

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

12.04 hrs.

further amendment to the Customs and Central Excise Duties Refund (Brand Rates) Rules, 1958

(ii) G.S.R No 724 dated the 27th June, 1959 making certain further amendment to the Customs and Central Excise Duties Refund (Brand Rates) Rules, 1958

(iii) G.S.R No 757 dated the 4th July, 1959 making certain further amendment to the Customs and Central Excise Duties Refund (Brand Rates) Rules, 1958

(iv) G.S.R No 796 dated the 11th July, 1959 making certain further amendment to the Customs and Central Excise Duties Refund (Fixed Rates) Rules, 1958

(v) G.S.R No 797 dated the 11th July, 1959 making certain further amendment to the Customs and Central Excise Duties Refund (Brand Rates) Rules, 1958

(vi) G.S.R No 823 dated the 18th July, 1959 making certain further amendment to the Customs and Central Excise Duties Refund (Fixed Rates) Rules, 1958

(vii) G.S.R No 824 dated the 18th July, 1959 making certain further amendment to the Customs and Central Excise Duties Refund (Brand Rates) Rules, 1958. (Placed in Library, See No LT-1507/59)

AMENDMENTS TO EXPENDITURE-TAX RULES

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (8) of Section 41 of the Expenditure-tax Act, 1957, a copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 759 dated the 4th July, 1969, making certain further amendments to the Expenditure-tax Rules, 1958. (Placed in Library, See No. LT-1508/59)

ARMS BILL

REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

Shri Barman (Cooch-Bihar-Reserve-Sch. Castes): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to arms and ammunition

EVIDENCE TENDERED BEFORE JOINT COMMITTEE

Shri Barman: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the evidence tendered before the Joint Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to arms and ammunition

12.04½ hrs

STATEMENT re DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): Sir, during the last Session, I had referred—on the 30th March and on the 7th May—to certain defects in piled foundations which had been noticed in Durgapur. Under the agreement with ISCON, they are fully responsible for executing the work in Durgapur completely and satisfactorily. I had also referred to the statement of ISCON, in which they fully reaffirmed this responsibility, and stated that they would take all the corrective measures necessary without involving any delay or any additional cost to Government. Since then the necessary investigations have been going on. Simultaneously, corrective measures of various kinds, including re-piling, have been carried out. A few days ago, ISCON gave me the following statement

"Following the discovery in February 1959, of defects in some bored piles in an area of the Steel Melting Shop, ISCON made a public announcement that the work would be made good without cost to the Government of

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Durgapur Steel
Plant
Situation in
Pondicherry

India and without delay to the Project.

A very large scale investigation, carried out to satisfy all parties concerned, has been made all over the site. It has included inspection of piles and ground conditions and, also, numerous load tests. The investigation has been made without cost to the Government of India and without delay to the Project.

ISCON now states, with complete confidence, that all the foundations of the Project containing bored piles will be adequate for the purpose and will comply with every requirement of the contract.

As an expression of their confidence, ISCON undertakes to rectify, at their own expense, any damage to the Works caused by settlement of foundations containing bored piles for a period of ten years."

Apart from the investigations carried out by ISCON themselves, investigations have been carried out by the Consulting Engineers as well as by a team of Indian Engineers experienced in piling foundation work. This team consists of Shri K. N. Subbaraman, former Chief Engineer, Bhilai Steel Project, Shri S. D. Kungar and Dr. K. L. Rao of the Central Water and Power Commission, Shri T. M. Malkani of the Calcutta Port Commissioners and Shri O. S. Murthy, Director, Railway Board. The team has studied the methods of investigation, observed the investigation, scrutinised the results, studied the remedial measures already taken and proposed to be taken and has also suggested certain additional investigations. The final report of the team is expected as soon as the additional investigations are completed.

From the statement they have made to me, ISCON are satisfied that with the necessary remedial measures, the foundations will be adequate and will comply with all requirements. Their guarantee for a period of ten years is the result of their confidence that this will be so. I have no doubt that any further remedial measure that may be found to be necessary will be taken in terms of this guarantee.

I have also reviewed the progress of work in Durgapur. The first battery of the coke ovens is expected to be heated up before the end of this month. In spite of the additional strain caused by the execution of remedial measures, ISCON is very hopeful that the blast furnace will be ready for operation by November, as per schedule.

12.00 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: SITUATION IN PONDICHERRY

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Mr Speaker, Sir, the other day some hon. Members of the Opposition made allegations that in Pondicherry elections are being interfered with and candidates are arrested and are not given bail and that all sorts of disturbances of law and order have occurred which would make fair elections difficult, if not impossible. At that time the hon Prime Minister promised to make an enquiry from our Chief Commissioner in Pondicherry and report to the House the state of affairs there.

Firstly, on his behalf, I would deny that any candidate was arrested or kept in prison so that elections may not be fair. The fact of the matter is that one of the Communist members, Shri Ramalingam, was arrested three months ago for causing grievous hurt and was convicted in the lower court. He appealed to the High Court and his appeal was rejected. Therefore, he is in jail custody. At the request