

12.58 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

THIRD AND TWENTIETH REPORTS

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV (Azamgarh): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee:—

(1) Third Report on action taken by Government on the recommendation contained in the Eighty-sixth Report of the Public Accounts Committee (Sixth Lok Sabha) on Unauthorised Occupation of Railway land.

(2) Twentieth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Hundred and thirty-sixth Report of the Public Accounts Committee (Sixth Lok Sabha) on Railway Expenditure.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

TEA BOARD

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): On behalf of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, I beg to move the following:—

“That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (f) of Section 4 of the Tea Act, 1953, read with rule 4(1) (b) of the Tea Rules, 1954, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tea Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder.”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (f) of Section 4 of the Tea Act, 1953, read with rule 4(1) (b) of the Tea Rules, 1954, the Members

of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tea Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder.”

The motion was adopted.

13 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we take up the matters under Rule 377.

Dr. K. S. Bhoi.

(i) **NEED FOR RESUMPTION OF OIL EXPLORATION WORK IN THE MAHANADI BASIN.**

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur): Sir, under Rule 377 I want to bring to the notice of this august House the following matter of urgent public importance.

It has been recently reported in a section of the press that the off-shore exploration work in the Mahanadi basin will remain suspended for over six months, as the rigs which were hired by the Oil India Limited for drilling wells are reported to have left the site a month ago keeping the work unfinished. It will take more than 6 to 7 months to hire new rigs to resume the work. It is possible that new rigs may not be available at that time since international firms would start their off-shore and on-shore exploratory work during that period. Moreover, the same fate which forced the ONGC to suspend the exploratory work in the Godavari basin may wait for the Mahanadi basin also due to choppy and strong ocean current just at the time when the monsoon is over. The drill ship ‘Perelin’ which was engaged in the Godavari basin is reported to have moved to the Bombay High. This could easily have been diverted to the Mahanadi basin on the coast of Bay of Bengal to keep