

CHAND RAM): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Second Amendment Rules, 1978 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 449 in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 1978, under sub-section (3) of section 8 of the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2076/78].

(2) A copy of the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention Certificates) Amendment Rules, 1978 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 382 in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 1978 under sub-section (3) of section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2077/78].

(3) A copy of the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licence Fee) Rules, 1978 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 703 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 1977 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 180 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 1978, under sub-section (4) of section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2078/78].

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ALL INDIA SERVICES ACT, 1951

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:—

(1) G.S.R. 392 published in Gazette of India dated the 25th March, 1978 containing corrigendum to Notification No. G.S.R. 1655 dated the 10th December, 1977.

(2) G.S.R. 427 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1978 containing corrigendum to Notification No. G.S.R. 1634 dated the 3rd December, 1977.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2079/78].

REVIEW ON THE WORKING AND ANNUAL REPORT OF NEYVELI LIGNITE CORPORATION LTD. FOR 1976-77

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI FAZLUR REHMAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(1) Review by the Government on the working of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, for the year 1976-77.

(2) Annual Report of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, for the year 1976-77 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. see No. LT-2080/78].

REPORT OF COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA FOR 1976-77

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1976-77, Union Government (Civil) Revenue Receipts—Volume I—Indirect Taxes and Volume II—Direct Taxes, under article 151 (1) of the Constitution. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2081/79].

12.45½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SIXTY-SIXTH REPORT

SHRI ASOKE KRISHNA DUTT (Dum Dum): Sir, I beg to present the Sixty-sixth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on Action Taken

by Government on the recommendations contained in their Two Hundred and Eighteenth Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) relating to Illegal Import of Gold.

12.46 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SIXTEENTH REPORT

SHRI VINODBHAI B. SHETH (Jamnagar): I beg to present the Sixteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

There is a change of sex in my name, in every paper that I receive, it is 'Bai' and not 'Bhai'. I request you to kindly have it corrected, Mr. Speaker

MR. SPEAKER: You won't become a Bai by that.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Your office has changed his sex. Ask your office not to change his sex.

MR. SPEAKER: You are quite right. He is a good-looking man. Now, Item No 12.

12.47 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. ALLEGED TRANSFER OF 10-11 MILLION DOLLARS TO A SWISS BANK

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Member, Shri S. N. Mishra, in a statement made in the House on March 2, 1978, had referred to \$ 10 to 11 million having been paid into a Swiss bank during the previous Government's rule and sought explanations of the manner in which the Ministry of External Affairs was involved in it. I have carefully enquired into these payments.

It is correct that two payments of \$5.5 million each were sanctioned on March 15 and October 28, 1976. These

payments were in accordance with the terms of a commercial transaction between the Government of India and the Government of Iran negotiated by our Economic Affairs Department under orders of the then Prime Minister. In accordance with the terms of the agreement, part payments had to be made in Switzerland. Therefore funds were provided under the head of special discretionary expenditure in the budget of the Ministry of External Affairs. The amounts were paid by cheque and did not involve any illegal payments to any Indian.

I would also like to clarify the position regarding some other matters to which the member had alluded in his statement. The Ashoka Traders with which Hinduja family is associated is a Company registered in Iran. It is not an Indian company and was not as far we know recipient of this payment. The Kudremukh agreement or sales of cement and sugar to Iran had also nothing to do with these payments.

Having clarified the relevant facts about transactions which were authorised by the previous Government, I would like to state that the present Government has decided that in current and future agreements, there is to be no provision of such part payment. At the same time I would like to affirm that we consider it to be in our national interest to develop our relations with Iran. We intend to promote trust, mutually beneficial cooperation and confidence with Iran especially after close rapport and far reaching understanding arrived at during the visit of His Imperial Majesty Shahenahah last February. It would be contrary to our policies and intentions if any misunderstanding should have been created as a result of past transactions.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the statement by the Hon. Minister for Agriculture.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): Sir, I am not asking any question on the statement made by the Minister of External Affairs.