

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

thing like that happens, nothing will go on record. Mr. Dharia may continue.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: So far as the import policy is concerned, it has been mentioned by the hon. Member that we should allow the import of such things which are widely needed in the country or to have new science and technology imported into the country. I entirely share the feelings of the hon. Minister.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The Agriculture Minister is sitting behind. We are importing palm oil. Everything we are importing.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: In this connection, as the House may be aware, we have taken a decision to canalise the import of edible oils. We would like to give remunerative prices to the farmers so that within the next three or four years within the country itself we will produce enough so that there will be no necessity whatsoever to have import of oil. That is why we are giving a support price of Rs. 135 for groundnut, soyabean and sun flower. We would like to have increased production here and bring down the imports. That is why Government have taken a decision to canalise the imports. If there are any cases of unnecessary imports, if such cases are brought to my notice, I shall immediately take steps to see that such imports are not allowed.

We agree with the view of the hon. Member that our foreign exchange should not be fittered away.

Regarding dynamic exports in various areas, I have in my note given all possible steps that were taken. A point was raised regarding tobacco and potato. Government have taken a decision to allow in the initial stage the export of potato to the extent of 25,000 tonnes. Only yesterday I had a discussion with Shri Barnala and I have told him that I have no objection to exporting any quantity of potato, if care is taken of the domestic

price of potato. In fact, I would be happy to encourage the export of potato and I have announced it....
(Interruptions).

In the case of onion, the House would be happy to know that we have taken a decision and we shall export at least 75,000 tonnes, and perhaps more if we could take care of the domestic price in the country.

So far as agricultural production is concerned, for the first time the Commerce Ministry has constituted a group under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, to find out the areas where we can make exports. On the basis of that report, we would first like to expand the base of production, which will lead to increased exports. I have taken up the matter with the Planning Commission, and I shall take care to see that whatever could be exported out of what is being produced in the country in a planned manner is exported, while at the same time ensuring the fulfilment of the domestic needs. There is also a proposal under discussion that sugarcane should be directly converted into alcohol and exported to foreign countries. That is also being discussed. All possible steps would be taken. To some extent, there is some marginal shortfall in our foreign exchange earnings from our exports. All steps have been taken on a scientific basis. We shall have substantial exports every year so that we can provide employment to a large number of people, while giving a remunerative price to our farmers.

12.35 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

NINETY-FOURTH AND HUNDRED AND
SECOND REPORTS

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO
(Hanamkonda): I beg to present the following Reports (English and Hindi

versions) of the Public Accounts Committee: 12.36 hrs.

(1) Ninety-fourth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Forty-sixth Report on "Delhi Milk Scheme" relating to Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Department of Agriculture).

(2) Hundred and second Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Report on "Export of Bicycles and Bicycle Components during 1970's" relating to Ministry of Commerce.

12.35½ hrs.

INDIAN STANDARDS INSTITUTION (CERTIFICATION MARKS) EXTENSION TO KOHIMA, WOKHA, ZUNHEBOTO, MOKOKCHUNG AND PHEK DISTRICTS BILL

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): On behalf of Shri Mohan Dharia, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to extend the Indian Standards Institution (Certification Marks) Act, 1952, to the Kohima, Wokha, Zunheboto, Mokokchung and Phek District in the State of Nagaland.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to extend the Indian Standards Institution (Certification Marks) Act, 1952, to the Kohima, Wokha, Zunheboto, Mokokchung and Phek Districts in the State of Nagaland."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL:
I introduce the Bill.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) EXAMINATION OF SUGGESTION FOR MIXING ALCOHOL WITH PETROL.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We take up matters under rule 377. Shri Surendra Bikram,

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI (Anantnag): I have written to the Speaker in regard to 377. I have not received any reply.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is between you and the Speaker. Please don't ask me. The letters that you write to the Speaker will not be replied to in the House.

SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM (Shahjahanpur): Our country being predominantly an agricultural country, it has been supplying sugarcane in abundance to sugar factories which supply molasses to the alcohol-producing distilleries. The production of alcohol has been increasing year after year with very limited usage in the industry and other areas. The position is that the nation is facing the problem of excess and surplus alcohol which at the moment the State Trading Corporation is exporting. To solve it, I suggest that the Government must immediately consider and permit alcohol mixing with petrol in the proportion of 25:75 which will give efficient service to the petrol-based automobiles. Alcohol being cheaper, the Government must levy more tax on this commodity to bring it on par with the price of petrol. If such a decision is taken, it will ease the petrol shortage and solve the excessive alcohol production in the country. We anticipate that alcohol production will continue to increase with the modernisation of distilleries and availability of more and more molasses. If necessary, vehicles can be allowed to use alcohol as fuel with a little change in their engines. The alcohol to be released for this purpose