

Table a copy of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1970-71—Union Government (Commercial—Part XI—Working of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited) under article 151 (1) of the Constitution. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6416/74].

NOTIFICATION UNDER PASSPORTS ACT, 1967

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 521 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th December, 1973 making certain amendments to Notification No. G.S.R. 398(E) dated the 30th August, 1972, issued under section 21 of the Passports Act, 1967. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6417/74]

CIVILIANS IN DEFENCE SERVICES (REVISED PAY) RULES, 1973

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK) : I beg to lay on the Table—

(i) A copy of the Civilians in Defence Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 1973, published in Notification No. S.R.O. 26(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1973, issued under article 309 of the Constitution.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for not laying simultaneously the Hindi version of the above Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6418/74]

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

THIRTEENTH REPORT

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA (Tamluk) : I beg to present the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE NINETY-SEVENTH REPORT

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : I beg to present the Ninety-seventh Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Seventy-eighth Report relating to the Departments of Steel and Science and Technology (C.S.I.R.).

12.20 HRS.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

REPORTED ORDERS OF CHIEF JUSTICE OF MADHYA PRADESH TO STOP ADVERTISEMENTS TO A NEWSPAPER

MR. SPEAKER : As regards what Prof. Madhu Dandavate wants to raise under rule 377, I would like to say that I have seriously considered this, namely whether a Chief Justice addressing a Rotary Club is coming within his rights or not. But the hon. Member need not refer to that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : After I make my submission, you will be able to make up your mind.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not been able to ascertain how it comes within the ambit of the jurisdiction or cognisance of the hon. Minister.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He has said that advertisement should be stopped to a particular paper.

MR. SPEAKER : I understand that is already before the Press Council.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : But it is coming from a Chief Justice.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : I suppose that since Parliament has been proclaiming itself supreme, it can discuss anything.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, under rule 377, I am raising an issue that raises the crucial question of Chief

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

Justice's conduct as well as freedom of the Press.

Nai Dunia, a daily from Indore had criticised the conduct of Mr. P. K. Tare, the Madhya Pradesh Chief Justice who had used the platform of the local Rotary Club at Indore to air his views on the inevitability of a third World War and the need for India to become a strong military power. It seems the Chief Justice forgot that he was the Chief Justice and spoke as if he were the Defence Minister of India.

It is not desirable that a person occupying the high office of Chief Justice should go on making political prophecies about war and defence.

Another important and more vital point is that when the Journal *Nai Dunia* criticised the conduct of the Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh, he issued a secret order that the Madhya Pradesh judiciary should not issue further advertisements to the *Nai Dunia* till further orders.

This constitutes a serious attack on the freedom of the Press and I urge that the Government as well as the Press Council should take a serious note of this anti-democratic act of the Chief Justice.

I demand a categorical assurance from the Minister that freedom of the press will not be tampered with.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Let us have a statement on this from the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : I have to think over it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : If it is correct that such a circular has been issued, then I would request that a statement should be made by the Home Minister. I do not mind the Chief Justice addressing a Rotary Club or any other club. But we find that a circular has been issued that no advertisements should be given to that paper.

If that is true, it affects the freedom of the press.

MR. SPEAKER : I had allowed Prof. Dandavate, but still I am very much in an uncertain position as to how far it can go.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Burdwan) : It is not a judicial act. We may not discuss the judicial conduct, but we are only discussing the conduct of the Chief Justice in issuing a circular that no advertisement should be issued.

MR. SPEAKER : There is nothing wrong if the Chief Justice addresses a Rotary Club meeting. But the contents of the speech are being objected to.

SHRI PILOO MODY : What is wrong with the contents of the speech ?

MR. SPEAKER : When it appeared in the press, the really relevant portion of it is that the advertisements are being stopped. That is the only objection.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : That is not a judicial act.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no question of the judiciary here. It is a question of the propriety of this. I shall ask the hon. Minister to go into it and make a statement after due inquiry.

I understand that the Press Council is already seized of it, and the statement of the hon. Minister should not clash with the findings of the Press Council. What should I advise the hon. Minister in the circumstances ?

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad) : Let him give us the truth. Truth will not clash with the findings of the Press Council.

MR. SPEAKER : Suppose the Press Council comes out with some finding and the hon. Minister says something different, what would happen ? So, what do hon. Members advise me to do ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The hon. Minister should make a factual statement. That will establish the facts.

SHRI PILOO MODY : As a matter of fact, truth and facts have become a little too difficult to find nowadays.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR : If it is truth, why should there be any clash?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The newspaper cutting is there with Prof. Dandavate. What we are interested in is this. He may issue any statement...

MR. SPEAKER : We, politicians, are quite thick-skinned. We do not mind such things—we ignore unpleasant comments.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : We do not mind.

MR. SPEAKER : We are sometimes so badly criticised. I think if some paper commented on his speech, that is not so much the issue. The real issue is the stopping of advertisements.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Let him prophesy anything. Let him make more speeches. But why should the newspaper suffer? Don't you think the editor should have freedom of expression?

MR. SPEAKER : You are so much obsessed with the Chief Justice.

12.27 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 1974-75— GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd.

MR. SPEAKER : We will now resume general discussion on the Budget (General) for 1974-75.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT (Shahabad) : Mr. Speaker, the Budget this year has been presented in the context of mounting economic difficulties the country is facing. The Finance Minister in his speech has said that the coming year 1974-75 is a year of great economic

challenge. The Economic Survey presented to Parliament also very categorically and concretely underlines the economic difficulties this country is going to face in the coming year. The Budget presented naturally has to be examined in the context of the present economic scene which is complex and difficult. The Finance Minister has claimed that the Budget is going to neutralise the mounting inflation in the economy and will result in higher growth. The budget is a limited document to meet all aspects of the economic challenges and, therefore, while examining it and the basic proposals and economic policies underlying it, we have also to see what other measures in other fields are going along with this. Therefore, it is the package of the economic policies, priorities and programmes unfolded in the Budget that will give a better appreciation of the problems ahead and the policies that are going to meet it.

If you see the position, it has become a very difficult one, although we can say that technically speaking, the proposals of the budget are sound, because some of the effort is bound to neutralise the inflationary impact being generated in the economy. Some of the budget proposals are very sound in conception. I am glad to say the Finance Minister has taken a bold step in reversing the direction of the direct taxes. He has accepted the Wanchoo Committee's recommendations and has brought about a reduction in the taxes in the non-corporate sector, thereby throwing a challenge to the people. He hopes that there will be less of tax evasion, and that honesty and integrity in the economic system will assert itself. We have to see, how far his expectations will be realised. I hope the general public will respond to this, because if they do not, nothing prevents the Finance Minister from reverting back to the method of higher taxes.

Similarly, he has increased the wealth tax as well as the surcharge on the corporate sector, on their excess profits. Of course, people in the business circle may criticise it. But, if you see the relief given, you find that as against