

MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Mines for the year 1992-93. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1851/92]

Annual Report and Review on the Working of the India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. for the Year 1990-91.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) ON BEHALF OF SHRI M O H FAROOK): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (1) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91.
- (ii) Annual Report of the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Audited General thereon. [Placed on Library. See No. LT-1852/92]

13.40 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Seventh Report and Minutes

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): I beg to present the Seventh Report (Hindi and English ver-

sions) of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) - Role of Controller of Capital - Issues - Development of Capital Market and Status of Small Investors and Minutes of the Sittings of the committee relating there.

13.40 1/4 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Sixth Report

[English]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): I beg to present the Sixth report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on National Mineral Development Corporation Limited and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

13.40 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Seventh and Ninth Reports

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): I beg to present the following Reports and the Minutes of the Sittings relating thereto (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:—

- (1) Seventh Report on National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

509 *Calling Attention* VAISAKHA 7, 1914 (SAKA) *prices for VFC Tobacco* 510
Resentment in A.P. over low

Finance and Development Corporation;

- (2) Ninth Report on reservations for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited.

13.41 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Forty-five minutes past Fourteen of the clock

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fifty-two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Resentment in Andhra Pradesh over low prices for V.F.C. tobacco

[*English*]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Teali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Commerce to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"Resentment among tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh over low prices for V.F.C. tobacco."

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MIISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The Tobacco Board conducts auctions at its auction floors in the

States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, where the tobacco growers bring there tobacco for sale. The cigarette manufacturers, the exporters and other tobacco traders authorised by the Tobacco Board participate in the auctions and buy tobacco. The auctions in Andhra Pradesh commenced this year from 14th February, 1992. There are a total of 23 auction platforms.

After assessing the domestic demand and export potential, the Tobacco Board authorised this year for Andhra Pradesh a crop size of 124.83 million kg as against a crop size of 89 million kgs last year. I may point out that this figure of 124.83 million kg was against the original plan of the Tobacco Board to authorise a crop size of 145 million kg and the growers applications for registration amounting to approximately 133 million kg.

Till the year 1990, the average price at auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh did not exceed Rs. 17 per kg. In fact, in 1990, the average price was only Rs. 14.69 per kg. In 1991, there was a sharp rise in demand and, therefore, the average price in auctions in Andhra Pradesh increased to Rs. 33 per kg.

However, this year there has been a decline in the average price in the auctions. As on 17th April 1992, at the end of the 10th week of auctions, the average price was Rs. 30.22 per kg as against Rs. 32.66 per kg during the corresponding period of last year. This is against the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of about Rs. 16 per kg fixed by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and the Minimum Guaranteed Price (MGP) assured by the trade of Rs. 18.50 to Rs. 21.50 per kg. In view of the decline in prices as compared to last year, there has been resentment among the growers.

The Chairman, Tobacco Board has been in touch with other members of the Tobacco Board including representatives of growers