

MINERAL CONCESSION (AMDT.) RULES, 1974

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 1974 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 509 in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 1974 under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. [Placed in library. See No. LT-8110/74].

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

- (i) The Paper (Control of Production) Order 1974, published in Notification No. S.O. 465 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1974.
- (ii) The Paper (Conservation and Regulation of Use) Order, 1974, published in Notification No. S.O. 466(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1974.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-8114/74.]

12.06 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED SALE OF GRANULATED MUD AS FERTILISER IN PUNJAB

SHRI HARI SINGH (Khurja): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and

request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported racket in which granulated mud was sold as fertilisers in Punjab".

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): In July 1973, information was received from the Government of Punjab that a large number of bags supposed to contain imported Di-Ammonium Phosphate had been sold to some farmers in Punjab who complained that these bags did not contain fertiliser but granulated mud. Preliminary enquiries made by the officials of the State Government and the Government of India showed, that *prima facie* it was a case in which some anti-social elements had got mud granulated in Bombay and sold it as imported Di-Ammonium Phosphate to some private dealers in Punjab after despatching it under fraudulent bookings as from the "Food Corporation of India". Action was taken by the State Government authorities to confiscate the relevant records available with the dealers in the State, and by the Union Ministry of Agriculture, in consultation with the Ministry of Railways, to confiscate the relevant records at the Bandra Marshalling Yard Railway Station, from where the bookings had been done. The case was thereafter handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigations in August 1973, for investigation and report.

The final report from the Central Bureau of Investigations has not yet been received, but according to the two Progress Reports received the accused have already been identified and four persons have been arrested.

In the reports received so far from the Central Bureau of Investigations, there is no indication to show that the Fertilizer Corporation of India as an Organization or any official of the Fertilizer Corporation of India, is involved in this case.