

tion 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3531/64.]

NOTIFICATION UNDER THE CUSTOMS ACT,
1962

SHRI RAMESHWAR SAHU: Madam, I also beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification G.S.R. No. 1641, dated the 21st November, 1964, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962. [Placed in Library. See No. 3531/64.]

THE FOOD CORPORATIONS BILL,
1964—continued

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Anand Chand had finished his speech. Mr. M. C. Shah. I may inform the House that the Food Minister will reply at 2:30.

SHRI M. C. SHAH (Gujarat): Madam Deputy Chairman, I heard the hon. Food Minister when he moved this Bill for the consideration of the House and the views that he expressed were quite unobjectionable. I feel that the Opposition, the Swatantra Party Members also, can have no objection to what he said. But I would request that the views that he expressed here may be implemented in full, in letter as well as in spirit. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Food Minister to a recent speech of our President in Baroda, at a reception given to him by the Baroda Municipality.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) in the Chair]

There he stated, *inter alia*, that politicians and peasants have gone astray. Secondly, he referred to the relations between the Centre and the States. He also referred to our administrative machinery, how far it has gone down, and he also referred to the food situation in the country. I feel, normally the President does not

speak on these subjects, but when he thought it proper to speak in public on these matters, it is up to the Government to fully consider his views and try to implement them as far as possible. From the report of the speech, I felt that he spoke more in sorrow than in anger and he expressed great concern over the state of affairs in our country. He has stated that all this has resulted, on the one hand, in shortage of food and, on the other hand, in fights between surplus and deficit States. I feel that on a matter like food, we should have a national food policy and the Centre should see that the States fall in line with the policy laid down by the Centre. Our unfortunate experience has been that the States work in their own way. They look to the limited interests of their own people and they do not care to fall in line with the general policy laid down by the Centre in the interests of the whole nation. The Centre can very well claim that all the States should co-operate with the Central Government's policy because whenever there is difficulty or a sort of food crisis, they all look up to the Centre for immediate rushing of foodgrains. That we saw in Kerala very recently. We have also seen that several proposals were considered recently in this connection. It was considered desirable that we should have only one zone for the entire country and as a nation we should share the joys and sorrows of the country as a whole. Why should surplus States not co-operate in this policy in the interests of the nation as a whole?

Then, if one zone for the whole country could not be had, it was desirable that a zone should be formed of certain deficit and certain surplus States in a region, so that the people could have necessary foodgrains easily. Unfortunately, this suggestion also was not accepted and presently we see that each State is made into a food zone. Several States have promised to the Central Government that they will deliver their surplus