

12.34 HRS.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

WEST BENGAL TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) SECOND ORDINANCE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the West Bengal Taxation Laws (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 1968 (West Bengal Ordinance No. V of 1968) promulgated by the Governor of West Bengal on the 7th January, 1968, under article 213 (2)(a) of the Constitution read with clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 20th February, 1968, issued by the President in relation to the State of West Bengal. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-408/68].

MINERAL CONCESSION (AMENDMENT) RULES, 1968.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 1968, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 370 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd March, 1968, under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-409/68].

CERTIFIED ACCOUNTS OF COFFEE BOARD

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Certified Accounts of the Coffee Board for the year 1966-67 and the Auditor Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See LT-410/68].
- (2) A copy of Notification No. S.O. 741 published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 1968, under section 12A of the Essential commodities Act, 1955. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-411/68].

12.35 HRS.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS MINUTES

श्री डा० ना० तिवारी (गोपालगंज) : मैं भारत के राज्य व्यापार निगम लिमिटेड द्वारा गंधक के आयात के लिए मैसर्स ओबल इंडस्ट्रीज, न्यूयार्क, के साथ किए गए करार के बारे में सरकारी उपक्रमों सम्बन्धी समिति के पांचवें प्रतिवेदन से सम्बन्धित पैठकों के कार्यवाही-सारांश सभा-पटल पर रखता हूँ ।

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS TWENTY-THIRD REPORT

SHRI KHADILKAR (Khed) : I beg to present the Twenty-third Report of the Committee on Private Member's Bills and Resolutions.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE THIRTY-SEVENTH AND FORTY-FOURTH REPORTS

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandyal) : I beg to present the following Reports of the Estimates Committee :—

- (1) Thirty-seventh Report on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Department of Agriculture)—Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore.
- (2) Forty-fourth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Ninety-first Report of the Estimates Committee (Third Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Railways—South Eastern Railways.

12.36 HRS.

STATEMENT RE: ATTAINMENT OF INDEPENDENCE BY MAURITIUS

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am sure

the House will join me in greeting the advent of freedom in Mauritius and in warmly welcoming independent Mauritius to the comity of nations.

As the House is aware, a delegation led by my colleague, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Bhagat, is in Mauritius at this moment, rejecting with its free people and sharing their sense of fulfilment at this long-awaited liberation from colonial rule.

Sir, we wish the people of Mauritius all success in the endeavours upon which they will now embark as a free people, to develop their multi-racial society and to further their socio-economic progress.

We look forward to preserving and promoting the goodwill and understanding between our two people and to growing mutual cooperation in the sphere of socio-economic development.

May I request you, Sir, on behalf of this House and the people of India, to convey to the Government and the people of Mauritius our sincere good wishes on this joyous occasion?

12.37 Hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION—*contd.*

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now resume further discussion on the general budget. 6 hours and 40 minutes have been spent and we have still about 13 hours. I would request the Deputy Prime Minister to reply on Thursday, at about 2.30 P.M. because we would be also having private members' business on that day, Friday being a holiday.

Today, a discussion has been put down at 6.30 P.M. Mr. Nath Pai is not well. Therefore, we will continue that discussion sometime next week.

Now Dr. Melkote.

DR. MELKOTE (Hyderabad) : Sir, yesterday, I just started by saying that the budget presented by the Finance Minister has created a confidence among the people which was not evident for the past two or three years. The budget could be looked

at from various angles and in doing so, various sectors of the population have a feeling of either being pleased or being hurt. I for one would say that by and large, the people have welcomed the budget and I wish him all success in the coming year.

The revenue that the Finance Minister would be getting next year would be about Rs. 3,200 crores which is nearly ten times the revenue in 1947, which was just Rs. 347 crores. In the first plan, we planned for an expenditure in both public and private sectors to the tune of Rs. 3,100 crores. We will be spending that amount of money during the course of just one year now. From this, it is evident that the progress that the nation has made in the last twenty years has been phenomenal and the budgetary position has definitely improved.

Due to shortage of time, I would like to concentrate on only two or three points. First is the plan allocation for Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh has not received the same amount of grant that it received every year. Last year, we received a particular quantum. This year it has been reduced. We have been spending a good deal of money on agriculture and supplying food to the whole of India. Even electricity is being supplied to the villages for agricultural purposes. In that context, if we are singled out of all the states and we are not given the same amount of money given to other States, we feel very much hurt. We have presented a memorandum to the Prime Minister and we hope that the Finance Minister will come to our succour.

There are two items in the budget which are not so welcome. One is the extra charge made by the communications department. The communications department has been developing fast in the country. Incidentally, I do not know whether the minister in charge of this department should concord, developing himself in keeping with the development of the department. I would like to bring to his notice that this extra money that he wants there is absolutely unnecessary. I personally feel that this amount can be got by other means and it is not at all necessary to hurt the common man in this endeavour.