

Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1977-78 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4030/79].

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER NAVY ACT, 1957.

THE MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. SHER SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English version) under section 185 of the Navy Act, 1957:—

(1) The Naval Ceremonial, Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Regulations, 1979, published in Notification No. S.R.O. 26 in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 1979.

(2) The Navy Leave (Amendment) Regulations, 1978, published in Notification No. S.R.O. 57 in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 1979.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4031/79].

12.03 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 rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 5th March, 1979, agreed without any amendment to the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1979, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st February, 1979.”

12.04 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

STRIKE BY TAXI AND SCOOTER DRIVERS IN DELHI

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): I call the attention of the Minister of Shipping and Transport to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

“Reported strike by Taxi and Scooter drivers in Delhi causing hardship to the public”.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE (OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT SHRI CHAND RAM): Under the Motor Vehicles Act, State Transport Authority, Delhi, which is a quasi-judicial authority constituted by Delhi Administration, has the power to fix fares to be charged by taxis and scooter rickshaws for the Union Territory of Delhi. The existing fares in Delhi were fixed by S.T.A. Delhi in March, 1974. Consequent on the increase in the price of petrol and mobil oil, following the presentation of the Union Budget on the 28th February, 1979, the Secretary of the State Transport Authority, Delhi, had convened a meeting of the Authority on Monday, the 5th March, 1979, to consider the demand for increase in the fares to be charged by taxis and scooter rickshaws. It is unfortunate that the taxi and scooter rickshaw operators did not wait for the decision of the State Transport Authority and have gone on strike with effect from 3rd instant. I deeply regret the hardship caused to the public, specially those who arrive from outside by trains, buses and planes, because of this strike.

In order to alleviate the hardship to the commuters, I had issued necessary instructions to the Chairman, D.T.C.