

11.06 rbs.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES
SUMMARY OF WORK

SECRETARY: I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following:—

(i) Parliamentary Committees—Summary of Work (English and Hindi versions) pertaining to the period 1st June, 1979 to 22nd August, 1979; and

(ii) Parliamentary Committees—Summary of work (English and Hindi versions) pertaining to the period 1st June, 1979 to 22nd August 1979.

MR. SPEAKER: We go to next business.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): On the deteriorating crime situation in Delhi, we have given notices. We have given motions and notices.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will take notice of everything. Now we will take up call attention.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: What are you doing with the notice?

MR. SPEAKER: I have already allowed one motion yesterday under Rule 377.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The situation is much more serious than that.

MR. SPEAKER: We have got many motions under consideration. Please sit down. (Interruptions). Please don't take liberty with the House. Will you please cooperate?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: What has happened? You tell us. The deteriorating crime situation in Delhi....

MR. SPEAKER: I allowed one motion yesterday under Rule 377.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Is that enough?

MR. SPEAKER: The attention of the House has been drawn to that. Now Mr. Rajan.

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH (Padrauna): As a new Member, May I submit that we are not able to speak for the simple reason that Mr. Bosu is getting up every time and speaking without permission.

MR. SPEAKER: You also refer the motions to me. I will consider them. (Interruptions) I am trying to be very fair in regard to every motion; on its merits, I will allow.

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV (Azamgarh): I am not saying that you have not allowed or you have not been fair. May we know, really speaking, what steps the Home Minister is taking. It is a very serious situation prevailing in the city of Delhi, the national capital.

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday I allowed one motion and the Minister is seized of the situation. You can also talk to him.

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV: Can you ask him to let the House know what steps have been taken?

MR. SPEAKER: His attention has been drawn. There was a motion allowed by me under rule 377 yesterday.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: That does not compel the Minister to reply. (Interruptions). Please don't undermine the authority of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Everybody is concerned with it.

श्री राम विलास पासवान (हाजीपुर): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं कल सवेरे आप से चेम्बर में मिला था और आपसे कहा था कि यह बहुत ही गम्भीर मामला है . . .

MR. SPEAKER: What rule are you referring to?

श्री राम विलास पासवान: मैं तो आपसे परिचय ले रहा हूँ। मैंने कहा कि मैं कल आप से मिला था और आपसे कहा था कि मैं मैटर कंसिडर करूंगा।

MR. SPEAKER: I have already allowed that one. Please sit down. Now, Shri K. A. Rajan—calling attention motion.

11.09 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED SCARCITY OF DIESEL AND KEROSENE

SHRI K. A. RAJAN (Trichur): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers to the following matters of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

'The reported scarcity of diesel and kerosene oil in the country and the steps proposed to be taken by Government in the matter.'

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): Sir: Hon'ble Shri K. A. Rajan and other Members have called the attention regarding the reported scarcity of diesel and kerosene oil in the country and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter. The position is indicated below.

The demand for petroleum products, particularly High Speed Diesel (HSD), has been growing at a very high rate. Thus while the annual growth rate for HSD was 8 to 9 per cent until 1977-78, it rose to a little over 11 per cent in 1978-79 and it was around 16 per cent during the first half of the current financial year. In spite of growth in the HSD sales being as high as 16 per cent, which rate is much higher than the growth rate in the past, reports concerning HSD shortages have been received. These shortages are primarily on account of HSD demand being abnormally high due to factors such as increased transportation of goods in bulk by road instead of by rail over long distances, shortfalls in power availability leading to the employment of captive diesel generating sets, in-

creased demand of the product for agricultural pumps and unprecedented drought conditions in various parts of the country on account of failure of monsoons. Keeping in view the high price of petroleum products, difficult availability of the product even at high prices in the international market and the transportation constraints, the State Governments were advised in September 1979 that supplies of HSD during the period October 79 to March 80 will be maintained at a level of 5 per cent higher than the actual sales in the preceding year. However, keeping in view the increased demand of HSD on account of drought, shortage of power, increased use of diesel generating sets, additional allocations over and above the quota fixed earlier have been made from time to time. Thus original allocations of 652,000 tonnes HSD for the month of October for all States and Union Territories was raised by 100,000 tonnes. Similarly, the original allocations of 700,000 tonnes and 720,000 tonnes for the month of November and December respectively were raised to 781,000 tonnes and 808,000 tonnes respectively.

The State Governments were requested through the letter dated 11th September, 1979 to devise exsuitable priorities as regards use of HSD and make allocations accordingly within the overall quota for the States. They were also advised to accord the highest priority to agriculture in the matter of supply of HSD. The State Governments were further asked to take effective steps either by promulgation of control orders under the Essential Commodities Act or otherwise to ensure that blackmarketing and other malpractices may not take place. These instructions to the State Governments were followed up by meetings held with Civil Supplies Commissioners of different State Governments and Union Territories. In these meetings, the need for devising effective system of distribution as well as for curbing malpractices was particularly emphasised.

As regards kerosene about 45 per cent of the total requirement of about