

FOOD SCARCITY IN SOUTH INDIA

85. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Investigation Committee was set up to tour parts of South India and to report on the famine and food scarcity conditions prevailing there;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the findings of that Committee; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI C. D. DESHMUKH): (a). No Investigation Committee has been set up, but a team of Central Government officers headed by Shri P. C. Bhattacharyya was sent to Rayalaseena area of Madras to study the situation on the spot.

(b) and (c). The recommendations of the team are under consideration and a statement on the action taken will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

RESULTS OF ELECTION TO COMMITTEES.

INDIAN CENTRAL OILSEEDS COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As the number of candidates for election to the Indian Central Oilseeds Committee is equal to the number of vacancies, I hereby declare that Shri Nawab Singh Chauhan and Shri R. S. Doogar have been duly elected to the said Committee.

INDIAN CENTRAL TOBACCO COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri S. N. Dwivedy being the only candidate for election to the Indian Central Tobacco Committee, I declare him to be duly elected as a member of the said Committee.

COURT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Anup Singh being the only candidate for election to the Court of the University of Delhi, I declare him to be duly elected as a member of the said court.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBERS

(1) SHRI N. BHATT,

(2) SHRI A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform hon. Members that the following letter has been received from Shri Nanabhai Bhatt:

"Owing to bad health, I have been advised by doctors not to attend the present session of the Council. I have therefore to request the Chairman and Members of the Council to grant me leave of absence up to the end of the present session."

Is it the pleasure of the Council that the permission be granted?

(No hon. Member dissented.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

There is another from Shri A. Ramaswami Mudaliar. He writes:

"I am leaving for Geneva in connection with a meeting of the U.N. (Committee) and expect to be away till the middle of June. I therefore, request that the Council may grant me leave of absence for this part of the session."

Is it the pleasure of the Council that the permission be granted?

(No hon. Member dissented.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent granted.