

54 and 55 of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

tion of the Government in regard thereto."

12.08 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT

SHRI R.S. SPARROW (Jullundur) : I beg to present the Twenty-fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

12.08-1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

FIFTEENTH REPORT

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA (Tonk) : I beg to present the Fifteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

12.09 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED EN MASSE RESIGNATION BY SCIENTISTS, DAIRY PROFESSIONALS AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL DAIRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The reported EN MASSE resignation by the officers of National Dairy Development Board and the reac-

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : Sir, a number of officers of National Dairy Development Board submitted their resignations to the Secretary, National Dairy Development Board on December 13, 1983 who forwarded these resignations along with his own on 14th December, 1983 to the Chairman, National Dairy Development Board. These resignations were as a reaction to the reply given by the Government in response to the Unstarred Question No. 1339 on 2-12-1983 in Rajya Sabha. On December 17, 1983, the Chairman, National Dairy Development Board, Dr. Kurien wrote to Secretary, National Dairy Development Board, declining to accept their resignations and asking him to advise the officers not to press the matter any further. Secretary, National Dairy Development Board, has brought the Chairman's letter to the notice of the officers and requested them to continue with their work.

The Government have, on more than one occasion, stated in Parliament that the National Dairy Development Board have done good work in connection with the dairy development programmes included in our Five Year Plans and Government has been giving full support to the Indian Dairy Corporation/National Dairy Development Board in their implementation. The decision to evaluate the working of Indian Dairy Corporation/National Dairy Development Board referred to in the reply to the above mentioned Unstarred Question on December 2, 1983 is intended to assess the achievements of the programme and to improve its implementation by suggesting measures to remove any shortcomings and bottlenecks in the course of its implementation. An evaluation with similar objective had been done with regard to Operation Flood I.

I need hardly say that the evaluation will be objective and impartial and there should be no room for any misunderstanding or misgiving on this account. The decision to evaluate the programme had been taken before the publication of the article in the Illustrated Weekly of India and had nothing to do with it.