

versions). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4475/73].

LAW COMMISSION'S REPORTS ON ESTATE DUTY ON PROPERTY ACQUIRED AFTER DEATH AND ON THE RIGHT TO SUE FOR PENSIONS OF RETIRED MEMBERS OF PUBLIC SERVICES

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY) I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Fifty-second Report of the Law Commission on Estate Duty on property acquired after death.
- (2) A copy of the Fifty-third Report of the Law Commission on the effect of the Pensions Act, 1971, on the right to sue for pensions of retired members of the public services.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4476/73].

ANNUAL ETC. REPORT OF D. V. C. FOR 1970-71 AND REVIEW AND ANNUAL REPORT OF RURAL ELECTRIFICATION CORPORATION LTD., NEW DELHI

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley Corporation along with Audit Report on the accounts thereof for the year 1970-71, under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4477/73].
- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Review by the Government on the working of the

Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1971-72.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1971-72 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4478/73].

APPOINTMENT TO PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that under rule 9(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I have nominated Shri S. A. Kader on the Panel of Chairman *vice* Shri R. D. Bhandare ceased to be Member of Lok Sabha.

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
SEVENTY-FIRST REPORT**

SHRI SEZHIAN (Kumbakonam): I beg to present the Seventy-first Report of the Public Accounts Committee regarding action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Forty-third Report relating to Customs.

STATEMENT RE. SUBMISSION OF INTERIM REPORTS BY THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding submission of Interim Reports by the National Commission on Agriculture.

Statement

As Members are aware, the National Commission on Agriculture, set up by the Government of India, has

been asked to make Interim recommendations on such items of the Terms of Reference given to them as it may deem fit. The Commission has submitted ten Interim Reports on the following subjects so far:—

1. Multiplication and Distribution of Quality Seeds pertaining to High-Yielding Varieties of Hybrids of Cereals.
2. Fertiliser Distribution.
3. Some Aspects of Agricultural Research, Extension and Training.
4. Credit Services for Small and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers.
5. Milk Production through Small and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers.
6. Establishment of Agro-meteorological Divisions in Agricultural Universities.
7. Production Forestry-Man-made Forests.
8. House sites for Landless Agricultural Labourers.
9. Soil Survey and Soil Map of India.
10. Potato Seeds.

Copies of these Reports have already been placed in the Library of Parliament.

The Commission has presented today to the Government of India the following four Interim Reports:

1. Organisational Aspects of All-India Coordinated Research Projects.
2. Modernising Irrigation Systems and Integrated Development of Command Areas.
3. Whole-Village Development Programme.
4. Organisation and Functions of the Commodity Development Councils and Directorates.

These Reports have been placed in the Library of Parliament. A Summary of the important recommendations made in these Interim Reports is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

I have directed my Department to examine the recommendations quickly before Government takes further action in the matter.

Summary of the important Recommendations made in the four Interim Reports submitted by the National Commission on Agriculture on 13-3-73.

The National Commission on Agriculture has submitted to the Government of India four Interim Reports today, dealing with:

- (1) Organisational Aspects of All-India Co-ordinated Research Projects;
- (2) Modernising Irrigation Systems and Integrated Development of Command Areas;
- (3) Whole-Village Development Programme; and
- (4) Organisation and Functions of the Commodity Development Councils and Directorates.

Interim Report on Organisational Aspects of All-India Coordinated Research Projects.

In its Interim Report on All-India Coordinated Research Projects, the Commission has examined in considerable detail the organisational aspects of these Projects financed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and, on the basis of this examination, has recommended re-allocation of emphasis and redistribution of responsibilities in the overall administration of agricultural research among the ICAR, Agricultural Universities, Central and State-Research Institutes and State Departments. The Commission feels that

only research problems, either of fundamental or applied nature, in the sphere of agriculture (including horticulture, animal husbandry, fishery, forestry, etc.) which are important from the national point of view should be sponsored by the ICAR. Further, the formulation of Coordinated Research Programmes and of methods of implementing them require a careful assessment of all categories of research that is being done by the scientists in the Agricultural Universities and Central Research Institutes and of the projects and schemes being implemented there. It recommends that the ICAR should set up small Teams which would study, in depth the scope and the need for further research work and the nature and extent of funding needed by the Agricultural Universities and the Central Research Institutes in regard to these items. The funds to be given to the Universities should be made available by way of block grants.

The Commission has clearly laid down the following four criteria which the Coordinated Research Projects should broadly satisfy. These are: (i) The projects should envisage problem-oriented applied research of known knowledge and of different broad agro-climatic conditions, (ii) the problems to be studied should be of national importance and they may be applied to a single discipline or may be multi-disciplinary. (iii) the problems should be such as to warrant the concentration of efforts of a number of scientists on a single problem; and (iv) the projects should aim at developing recommendations in the shortest time for increasing production. The Commission has recommended that the ICAR should review the existing All-India Coordinated Research Projects in the light of these criteria and restrict the projects to those which satisfy them. New All-India Coordinated Research Projects should be sanctioned only when all the above criteria are satisfied.

Research problems requiring multi-disciplinary approach and which are

not covered under the criteria laid down for Coordinated Research Projects and where it is necessary to carry on the relevant research at more than one Centre, should be handled in a coordinated programme and arrangements for funds and co-ordination should be developed. In regard to research programmes outside the Coordinated Projects, the Commission feels that it should be possible for the scientists working in the field to come together and draw up a coordinated research programme, suitably distributing among themselves, the different aspects of the programme. The ICAR should also help to locate scientists working on related topics and bring them together for coordinating their research activities.

All research work of local importance should be carried out by the Agricultural Universities and the State Departments through their own organisations. There will ordinarily be no need for making any institutional arrangements by the ICAR for coordination of such work.

In addition to Coordinated Programmes and Projects, the ICAR should streamline its procedure for financing on *ad hoc* basis, individual schemes submitted by the scientists, which are considered important. The Commission strongly feels that a very large part of research work in agriculture should be conducted outside the purview of the Coordinated Projects under the coordinated and individual programmes.

The Commission has also made detailed recommendations about the future working of the All-India Coordinated Research Projects including procedure for sanctioning of schemes, holding of Workshops, recruitment of staff, etc. For instance, it has laid down the criteria for location of Headquarters of the Coordinated Projects, as also location of various Centres and Sub-Centres under these

Projects. The Commission has felt that the interests of the staff recruited for the Project in the matter of lien, deputation, etc. should be safeguarded to the maximum extent possible. Technical staff in the Project should be on the cadre of the University/Institute concerned.

Emphasis has been laid on continuous evaluation and rigorous assessment of each Project on a quarterly basis. There should be not only a regular financial audit but also performance audit. Unless the Project Coordinate certifies that the work is satisfactory, release of funds should not be made to a particular project. The Commission has also recommended that there should be simplified and speedier procedures for the sanctioning of Coordinated Projects, specially those at the State Department/Agricultural University level. Also, some flexibility should be provided in the allocation of funds.

The Commission has felt that there is need for testing the new technology on a large scale, the primary purpose of such testing being to identify the operational problems of the transfer of technology under a given socio-economic milieu. It has suggested that this type of operational research should be taken up by the Agricultural Universities/Central Research Institutes in close co-ordination and collaboration with the development agencies.

Interim Report on Modernising Irrigation Systems and Integrated Development of Command Areas

In its Interim Report on Modernising Irrigation System and Integrated Development of Command Areas, the Commission has observed that many of the older irrigation systems in the country do not meet the requirements of modern agriculture and call for modernisation. The Commission has observed that existing irrigation projects which are not performing satisfactorily and which are susceptible of improvement are no better than incom-

plete projects and deserve serious attention. The Commission has, therefore, laid emphasis on a comprehensive review of Pre-Plan and Earlier Plan Projects. The review should not only include improvement to the engineering structures for safety and better regulation, but also several other aspects such as augmentation of supplies where deficient, efficiency in conveyance of water to the field, scientific application of water to crops and adoption of cropping patterns which would confer the maximum economic benefit. The Commission has suggested that the review should be made by a team of specialist in irrigation engineering, agronomy and soils. The Irrigation Department should be responsible for the review and should be assisted by the Agriculture Department in this task. The Commission has stressed that although it may not be practicable to carry out all the improvements on a project simultaneously on account of financial and other constraints, there should be a clear picture of the total improvement needed and the work on individual aspects should be so taken up as fit into the overall plan of improvement. Guidelines for the reviews have been suggested by the Commission.

Discussing the main aspects of improvements needed in the existing irrigation systems, the Commission has laid stress on lining of canals and water courses. The Commission has estimated that the total programme of lining would need an investment of the order of Rs. 100 to Rs. 700 crores and would provide employment to the extent of more than a million man-years. The lining of water courses should be done at the project cost. The maintenance of lined water courses should be the responsibility of the State Government, while in the case of unlined water courses it should continue to be that of cultivators.

The Commission has laid emphasis on the provision of adequate drainage in the irrigation commands and has recommended that the construction of drains upto 40 hectare block should

be the responsibility of project authorities on the analogy of water courses. Like the field channels, field drain within the block should be constructed by the farmers themselves, the extension staff providing the necessary technical guidance in the matter.

Another important recommendation pertains to the need for integrated development of command areas of irrigation projects. The Commission has emphasised that the Central sector programme of financing marketing, storage and communication facilities in the command areas should be stepped up in the Fifth Plan.

Dealing with the pattern of financing of ayacut development programme, in which credit has been the main bottleneck so far, the Commission has made two alternative suggestions. The State can form a Land Improvement Corporation to take up the entire work of land shaping, construction of channels and drains as also ground water units and recover the investment with interest from the produce per hectare on an agreed formula. Alternatively, it can adopt the concept of Farmers' Service Society which was recommended in the Commission's interim report on "Credit Service for Small and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labour". A comprehensive arrangement for long, medium and short term credit, according to the Commission, is crucial for the success of the integrated command area programme.

Interim Report on Whole-Village Development Programme

In its Interim Report on Whole-Village Development Programme, the Commission has recommended a programme of village development based on community approach and action. The essential elements of this programme consist of consolidation of holdings, overall land development plan for maximising water control and moisture preservation in dry areas, maximising irrigation support and cropping programme for the village for best use of irrigation and for ensuring best control of irrigation and drainage.

Measures for social justice form important components of the programme. These include distribution of land to the landless, minimum wage rates for agricultural labour, States' contribution towards risk in irrigation development, technical expertise, consolidation of holdings and protection to sharecroppers, subsidies and various financial requirements. The subsidies which are allowed for such programmes are not to be given to the individual beneficiaries of the programme but made available to the implementing authorities to cover risks in the programme, build up a fund for margin money to enable them to avail of institutional loans and for the development of the section which earns the subsidy for the community.

The Commission has drawn attention to the crippling influence of indebtedness on the small and marginal farmers and commended mitigation of this burden through State support so that the benefits of development do not pass into the hands of moneylenders. The implementing authorities at the village level are to settle and buy off the loans from the moneylenders and recover the amount from the cultivators in suitable instalments. For this purpose, the State is to provide to the implementing authorities sufficient funds at nominal interest or no interest. The creation of a nucleus fund at the village level to advance consumption loans has also been proposed.

The Commission has suggested the establishment of Project (Implementation) Committees at the village level with representation from the village society for securing the necessary agreements from the villagers and handling the programme. A Project (Implementation) Union, to which the Committees at the village level will be affiliated, has also been suggested in the interest of uniformity of policy and action. The Central organisation will organise and supervise the programme of development, services, supply and marketing for mutual benefit and will receive and use in the pro-

gramme funds received from the Government. The Committees as well as the Union will be registered societies and have separate legal entities.

The Commission has further recommended that wherever voluntary organisations are available and capable, they should be entrusted with the implementation of the programme. Among other measures proposed are Co-ordination Committees at State or district level to co-ordinate the activities of various departments and agencies and a Central Committee under the Planning Commission for periodical reviews at the national level during the pilot stage of the programme.

Initially four Pilot Projects have been proposed to be taken up in the States of Bihar, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh in the last year of the Fourth Plan. These Projects will require about Rs. 2 crores for the programmes, of which a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs has been recommended to be provided for in the Central sector in the last year of the Fourth Plan and the balance during the Fifth Five Year Plan. An expansion of the programme on pilot basis has also been proposed in the Fifth Plan for which a lumpsum provision of Rs. 10 crores has been suggested.

Interim Report on Organisation and Functions of the Commodity Development Councils and Directorates

In its Interim Report on Organisation and Functions of the Commodity Development Councils and Directorates, the Commission has analysed the functioning of the Councils and the Directorates in order to make them more effective. The Commission has advised against unnecessary proliferation of Councils and recommended that at the all-India level, the concept of Commodity Development Councils should be confined to crops which have a substantial industrial and/or export angle. While separate Councils for cotton, oilseeds, tobacco, lac, jute, sugarcane and horticulture should continue, the existing Councils for

cashewnut, coconut, arecanut and spices are to be combined into one Council for plantation crops having common problems of production and marketing. The Councils for rice and pulses have been proposed to be abolished. The Commission has also advised against setting up any Development Council for wheat or millets.

The Report has delineated the functions of the Councils and suggested for them a dynamic role in examining the problems of marketing, processing, storage and transport of the commodities and their trade and pricing and advising the Government thereon. Each Council should have a small committee called the Trade, Pricing and Export Committee for examining these problems in depth. The Report has also suggested that all the Development Councils should set up technical committees to review the various technical problems of production. A close link between the universities, research organisations and the technical committees has also been envisaged.

In the interest of better coordination in development and marketing, the Commission has also recommended the setting up of State Development Councils to deal with crops which are dealt with in the Central Development Councils. The functions of the State Councils will be the same as those of the Central Councils. In addition, they will have specific functions to consider the recommendations of the Central Councils and adapt them to local conditions wherever necessary and watch their implementation. Each State should also have one or more Commodity Councils for the major crops in the region in addition to those dealt with by the Central Commodity Councils. These Councils will have representation covering all the interests who active cooperation is necessary particularly of the progressive farmers.

The Commission does not envisage any Directorate for Commodity Development for those commodities for which there will be no Central coun-

cil. The Directorates which will continue will have to take full responsibility for the analysis of marketing, trade and price data of the commodity. They are also to continue to plan and coordinate the development programmes of the respective crops and act as the secretariat of the concerned Development Council; but they are not expected to involve themselves in the implementation of the programme in the field, which is a State responsibility. Like the concerned Councils, the Directorates of cashewnut, coconut, arecanut and spices are to be clubbed together.

The crops, in which there will not be any Central Development Council and the Directorate, will be handled departmentally in the Crops Division in the Central Ministry of Agriculture. In order to review these crops as well as the residuary problems which are not covered by the Development Councils and the Directorates, an annual conference of the State and Central Ministers has been proposed. The Commission has also recommended the creation of strong units in the Ministry of Agriculture and in the State Directorates of Agriculture for important crops which require special attention. In particular, it has suggested the setting up of such units in the Crops Division in the Ministry of Agriculture for pulses and rice.

13.05 hrs.

COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL
RECOMMENDATION TO RAJYA SABHA TO
APPOINT A MEMBER TO JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA (Dausa): I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do appoint a member of Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, and the Monopolies and Restrictive

Trade Practices Act, 1969, in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Shri K. V. Raghunatha Reddy from the membership of the said Joint Committee and do communicate to this House the name of the member so appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, I want to know when is the** Joint Committee for amending the Companies Act coming out with their Report, because we know that there is a concerned effort being made by vested interests.... (Interruptions).

यह सही बात है, हम लोगों के काम में धाई है—कम्पनी बिल को सेवोटज करने की कोशिश हो रही है। हम जानना चाहते हैं कि यह कब तक हाउस में आयेगा ?

SHRI MUHAMMED KHUDA BUKHSH (Murshidabad): Is it in order for an hon. Member to refer to a Joint Committee of this honourable House as ** ? The word "***" is derogatory.... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to listen to you.

श्री ज्योतिर्मय बसु : इस को लाने में इतनी देरी क्यों हो रही है—इस का जवाब मंत्री जी दे तो ठीक होगा। हम हाउस में बता नहीं सकते हैं ये लोग कम्पनियों से चन्दा इकट्ठा कर रहे हैं, पांच लाख खपत इकट्ठा कर रहे हैं।

MR. SPEAKER: I will send your query to the Minister. The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do appoint a member of Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, and the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969, in

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.