

AMENDMENTS IN THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS AND ELECTION PETITIONS) RULES, 1956

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Sir, on behalf of Shri R. M. Hajarnavis, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a copy of the Ministry of Law Notification S.O. No. 1836, dated the 20.h July, 1960, publishing further amendments in the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2259/60].

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES IN HIS REPORT FOR 1957-58

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement showing the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations made by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in his Annual Report to the President for the year 1957-58. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2258/60].

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR EXPENDITURE OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ON RAILWAYS IN 1960-61

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement showing the supplementary Demands for Grants for Expenditure of the Central Government on Railways in the year 1960-61.

THE PRESS AND REGISTRATION OF BOOKS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960—continued.

SHRI AKHTAR HUSAIN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to place certain

considerations with respect to the proposed clause 4 by which it is intended to insert an additional Section in the main Act. This confers the right of cancellation of a declaration. The authority which confers a permit or which grants the right to a newspaper to start publications has also the right to cancel it and to revoke the permission that has been granted by it. The right to revoke a permit is, I submit, inherent in the authority that confers it. I do not think it would be denied that the authority which confers this permit could in suitable and proper cases cancel that permit if it finds that the permit is being misused for the propagation of ideas and policies which are detrimental to the national interests or to the larger interests of society. This right, I submit, would not be denied even by the leader of the party the number of whose followers is fast diminishing in this House. I submit that there should be some rule which would enable the authority granting the permit to cancel it in proper circumstances. If the Minister does not consider it advisable to embody a specific provision in the main body of the Act, at least some provision should be made in the rules to be framed by Government as contemplated by the proposed section 8B(i) to provide for the cancellation of a permit in those cases in which the Government is of opinion that the continuance of that newspaper is not in the best interests of the country or that it has been inciting people to indulge in subversive activities. In the very recent past we had the unpleasant experience of newspapers having connection with foreign countries inciting the strikers and making all sorts of accusations against the leaders of our country. All that was being done not in the interests of the country but was an attempt at subversion. Should the Government have the power to cancel the permits of such newspapers or not? I submit that it would be very much better to have the power to cancel the permit of such newspapers by executive authority of the Government rather