised again to take immediate necessary steps to rectify the present unsatisfactory position. A close watch is being kept by the Government of India and such other measures, as are feasible, will be taken in the interest of the growers.

SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM (Tiruchirappalli): Sir, on a point of order.....

MR. SPEAKER: Do not misuse the procedure please.

SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM: His statement says that hon. Members have expressed concern. I am rising on a point of order to get a clarification from the hon. Minister... (Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER: After the hon. Minister's statement, no questions are allowed.