

[Secretary]

Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 7th May, 1959, agreed without any amendment to the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Amendment Bill, 1959, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th May, 1959"

11 05 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

EIGHTEENTH REPORT

Dr P. Subbarayan (Tiruchengode)
I beg to present the Eighteenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts (including Proforma Commercial Accounts) (Civil) 1955-56 and Audit Report, 1957

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ABNORMAL RISE IN PRICES OF SUGAR IN U P

Shri S M Banerjee (Kanpur)
Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Food and Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon

"The abnormal rise in the prices of sugar in Uttar Pradesh and the steps taken by Government in regard thereto"

Will you kindly allow us to put some questions because there were a number of adjournment motions and short notice questions on this?

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad)
There were several adjournment motions

Mr. Speaker: I have received the short notice question also If, how-

ever, there are one or two questions, I will allow

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):
Although the production of sugar this year is likely to be somewhat less than that of the last year, this year's production together with the carry-over from the last year is sufficient to meet the country's requirements of consumption during the current sugar year. Some unscrupulous persons, however, have been trying to create a scare in some towns of Uttar Pradesh particularly in Lucknow and Kanpur, which has led to a spurt in the prices. The retail prices in Lucknow and Kanpur have gone up by 10 to 20 per cent.

For some time it has been the policy of Government to increase the quantity of sugar to be sold through direct allocations by the Government and to correspondingly reduce the quantities to be sold by the mills, while the overall quantities allocated by the Government and sold by the mills remain at the old level. This has been done to control the market conditions and the allocations by the Government will be strengthened as need arises. It appears some persons have wrongly spread the rumour that the overall quota has been reduced. Thus the rise is totally unwarranted and is temporary. The Government of India have also advised the State Governments to license the wholesale dealers in sugar. Further, to counteract the rise, Government have released 5 000 tons of sugar for Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad, Agra and Varanasi during the last four days as against a release of about 3,500 tons during the whole of the month of April. Part of the sugar recently allocated is on the move and would soon be reaching the destinations. It is hoped that the sugar market in Uttar Pradesh will soon be under control.

Shri S M Banerjee: I want to know what action has been taken or is being taken against those who have created this situation. Secondly, has the hon.