

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot hear. Do you not want the reply? If you don't want it, I will ask the Minister....

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Under the Articles of Association of the National Labour Institute, the Institute is expected to place its annual report along with the comments of its general council. The executive committee and the general council are to be reconstituted. But we thought that this should not be the cause for delaying the report which is to be presented to the House, because it would have led to further delay. So, to avoid further delay, though the comments are not available, we are placing the report on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Now Mr. Chand Ram.

**DETAILED DEMANDS FOR GRANTS OF
THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport for 1978-79. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1947/78].

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1976-77 AND
HALF YEARLY REPORT FROM 1-4-77 TO
30-9-77 OF COIR BOARD**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers under sub-section (1) of section 19 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953:—

- (1) Annual Report for the year 1976-77 on the activities of the

Coir Board and the working of the Coir Industry Act, 1953.

(2) Half-yearly Report for the period from 1st April, 1977 to 30th September, 1977 on the activities of the Coir Board and the working of the Coir Industry Act, 1953. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1948-78].

MR. SPEAKER: Why was there so much delay?

SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI: Since we have received them.....

MR. SPEAKER: That is not an explanation. You must tell us why there is delay, please see that these delays do not recur. Now Mr. Zulfiqarullah.

NOTIFICATIONS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQARULLAH): I beg to lay on the Table: (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961:—

(i) S.O. 685 to 688, 691, 692 and 694 to 706 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 1978.

(ii) The Income-tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 1978, published in Notification No. S.O. 178(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 1978. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1949/78].

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

(i) G.S.R. 179 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 1978 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(ii) Notification No. 67-Customs published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March, 1978 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iii) G.S.R. 183 (E) to 187 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th March 1938 together with an explanatory memorandum. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1950/78].

(3) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 175 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 1978 issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944 together with an explanatory memorandum. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1951/78].

12.03 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED ATROCITIES ON HARIJANS IN VILLAGE KANIARA IN BIHAR

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported atrocities on Harijans in village Kaniara of Rohtas District, Bihar on the 25th March, 1978 and steps taken by Government in this regard."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): Sir, according to information received from the Government of Bihar, one Hira Kumari, a known criminal of village Kaniari was shot dead on the 25th March, 1978 at about 10.00 a.m. by six persons, five of whom belong to village Bishrampur, P. S. Dinara in the Rohtas District of Bihar. All the six accused persons are known criminals and three of them happen to be Harijans. The suspicion that Hira Kurmi was instrumental in the raid and arrest of one Bansaropan of village Kaniari appears to be the reason for this murder. In retaliation, a mob of

500 to 600 persons, mainly Kurmis, from Kaniari and neighbouring villages, variously armed, surrounded Bishrampur around 3.00 p.m. on the same day and set fire to 18 houses, including six belonging to Harijans. As a result, three persons were killed out of whom two were Harijans. One person is reported missing. Two heads of cattle and two goats were also burnt.

For the murder of Hira Kurmi, a case under Sections 148/149/302 I.P.C. and under Section 27 Arms Act has been instituted against six persons. Three persons have been apprehended. In the subsequent incident in village Bishrampur, a case under Sections 147/148/149/436/302/364/428 I.P.C. and Section 27 Arms Act has been instituted against 33 persons. Eight arrests have so far been made. Efforts are being made to arrest the remaining culprits in both the cases and coercive process have been initiated against the absconders. Two rifles have also been seized.

The District Magistrate, the Commissioner and the DIG have since visited the spot and taken necessary action to restore confidence among the people. A police force has been stationed in Bishrampur. The officer-in-charge and a Sub-Inspector of Dinara Police Station have been suspended for failure to control the situation in time and for negligence of duty. The Chief Minister, Bihar has also since visited the spot. Payment of Rs. 5,000/- each has been made to the families of those killed. Payments ranging between Rs. 500/- to Rs. 1,000/- have also been made to each family as house building grant. Atta, rice, clothes and blankets are also being distributed and tarpaulins have been provided for temporary shelter.

It is clear that the two incidents were the outcome of old rivalry between two groups of criminals and their supporters and were not connected with "atrocities on Harijans" or land dispute between high castes and