

there is acute water shortage...

MR. SPEAKER : We have already discussed about water shortage. Were you not present in the house.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi) : The situation is very acute in Orissa.

MR. SPEAKER : Every part of India was considered.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : Sir, a grave situation has arisen out of Pakistan's getting arms ..

MR. SPEAKER : Not like this. You give a notice.

11.58 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

National Cadet Corps (Girl Divisions) Third Amendment Rules 1985 and detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for 1985-86.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) : Sir, on behalf of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the National Cadet Corps (Girl Division) Third Amendment Rules, 1985 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. SRO 57 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March, 1985, under sub-section (3) of section 13 of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948.

[Placed in library. See No. LT-747/85]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English-versions the Ministry of Defence for the year 1985 owing.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-748/15]

Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of fishing by foreign vessels) Amenement Rules, 1965 Review on the working of and Annual Report of India Dairy Corporation Baroda for 1983-84 and statement for delay etc.,

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Amendment Rules, 1985 (Hindi English versions) published in Notification No. SO 286(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 1985, under sub-section (4) of section 25 of the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981.

[Placed in Library. see No. LT 749/85]

- (2) A copy each of the following years (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (if so, and 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

- (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Indian Dairy Corporation, Baroda, for the year 1983-84.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Dairy Corporation, Baroda, for the year 1983-84 alongwith Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed In Library. See No. LT-750/85]

- (4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

- (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Rajasthan State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1981-82.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rajasthan State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1981-82 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (5) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-751/85]

**Notifications under Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937 :—

- (1) The Apples Grading and Marking Rules, 1984 published in Notification No. G S R 1036 in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 1984.
- (2) The Compounded Asafoetida Grading and Marking Rules, 1984 published in Notification No. G S R 1156 in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 1984.
- (3) The Gumin Sees Grading and Marking (Amendment) Rules, 1984 published in Notification No. S O 1157 in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 1984.
- (4) The Bristles Grading and Marking (Amendment) Rules, 1984 published in Notification No. S O 1158 in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 1984.
- (5) The Onion Grading and Marking (Amendment) Rules, 1984 published in Notification No. S O 1932 in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 1984.

[Placed in library. See No. LT 752/85]

**Notifications under Customs Act, 1962**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :

- (1) G S R 354 (E) and 355 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to wireless apparatus, accessories and components when imported into India by a licensed amateur radio operator from the whole of the basic, auxiliary and additional duties of customs leviable thereon upto 31st December, 1985.
- (2) G S R 358 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment to Notification No. 117-Customs dated the 9th June, 1978 so as to enlarge the list of materials allowed to be imported duty free under Advance Licence Scheme.

G S R 359 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to certain raw materials specified in the Schedule to the notification when imported into India under the import replenishment licences issued in terms of the import policy for 1985-86 from the whole of the basic and additional duties of customs leviable thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-753/85]

- (4) G S R 360 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to materials covered by Notification No. 95/85-Customs dated the 17th March, 1985 when imported under import replenishment licences from the whole of the auxiliary duty of customs leviable thereon.

- (5) G S R 361 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding Notification No. 120-Customs dated the 19th June, 1978.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-753/85]

CALLING ATTENTION TO  
MATTER OF URGENT  
PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

12.00 hrs.

[English]

**Reported financial crisis faced by cultivators due to sharp fall in prices of coconut and root-wilt disease in the coconut plants**

**SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil)**: Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request him to make a statement thereon:

"The reported financial crisis faced by the cultivators due to sharp fall in the prices of coconut and the root-wilt disease in the coconut plants and steps taken by the Government in the matter."

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH)**: Sir, Even though coconut is a perennial crop and harvesting is done throughout the year, generally peak season of arrival of coconut in the markets in Kerala is from February to April. Like all other crops, immediate post-harvest season witnesses a decline in prices except in a year of abnormal scarcity. Hon'ble Members are aware that Kerala suffered an unprecedented drought in the year 1982 and the effect of this drought on the coconut crop was felt in 1983-84. As a result, production of coconut declined very substantially to 2595 million nuts in 1983-84 from 3184 million nuts in 1982-83. Correspondingly, in 1983-84, abnormally high prices of coconut, copra and coconut oil were realised and prices continued to rule at high level till December, 1984. From January 1985, prices started declining. The month-end prices of coconut per thousand in Cochin

market were Rs. 3000 in December, 1984. These declined to Rs. 2900 in January, 1985, Rs. 2,150 in February, 1985, Rs. 2,050 in March, 1985 and stood at Rs. 1,950 on 5th April, 1985. In Kozhikode market, the corresponding prices were Rs. 2,550 in December, 1984 which went up to Rs. 2,925 in January, 1985, came down to Rs. 2,200 in February, 1985, further declined to Rs. 2,000 in March, 1985 and stood at Rs. 1,900 on 5th April, 1985. However, this decline in prices has taken place from very high levels at which prices ruled in the main markets in Kerala last year. Even after this decline, the ruling prices at present are much higher than those obtained in 1982 and 1983 during the corresponding months. It is to be noted that because of very substantial fall in production in 1983-84 owing to drought, the availability was very much less and prices soared as a result. Hon'ble Members will agree with me that it would not be correct to compare the current prices of coconut with the unusually high prices last year. In fact, the average month-end coconut prices for the period January to March, 1985 are substantially higher than such average for the same period for the preceding three years taken together. The present coconut price levels in this perspective are higher at Alleppy by 52.5%, at Cochin by 33.5% and at Kozhikode by 31%.

2. Root-wilt is a debilitating disease for the coconut palm. This has been in existence in Kerala for many decades. Spread of the disease is, however, confined to eight districts of Kerala. There are no prophylactic or curative measures for this disease. Control measures include certain improved management practices evolved by research for reducing disease intensity and in extreme cases through replacement of the diseased palms. Surveys were conducted on different occasions in the past in Kerala on the incidence of this disease. A survey jointly conducted in 1984 covering eight districts of Kerala by the Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, State Government of Kerala, Coconut Development Board, Centre for Development Studies, Trivendrum, Kerala Agricultural University and Central Plant Protection Station of Government of India at Cochin has revealed that in the surveyed holdings, there has been an increase in the incidence of the disease by 30 per cent in the bearing palms, since the last survey conducted in 1976. Apart from the root-wilt disease, another factor inhibit-