

12.33 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—  
*Contd.*

Tobacco Grading (Commercial) Rules,  
1987

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Tobacco Grading (Commercial) Rules, 1987 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 601 in Gazette of India dated the 8th August, 1987 under subsection (2) of section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act 1937.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4986/87].

12.24 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER ON THE PETITION OF SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA RE : DISQUALIFICATION OF SHRI LAL DUHOMA FROM THE MEMBERSHIP OF LOK SABHA ON THE GROUND OF DEFECTION.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that on 21st July, 1987, Shri Ram Pyare Panika gave a petition under paragraph 6 of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and rule 6 of the Member of Lok Sabha (Disqualification on ground of Defection) Rules, 1985 against Shri Lalduhoma, a Member of this House, praying that Shri Lalduhoma be declared to have incurred disqualification for being a Member of the House under paragraph 2(a) of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution for having resigned from the Congress (I) Party in March, 1986 and forming a new party.

In terms of rule 7(3) of the said Rules, I caused copies of the petition together with its annexures to be forwarded to Shri Lalduhoma and to the Leader of the

Legislative Party concerned for furnishing their comments in the matter.

Having since received these comments and having regard to the nature and circumstances of the case, I have decided to refer the petition to the Committee of Privileges under rule 7(4) of the said Rules for making a preliminary enquiry and submitting a report to me.

12.26 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : SITUATION IN  
FIJI

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : The current crisis in Fiji began on 14th May, 1987 when a handful of soldiers led by Col. Rabuka overthrew the popularly elected coalition Government of the Labour and National Federation Parties led by Dr. Bavadra. Col. Rabuka moved again on September 25, 1987 at a time when the chances of national reconciliation seemed bright and a formula for an interim bipartisan government involving all political parties had been worked out. The second coup dealt a severe blow to the hopes of reconciliation. The light of freedom has been dimmed in a beautiful pacific island, not for long, we hope and pray.

We have kept a close watch on the melancholy developments in Fiji. Government's concern has been made known on a number of occasions. We have, in no uncertain terms disapproved of Rabuka's coups and condemned the racist overtones of his pronouncements.

Col. Rabuka's stated objective is to guarantee political supremacy for the indigenous Melanesian community. Some of the extremist groups believed to be supporting Col. Rabuka have made even, more unreasonable demands. These objectives can only be at the cost of the interests of the people of Indian origin.

While we consider that the first loyalty of ethnic Indians overseas is to the country of which they are citizens, we are responsive to their problems and cannot remain unconcerned when their safety and welfare