

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

SHRI R. MARGABANDU (Tamilnadu): I present the Seventy-first Report (in English and Hindi) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table regarding Food Corporation of India, Hindustan Copper Limited, Andaman & Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation and Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai.

REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY PAY COMMITTEE

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the First Report of the Parliamentary Pay Committee on the scales of pay for officers and staff of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha Secretariats which was presented to the Chairman on the 26th April, 1999. The printing, publication and circulation of the Report has already been ordered by the Chairman.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS—contd.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would introduce two more Ministers of State.

Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain—Minister of State of Food Processing.

Shri Munni Lall—Minister of State of Labour and Employment.

SPECIAL MENTIONS**Immediate sealing of Indo-Bangladesh Border**

DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA (Assam): Mr. Chairman, Sir. I would like to refer to the need for the immediate sealing of the Indo-Bangladesh border which is a long-standing problem not only of the North-East, but also of the whole of India. Due to the non-sealing of this border since a very long time, it is creating a lot of problems for us. It is also resulting in drug trafficking and infiltration of ISI agents and other things. Sir, you are aware of it. I am happy that the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs is present here. It has been reported in the newspapers two or three days back that some Government employees were caught red-handed while supplying important documents to the extremists of the North-East Region, including of Assam. It is very dangerous to the sovereignty and integrity of India, especially North-East and Assam. I would request the Government of India through this august House more especially the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs & the State Minister Home, who is sitting here, to take necessary action in sealing the of Indio-Bangladesh border so that illegal

migration across the border can be stopped immediately. It is very dangerous to the people of India because the number of illegal migrants is going up day by day. It can be seen from authentic sources—from the Census report of Bangladesh—that the population of Bangladesh is decreasing day by day. For the last 20 years, we the members of the AGP have been demanding again and again for immediate sealing of the Indo-Bangladesh border, but no concrete action has been taken. As a member of my party and as a citizen of India, I would urge upon this Government to seal the Indo-Bangladesh border immediately. Thank you.

Deployment of additional forces for Counter-Insurgency Operations in Tripura

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my Special mention pertains to deployment of additional forces for effective counter insurgency operation in Tripura. The anti-national insurgent groups which are being aided and equipped with sophisticated arms both by the imperialist forces and the ISI of Pakistan have stepped up their activities. These groups are mostly operating from Bangladesh. After committing the offence, they easily cross over to their hide-outs through the porous international border. The State Government has been, time and again, requesting the Central Government for deployment of additional forces. The State level co-ordination committee in relation to security matters has made an in-depth assessment of the situation and has asked for deployment of additional forces.

But it is shocking that instead of deploying additional forces, the Central Government has withdrawn forces unilaterally. Since last year, three battalions of army were withdrawn from the State and the lone battalion of army was withdrawn three months back. To meet the present assessed deficit of armed forces in the State, the Chief Minister of Tripura and the Members of Parliament have time and again met and requested the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the Defence Minister. In the meantime, due to repeated incidents of attacks leading to killings, including jawans of the Assam Rifles, the BSF and the CRPF and abduction of innocent people and extortion of money, ethnic tension has become acute. The State Government, with its available forces, is determinedly working towards maintaining the ethnic harmony at all costs. It must be said here at this point of time that way back in 1960s, the blueprint of the Brahmaputra Operation was prepared, through which the imperialist agencies sought to eliminate the tribal people of the north-eastern States in a bid to disrupt and destroy India's national integration. The outlawed extremist groups of the State are raising the slogan of 'Independent Tripura'. Hence, the terrorist activities in the State are not a mere law and order problem of the State, but a very serious threat to the integrity of our nation. So, the active support of the Central Government is