

## RAJYA SABHA

*Saturday, The 2nd September, 1972/ The Uth Bhadra, 1894 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,  
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

#### REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA FOR THE YEAR 1970- 71—UNION GOVERNMENT (CIVIL) REVENUE RECEIPTS

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in Hindi) of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1970-71—[Placed in library—See No. LT 3599/72] Union Government (Civil) Revenue Receipts.

#### ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1970-71 OF THE HINDUSTAN ANTI BIOTICS LIMITED, PIMPRI AND RELATED PAPERS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(1) Seventeenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pimpri, for the year 1970-71, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Company.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3581/ 72 for (i) and (ii).]

#### ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1970- 71) OF THE HINDUSTAN INSECTICIDES LIMITED, NEW DELHI AND RELATED PAPERS

(i) SHRI DALBIR SINGH: Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Seventeenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1970-71, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Company.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3580/72 for (i) and (ii).]

#### STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN PART II OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BROADCASTING AND INFORMATION MEDIA ON COORDINATION OF MEDIA OF MASS COMMUNICATION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) showing action taken on the recommendations contained in part II of the Report of the Committee on Broadcasting and Information Media on Coordination of Media of Mass Communication. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3602/72.]

#### REFERENCE TO FOOD PRICES IN GUJARAT

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KUL-KARNI (Gujarat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to draw your attention to a matter of urgent public importance which is affecting the people of Gujarat and the Gujarat Government. I am referring to the prices quoted by the Food Corporation of India. It not only affects Gujarat in my opinion, but in the larger perspective it affects all the 600 million of this country because the Food Corporation of India has been entrusted with the talks of supplying food to all of us and maintaining the price-line. However, they seem to have failed in this business, as I have already on an earlier occasion brought to your kind notice. In the last three or four months, as you are aware, prices have been going up and the Gujarat Government is very much alarmed, as all other Governments too must be. Gujarat is a State which depends mostly on gram. *Chana dal*. The poorest man subsists only on Bajra and *Chana dal*. This is the cheapest way of sustaining oneself. Keeping this in view, the Gujarat Government entered into correspondence with the Food Corporation

of India and told them that they were willing to purchase the extra amount of food, all the surplus Dal that they may have in their stocks. On the 22nd of last month the Food Corporation of India, by their telegram dated 23-8-72, informed the State Government that the prices ex-godown would be as follows- It is rather interesting to hear this price and, therefore, I am quoting it verbatim. The price of gram *chana*, as quoted by the Food Corporation of India, is Rs. 141/41 per quintal. At the same time, the prevailing market rate on that very day, 23-8-72, for *chana* was Rs. 125 only. You can see how substantially it is higher than the prevailing market rate for gram. Then gram *Dal* is Rs. 157.40 quoted by the Food Corporation. Again, the prevailing rate for the same on the same date in the market at Ahmedabad was Rs. 143. Moong Dal price quoted by Food Corporation was Rs. 251, while the prevailing market rate was only Rs. 193. I want to ask why the Food Corporation should quote a higher price than the price prevailing in the market. This would almost amount to profiteering. The story does not end there. It goes further.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you end your story.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: I may just give this figure. At a public auction the Food Corporation sold to the private traders the same gram at Rs. 80 a quintal. Where is the sum of Rs. 141 and the sum of Rs. 80? Why is it so? This was as late as 2nd August. If this is the discrepancy in the prices quoted by the Food Corporation where will the matters end? This is agitating Gujarat and I am sure it must be agitating all other States as well. I want that the Food Minister and if not the Food Minister then the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs should categorically promise that they will look into the matter for one thing and secondly much more important the prices will be reduced. After all if the Food Corporation can afford to sell at Rs. 80

to the private traders, there is no reason why they should not . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you have made your point.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: This is very important. It affects Gujarat and all other States-

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you very much.

### THE GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS (NATIONALISATION) BILL, 1972

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Bill and I would like to make my submission very briefly. First of all, I would like to draw your attention to article 39 of the Constitution, Part IV. It says:

"The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing—

(b) that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good;

(c) that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment;"

This Bill is intended only for materialising this State Policy. It is also mentioned in the Bill that it is intended to ensure that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth to the common detriment. Therefore, I whole-heartedly welcome this Bill because we stand for nationalisation.

The purpose of the Bill is to take over general insurance- I would restrict my comments to only clauses 11 and 22 and the Schedule. We have passed the Constitution (Twenty-fifth) Amendment Bill. The effect of the amendment is that it is not expropriation or confiscation, but payment of a reasonable amount. That is the essence of the amendment. Therefore, I would like to submit