

AMENDMENTS TO TEA RULES

Shri Kanungo: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table under sub-section (3) of section 49 of the Tea Act, 1953, a copy of the Notification No. S.R.O. 2791, dated the 24th November, 1956, making certain amendments to the Tea Rules, 1954. [Placed in Library. See No. S—534/56]

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE COIR BOARD, ERNAKULAM

Shri Kanungo: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of section 17 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953, a copy of the statement of receipts and expenditure of the Coir Board, Ernakulam, for the year 1954-55, together with a copy of letter No. OA6/12-337/55-56/240 dated the 3rd September, 1956 from the Comptroller, Travancore-Cochin. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 23]

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—RAILWAYS

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Sir, I beg to present a statement showing Demands for Supplementary Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1956-57.

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILL

Secretary: Sir, I have to inform the House that the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1956, which was passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current Session was assented to by the President on the 2nd December, 1956.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FORTY-FIFTH REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): Sir, I beg to present the Forty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (MISCELLANEOUS* PROVISIONS) BILL

The Minister of Legal Affairs and Civil Aviation (Shri Pataskar): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the removal of disqualifications for membership of, and voting at elections to, Parliament and State Legislatures, and for certain miscellaneous matters in connection with such elections.

Mr. Speaker: The question is....

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): May I make a request, Sir, in regard to this Bill? This measure, I find from the copy which we have got here, provides for certain important matters in which the entire nation is interested.

Mr. Speaker: What is it that he wants?

Shri Kamath: I want that the Bill may be taken up out of turn and disposed of, say, by tomorrow so that it may go to Rajya Sabha and be finally passed by Parliament with the result that those colleagues of ours, and other comrades who are in Portuguese custody may be enabled to make the necessary arrangements to stand for the general elections. After the Indian Medical Council Bill is passed, and before the Finance Bills are taken up, I suggest that this Bill may be taken up tomorrow, and I am sure my hon. colleagues will agree to that in the interest of our colleague T. K. Chaudhuri and others who are in Portuguese imperialist custody today.

*Publishers in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II—Section 2, dated 10th December, 1956, pp. 1083-86.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the removal of disqualifications for membership of, and voting at elections to, Parliament and State Legislatures, and for certain miscellaneous matters in connection with such elections."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Pataskar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: This matter was taken up in the Business Advisory Committee and the Report has been placed here. It is intended that this will be passed in this Session by both the Houses.

Shri Kamath: The sooner the better.

INDIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL BILL

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to provide for the reconstitution of the Medical Council of India, and the maintenance of a Medical Register for India and for matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the question of amending the Indian Medical Council Act, 1933, has been under the consideration of Government for some time as the Act had become greatly outmoded and a number of amendments were necessary. Now, I would like just briefly to tell the House the main reasons for which the Act has to be amended.

First of all, it was absolutely necessary to give representation to licentiate members of the medical profession, a large number of whom are still practising in our country. Secondly, it was necessary to provide for the registration of the names of citizens of India, who had obtained or

have obtained foreign medical qualifications which are not at present recognised under the existing Act. Thirdly, to provide for the temporary recognition of medical qualifications granted by medical institutions in countries outside India with whom no scheme of reciprocity exists, in cases where the medical practitioners concerned are attached in India for the time being to any of our medical institutions for the purpose of training or research, or any charitable bodies. Fourthly, it was also necessary to provide for the formation of a committee for post-graduate medical education so that they could assist the Medical Council of India where the prescribing of standards of post-graduate medical education for the guidance of universities was concerned, and to advise universities also in the matter of securing uniform standards for post-graduate medical education throughout India. Then, we also had to provide for the maintenance of an All India Register to be kept by the Medical Council of India, which would contain the names of all medical practitioners possessing recognised medical qualifications.

As I have already said, the idea of amending this Act has been before us for some time. Naturally, I had to consult, in the first instance, all the States. I had to wait for some time before I could get their recommendations. After that I had to consult the All India Medical Council itself. Then, I did also consult the Indian Medical Association as well as leading medical men in the country.

There had been considerable agitation from the licentiate members of the medical profession that their qualifications ought to be recognised under the Indian Medical Council Act. At present their qualifications are recognised only under the various State Medical Acts, and I had felt that this request of theirs was reasonable. Therefore, we are going to recognise licentiate qualifications under the amending Bill that is now before the House.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.