

delay in laying the Report mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7076/74.]

(2) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 254(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 1974, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7077/74.]

MERCHANT SHIPPING RULES, 1974, SEAMEN'S PROVIDENT FUND (AMDT.) SCHEME, 1974 AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS OF THE MORMUGAO PORT TRUST FOR 1972-73 UNDER MAJOR PORT TRUSTS Act, 1963

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of pollution of the Sea by Oil) Rules, 1974 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 516 in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 1974, under sub-section (3) of section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7078/74.]
- (2) A copy of the Seamen's Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 1974 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 424 in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 1974, under section 24 of the Seamen's Provident Fund Act, 1966. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7079/74.]
- (3) A copy of the Annual Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust for the year 1972-73 and the Audit Report

thereon (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7080/74.]

12.46 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC IN THE COUNTRY

DR. SARADISH ROY (Bolpur): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Planning to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported smallpox epidemic in the country particularly in Bihar taking a death toll of over thirty-six thousand human lives."

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH): In the first quarter of 1973 there was a noticeable increase in the incidence of smallpox, particularly in the States of U.P., Bihar, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. An intensive smallpox eradication campaign was launched in July 1973 in consultation with W.H.O. The main emphasis was on these four endemic States which had been responsible for 94 per cent of the total cases, and the objective of the campaign was to undertake active search of smallpox cases followed by containment of the outbreaks. During 1973, 88,069 cases with 15,417 deaths were recorded. From 1st January to 14th July 1974, 1,46,034 smallpox cases with 23,095 deaths have been recorded from the various States and Union Territories. 96 per cent of these have been from Bihar, U.P., West Bengal and Assam; Bihar alone accounting for 65 per cent of the cases. The high incidence