

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF  
MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS  
OF THE HOUSE  
MINUTES

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA (Tamluk):  
I beg to lay on the Table Minutes of  
the Eighth sitting of the Committee  
on Absence of Members from the  
Sittings of the House held during the  
current session.

12.51 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)  
BILL—Contd.

(AMENDMENT OF SEVENTH SCHEDULE)  
BY SHRI S. C. SAMANTA  
OPINION ON BILL

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA (Tamluk):  
I beg to lay on the Table a paper con-  
taining opinions on the Bill further  
to amend the Constitution of India,  
which was circulated for the purpose  
of eliciting opinion thereon by the  
direction of the House on the 12th  
May, 1972.

12.51½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE  
SIXTIETH AND SIXTY-FIRST REPORTS

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam):  
I beg to present the following Reports  
of the Public Accounts Committee:—

- (1) Sixtieth Report regarding ac-  
tion taken by Government on  
the recommendations contain-  
ed in their Twenty-eighth  
Report relating to the Minis-  
try of Foreign Trade and  
Department of Agriculture.
- (2) Sixty-first Report regarding  
action taken by Government  
on the recommendations con-  
tained in their Second Report  
on Appropriation Accounts  
(P. & T.) 1968-69 and Audit  
Report (P. & T.), 1970.

12.52 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS  
EIGHTH AND NINTH REPORTS

SHRI DEVENDRA SATPATHY  
(Dhenkanal): I beg to present the  
Eighth and Ninth Reports of the Com-  
mittee on Petitions.

2.52½ hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES  
OF PROFIT  
FOURTH REPORT

SHRI D. BASUMATARI (Kokra-  
jhar): I beg to present the Fourth  
Report of the Joint Committee on  
Offices of Profit.

12.53 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. TAKE-OVER OF  
WHOLESALE TRADE IN WHEAT  
AND RICE

THE MINISTER OF AGRICUL-  
TURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED): Hon'  
ble Members are aware that Govern-  
ment had already reached the deci-  
sion to take over the wholesale trade  
in wheat and rice. This decision was  
taken in consultation with the Chief  
Ministers of the States. The essen-  
tial features of the scheme are to give  
the public agencies a more dominant  
role in the procurement and distribu-  
tion of wheat and rice and thereby  
eliminating the role of the middle-  
men. This decision has already been  
conveyed to the Lok Sabha in re-  
sponse to several questions answered  
in the House during the current ses-  
sion.

A conference of Food Ministers  
of States was held on 15th and 16th  
of December, 1972, to finalise the  
steps necessary to implement the  
decision already taken by the Gov-  
ernment to take over wholesale trade  
in wheat and rice. In the conference  
the State governments were agreeable  
in principle to the decision taken by