

sub-section (3) of Section 641 of the said Act. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4175/73]

RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE (2ND AMENDMENT) RULES, 1972

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Railway Protection Force (Second Amendment) Rules, 1972 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1555 in Gazette of India dated the 9th December, 1972 under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4176/73.]

PUBLIC NOTICES RE. IMPORT POLICY FOR NEWSPRINT AND ART PAPER, 1972-73

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of Public Notice No. 22-ITC(PN)/73, dated the 12th February, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) regarding Import Policy for Newsprint, for the year 1972-73. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4177/73.]

(2) A copy of Public Notice No. 23ITC(PN)/73, dated the 12th February, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) regarding Import Policy for Art Paper for the year 1972-73. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4178/73.]

13.38 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:—

I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on Monday, the 19th February, 1973, adopted the following motion in regard to the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Adoption of Children Bill, 1972:—

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Adoption of Children Bill, 1972, be further extended upto the first day of the last week of the Eighty-sixth (winter) Session of the Rajya Sabha."

ASSENT TO BILLS

SECRETARY: Sir, I lay on the Table the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1972 passed by the Houses of Parliament during the last session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 15th December, 1972.

I also lay on the Table copies duly authenticated by the Secretary of Rajya Sabha, of the following thirteen Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 15th December, 1972:—

- (1) The Limestone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund Bill, 1972.
- (2) The Food Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 1972.
- (3) The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 1972.
- (4) The Carriage by Air Bill, 1972.
- (5) The Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1972.
- (6) The Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill, 1972.
- (7) The Sick Textile Undertakings (Taking Over of Management) Bill, 1972.
- (8) The Industrial Finance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1972.
- (9) The Industrial Development Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1972.
- (10) The Delimitation Bill, 1972.
- (11) The State Financial Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 1972.

(12) The Richardson and Cruddas Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Bill, 1972.

(13) The Mulki Rules Bill, 1972.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

TWENTY-FIFTH AND TWENTY-SIXTH REPORTS

SHRI K. N. TIWARY (Bettiah): I beg to present the following Reports of the Estimates Committee:—

- (1) Twenty-fifth Report on the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture) regarding action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fifth Report on Tractors and Other Agricultural Machinery and Implements.
- (2) Twenty-sixth Report regarding action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fifteenth Report on the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Food)—Directorate of Sugar and Vanaspati.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SIXTY-SECOND REPORT

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam): I beg to present the Sixty-second Report of the Public Accounts Committee regarding action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fourth Report on Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

STATEMENT RE DROUGHT SITUATION

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): About the drought situation we have given a call attention motion. He has got every right to make a statement about the drought situation in the country which is very horrible. I would only request you to allow a special discussion on the basis of his statement.

SHRI PYOTRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Adjournment motions have been

given on the famine conditions and the aftereffect of drought which involve millions of people and the Government has been completely ineffective. This sort of statements will take up nowhere.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED): I beg to lay on the Table a statement on the drought situation in the country.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (मुनेरा) :
खाद्यान्न के भाव काफी बढ़े है इस लिये इस को
एक माय लिया जाय ।

Statement

The Hon'ble Members will recall that we had occasion to discuss the drought situation in the country during the previous Session when I have an account of the extent of the drought and the relief measures taken to deal with the situation. Since then the significant developments that have taken place *vis-a-vis* the drought situation are—

(i) Continuation of unfavourable weather conditions and dry spell in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and parts of Mysore and Andhra Pradesh, and consequent augmentation of relief works in these States;

(ii) Some improvement in the production of Kharif crops due to rains and generally favourable weather conditions in the months of August, September and October in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(iii) Beneficial rains during November/December/January for the sowing and growing of wheat and other rabi crops in the rabi growing areas of Haryana, Punjab, U.P., and Bihar and for the winter paddy crop/late sown kharif/rabi crops in the States of Orissa and Tamil Nadu.

On account of these favourable weather conditions which have prevailed during these 3 months over major parts of the country, excepting Gujarat, Rajasthan, Ma-