

SHRI B. RACHALAH (Chamarajanagar): Sir, seventeen officers of the office of Commissioner .

MR. SPEAKER: You must first send it to me I will look into it and then allow you to make a statement, it considered necessary Do not record. (Interruptions) **

12.17 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha—

I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Monday, the 8th May, 1978, adopted the following motion in regard to the Lokpal Bill, 1977—

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do appoint two members of the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Lokpal Bill, 1977, in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Shri K. A. Krishnaswamy and Shri D. P. Singh from the membership of the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd April, and 9th April, 1978, respectively, and resolves that Shri N. K. P. Saive and Shri V. V. Swaminathan, Members of the Rajya Sabha be appointed to the said Joint Committee to fill the vacancies."

12.18 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED MOVE TO WIND UP CENTRAL FISHERIES CORPORATION

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Cônai): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation to the

following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Reported move to wind up Fisheries Corporation of India, a Public Undertaking, causing concern among the employees and the fish consuming people of West Bengal".

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): The Central Fisheries Corporation Ltd, Howrah was set up by the Central Government in 1965 to meet the twin objectives of making fish available at reasonable rates primarily to the consumers at Calcutta and to provide a fair price to the producer within the country.

The Corporation had been running into losses almost every year since its inception A Review Committee was constituted in November, 1976 to comprehensively review the working of the Corporation The Committee recommended that since the Corporation had failed to achieve the objectives for which it was set up in spite of full financial and moral support of the Central Government and since the primary responsibility for regulating supplies and maintaining reasonable price of fish in the Calcutta market is that of the State Government, the Corporation should be transferred to the State Government to be merged with the State Fisheries Development Corporation.

The Committee was convinced that the Corporation would not prove viable under the existing circumstances and therefore, further recommended that no additional financial support should be given to the Corporation except to pay to the minimum staff, till a decision is taken on the future of the Corporation.

The Government of West Bengal was accordingly requested to take over the activities of the Corporation to be