

[Shri S.B.I. Pattabhi Ram Rao]

versions of the following Statements of the Estimates Committee:—

(1) Statement showing final replies of Government in respect of recommendations included in Chapter V and further information in respect of other Chapters of the Second Action Taken Report of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Supply and Rehabilitation (Department of Rehabilitation)—Dandakaranya Project—Exodus of Settlers (1978).

(2) Statement showing final replies of Government in respect of recommendations included in Chapter V and further information in respect of other Chapters of the Seventh Action Taken Report of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division)—Credit Facilities to Weaker Sections of Society and for Development of Backward Areas.

12.51 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

TWENTY-SIXTH REPORT

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA (Bombay North): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd.—Rural Housing and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

12.51 hrs.

STATEMENT CORRECTING ANSWER TO SQ NO. 439 DATED 15-9-1981 RE: GLUT OF CHEMICAL PRODUCTS DUE TO IMPORTS

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): During the debate on the question cited above in reply to question put by Hon'ble Shri Bhikkhu Ram Jain, it was mentioned that as far as demand is concerned, the likely demand for soda ash according to D.G.T.D. estimate itself, apart from small scale consumers, is going to be 6.80 lakh tonnes.

Actually, the demand estimate of 6.80 lakh tonnes is inclusive of the requirements of all users.

The error to set out this position clearly is regretted.

STATEMENT REGARDING SETTING UP OF AN EXPERT COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION IN THE LIST OF DECLARED GOODS AND FOR LEVY OF ADDITIONAL EXCISE DUTY IN LIEU OF SALES TAX ON CERTAIN COMMODITIES

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): Sir, As the House is aware, there has been widespread and long-standing demand by various Chambers of Commerce, associations of industry and trade and the general public for basic reforms in the sales tax system obtaining in the country. The matter has also figured in both the Houses of Parliament from time to time.

Sir, as sales tax is primarily a State subject of taxation under the Constitution, any reform in the sales