

12.44 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

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

“In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1977, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th July, 1977, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.”

ASSENT TO BILLS

SECRETARY: Sir, I lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, of the following three Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 27th June, 1977:—

- (1) The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 1977.
- (2) The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Bill, 1977.
- (3) The Yoga Undertakings (Taking over of Management) Bill, 1977.

12.44 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED DISAPPEARANCE OF GROUNDNUT OIL FROM MARKET AND ABNORMAL RISE IN ITS PRICE

SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT (Jaunpur): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Civil Sup-

plies and Cooperation to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The reported disappearance of groundnut oil from the markets, abnormal rise in the prices thereof, double refined palm oil being sold as groundnut oil and action being taken by Government to meet the scarcity and check black-marketing in groundnut oil.”

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARMA): Sir,

I rise to make a statement regarding reported disappearance of groundnut oil from the markets, abnormal rise in the prices thereof, reported sale of double refined palm oil as groundnut oil and action being taken by the Government to meet the scarcity and check blackmarketing in groundnut oil.

As the honourable Members are aware, the major groundnut producing States are Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and the groundnut oil requirements of the other States are to be met by inflow from the major producing States. As is well known, this is a lean season for groundnut oil and the stocks available in the major producing States would have been well-nigh exhausted. Honourable Members will also kindly appreciate that this seasonal phenomenon has been accentuated this year owing to shortfall in production. As against the production of 16.2 lakh tonnes of groundnut oil in 1975-76, in the succeeding year the production is estimated at only 12.50 lakh tonnes. Hence, there is a decline in the quantities arriving in the market centres in the consuming States and the consequent rise in the prices.

Some complaints have been received that refined palm oil or palmolien is being sold as groundnut oil in Bom-