

- (12) The Richardson and Cruddas Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Bill, 1972.
- (13) The Mulki Rules Bill, 1972.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

TWENTY-FIFTH AND TWENTY-SIXTH REPORTS
SHRI K. N. TIWARY (Betkiah): I beg to present the following Reports of the Estimates Committee:—

- (1) Twenty-fifth Report on the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture) regarding action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fifth Report on Tractors and Other Agricultural Machinery and Implements.
- (2) Twenty-sixth Report regarding action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fifteenth Report on the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Food)—Directorate of Sugar and Vanaspati.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SIXTY-SECOND REPORT

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam): I beg to present the Sixty-second Report of the Public Accounts Committee regarding action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fourth Report on Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

STATEMENT RE DROUGHT SITUATION

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): About the drought situation we have given a call attention motion. He has got every right to make a statement about the drought situation in the country which is very horrible. I would only request you to allow a special discussion on the basis of his statement.

SHRI PYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Adjournment motions have been

given on the famine conditions and the aftereffect of drought which involve millions of people and the Government has been completely ineffective. This sort of statements will take up nowhere.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED): I beg to lay on the Table a statement on the drought situation in the country.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (मुरेना) :
खाद्यान्न के भाव काफी बढ़े हैं इस लिये इस को एक माय लिया जाय ।

Statement

The Hon'ble Members will recall that we had occasion to discuss the drought situation in the country during the previous Session when I have an account of the extent of the drought and the relief measures taken to deal with the situation. Since then the significant developments that have taken place *vis-a-vis* the drought situation are—

(i) Continuation of unfavourable weather conditions and dry spell in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and parts of Mysore and Andhra Pradesh, and consequent augmentation of relief works in these States;

(ii) Some improvement in the production of Kharif crops due to rains and generally favourable weather conditions in the months of August, September and October in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(iii) Beneficial rains during November/December/January for the sowing and growing of wheat and other rabi crops in the rabi growing areas of Haryana, Punjab, U.P., and Bihar and for the winter paddy crop/late sown kharif/rabi crops in the States of Orissa and Tamil Nadu.

On account of these favourable weather conditions which have prevailed during these 3 months over major parts of the country, excepting Gujarat, Rajasthan, Ma-