

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

are at stake. There are about 347,445 people of Indian origin constituting 48.6 per cent of the population of Fiji. Besides, there about 250 Indian nationals. The people of Indian origin have made a significant contribution to the development of that country. Their contribution has been acknowledged by the ethnic Melanesian population. The constitution of 1970, which had been worked out after long and painstaking negotiations between the UK Government and all political parties in Fiji, was specially designed to safeguard the political interest, land ownership rights and other traditional rights of the Melanesians. The constitution was itself a document tilted in favour of the Melanesian community. It was accepted in good grace by the people of the Indian origin and, as acknowledged by former Prime Minister Ratu Mara, the leader of the Allians party which ruled Fiji for 17 years, it served Fiji well for 17 years in promoting racial harmony, stability and progress. Its abrogation by the military regime has put the clock back; thus endangering the prospects of racial harmony, peace and prosperity in a country, where a multi-racial democracy was looked upon by the rest of the area as something of a model. This precious asset has been thrown away, and is in the process of being destroyed.

In May my colleague Eduardo Falerio visited Australia and New Zealand to discuss the Fiji problem with the Prime Ministers of those countries. At the same time I visited London to have talks with the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe. On the eve of the Commonwealth Summit I met Prime Ministers Hawke, Lange and Mugabe in Canberra, Wellington and Harare in this connection. I also met President Kaunda of Zambia in New York in early October. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi addressed letters to several Commonwealth leaders in this connection.

As for our nationals, we have made it clear to the Fijian authorities that their safety and welfare is the primary responsibility of the latter and we expect them to ensure that no harm will come to our nationals. Whenever cases involving harassment of Indian nationals have come to notice, they have been promptly and effecti-

vely pursued by our Mission in Suva with the authorities.

We have strongly and unequivocally condemned the actions of the military authorities in Fiji at various international forums. Speaking in the United Nations General Assembly on 29-10-87, I said that attempts to deprive citizens of the country of their legitimate rights merely on the basis of their racial origin, were against all tenets of democracy and human rights and were contrary to the UN Charter. What we condemn in South Africa, we cannot condone in Fiji.

At the Commonwealth Summit in Vancouver Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said that adventurism in Fiji had shocked us by its casual and cavalier repudiation of every democratic value, its unacceptable racial overtones and the attempts to rule by fear and not by law. Prime Minister demanded the re-restoration of democracy, harmony and civil rule in Fiji. He also declared that inaction would be a mockery of all that the Commonwealth stood for.

At Vancouver Fiji's membership of the Commonwealth was terminated. Fiji's re-admission is contingent upon its adherence to the principles that have guided the Commonwealth. These principles, among others, forbid discrimination on the ground of race.

India has suspended trade and technical co-operation with Fiji. We have recalled our High Commissioner in Suva to Delhi for consultations. We have also, in a statement on October 10, 1987 categorically stated that we do not recognize any government established by Col. Rabuka.

The situation is being kept under careful review and we may take further measures in the light of future developments.

There is no inherent antagonism, no controversy between Government and our friends opposite about what is happening in Fiji. All of us fervently hope that Fiji will return to democratic rule, when once again the multi-racial character and the legitimate rights of all its people regardless of race, religion or colour, are assured and safe-guarded.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Copies of the statement may be circulated to all the Members and there should be a discussion later.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : It is your right. Who prevented you from this.

[*English*]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I do not think all the significance has been brought out in the Minister's statement.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil) : We want a discussion on this.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : It is for you to take note of. It is for you to give notice. You may do whatever you like. We have no problem.

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We have already submitted . . .

MR. SPEAKER : We will discuss it in the BAC at 4 p.m. today.

Now, Matters under Rule 377.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

- (i) Need to provide more funds for the on-going Irrigation projects in Orissa

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, although there is enough irrigation potential in Orissa, irrigation projects are not being implemented due to financial constraints. For instance, upper Indravati project requires additional funds to the extent of Rs. 58 crores but the Union Government has not provided the funds to get the project completed.

Similarly, in upper Kolab Rengari and Subarnarekha irrigation projects, the reservoir has been completed but the distribution system has not been implemented for distribution of water. Upper Kolab needs additional amount of Rs. 15 crores, Rengari needs additional amount of Rs. 20 crores and Subarnarekha needs additional financial assistance of Rs. 57 crores. These projects are limping for years.

Some districts of Orissa are drought-prone areas and if these projects are completed, the character of these districts will change. It will change the economy of Orissa and promote growth.

Orissa is affected by serious drought. The completion of on-going projects will be an answer to the drought situation. The Government of India is, therefore, urged to revise the 7th Plan assistance and provide required funds for completion of these irrigation projects.

- (ii) Need to set up industries in Mithila region to solve the unemployment problem

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mithila region of north Bihar is one of the most backward regions of the country. There is no industry worth the name there. In fact, in the last 40 years no initiative was taken to set up any industry there. Incidentally, it is one of the most densely populated areas of Asia. The unemployment in this region is chronic. The recent floods have further aggravated the problem. Agriculture, which is the main source of livelihood, has been completely ruined. As such, it is earnestly requested that the Central Government should take initiative to set up some industries there so that people may get employment.

- (iii) Need to review the orders regarding application of F. R. 127 for calculation of the amount of non-returnable contribution for the upgradation of EDBO/EDSO to departmental sub-Post Offices

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : The decision of the Ministry of Finance to apply the principle of 'cost