

12.56 hrs.

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH, HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST AND HUNDRED AND FORTIETH REPORTS

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO** (Hanamkonda): I beg to present the following Report of the Public Accounts Committee:—

(1) Hundred and thirtieth Report on printing of Ahmedabad Telephone Directories and Kiosk Advertisements on telegraph and telephone poles relating to Ministry of Communications (P & T Board).

(2) Hundred and thirty-first Report on paragraph 36 and 22 of the Report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1976-77, Union Government (Defence Services) relating to Ministry of Defence.

(3) Hundred and fortieth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Seventy-sixth Report on Customs Receipts.

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS**

FORTY-FOURTH AND FORTY-FIFTH REPORTS AND MINUTES

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU** (Diamond Harbour): I have the honour to present the following Reports and Minutes of the Committee on Public Undertakings:—

(1) Forty-fourth Report on Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited—General Functions and Internal Sales.

(2) Forty-fifth Report on Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited—Export Performance.

(3) Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating to the two Reports mentioned above.

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES**

**FOURTH REPORT**

श्री वसन्त कर्मा (गुरबासपुर): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी अनुमति से सरकारी गारंटी-समो सम्बन्धी समिति का चौथा प्रतिवेदन (हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी संस्करण) प्रस्तुत करता हूँ।

12.57 hrs.

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

(i) DISPOSAL OF PENDING APPLICATIONS OF PROSPECTIVE NON-RESIDENT INDIAN INVESTORS FOR IMPORT OF MACHINES

**DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT** (Rajgarh): Sir, I wish to raise the following matter under rule 377:

Under the current import policy, a special scheme was announced for non-resident Indians intending to return to India. The provisions of sub para (1) (ii) of Para 82 in Chapter 15 of the policy permit import of any capital goods upto Rs. 25 lakhs by them with their own foreign exchange savings. It is specifically stated in the said provision that permission would be given without indigenous clearance.

After announcement of this policy, our foreign missions, the Indian Investment Centre and various agencies gave wide publicity to the scheme and induced several non-resident Indians to come to India and set up industries in India by investing their foreign exchange savings in capital goods. A number of non-resident Indians submitted applications as per the scheme for permission to import texturising machines for processing polyester filament yarn.

[Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit]

13 hrs.

[SHRI N. V. SHEJWALKAR in the Chair]

By about September, 1978, some applicants received Customs Clearance Permits for import of such machines. At the same time, other 18 applications submitted as per the same policy were approved by the Capital Goods Committee but have been kept pending under the pretext that the Policy is being reviewed. This has raised suspicion that some indigenous vested interests have created a lobby to mislead the Government by giving wrong facts and figures.

Without any fault on the part of the applicants, who have made certain commitments with foreign suppliers, this sudden action of the Government has caused a lot of resentment, suspicion, and misgiving about our policy in the minds of the Indian settled abroad desirous of coming back to India with their foreign exchange savings.

In view of the above, the Steering Committee of non-resident Indians have made representations to Government with a request to consider pending applications on the same basis as the Customs Clearance permits already granted to others so as to avoid unjust discrimination.

This sudden change in implementation of the Policy in force in the middle of the year has led these applicants and other prospective non-resident Indians to doubt Government's intentions, besides damaging the Country's image abroad.

I, therefore, earnestly request the Government to dispose of all pending applications and reassure prospective non-resident Indian investors about the continuity of the Policy as declared. This scheme was calculated to facilitate Indians abroad to come back to India and invest their foreign exchange savings by bringing capital goods to develop the Indian economy and save foreign exchange for the

country and to avail of this opportunity of importing technology suitable to India.

I call upon the Government to take immediate decision in the above matter before announcement of the new Import Policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I call Mr. Kamath I would request the Hon. Members to keep to their respective seats. Noise is going on and the speeches are not audible. Shri Kamath.

(ii) REPORTED NON-AVAILABILITY OF WAGONS ON JABALPUR-ITARSI SECTION OF CENTRAL RAILWAY FOR MOVEMENT OF GRAINS AND PULSES

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): By your leave, I proceed, under Rule 377, to make the following statement on a matter of urgent public importance.

Complaints are mounting day by day that, on the Jabalpur-Itarsi section of Central Railway, wagons are not being supplied at any of the stations of that Section for the movement of grains and pulses. There are big grain markets (Mandis) at all stations on that Section, particularly at Itarsi, Piparia, Gadarwara, Kareli and Narsinghpur. The kisans and traders of the region are experiencing acute hardship owing to non-availability of wagons. Representations by letters and telegrams have been made to the Railway Administration, but with no tangible or appreciable effect so far. Serious allegations of corrupt practices, apart from apathy and negligence, on the part of the local Railway Officers have been made by responsible persons of the locality.

The situation is fast deteriorating and may even erupt into violence and I would, therefore, earnestly request the Railway Minister and the Railway Board to pay immediate attention to this matter and set matters right, lest worse befall;