

[Shri Tyagi]

priation Accounts (Civil), 1961-62 and Audit Report (Civil), 1963 relating to Ministries of External Affairs, Food and Agriculture, Health, Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Labour and Employment and Law.

12.15½ hrs.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that under rule (19) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, I have nominated Shri T. H. Sonavane to the Panel of Chairmen in addition to the existing members of the panel.

12.16 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: DELHI STATE CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE STORES' DEALINGS IN GUR

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): Sir, I want to make a statement on the Delhi State Central Co-operative Stores and its dealings in gur.

On 18th November, 1963 a permit was issued by the Director of Food and Civil Supplies of the Delhi Administration in favour of Delhi State Central Co-operative Stores Limited, authorising them to import 300 tons of gur from Uttar Pradesh under the Gur Movement Control Order, 1963. Prior to that a licence was issued in favour of the Stores to deal in gur on the 16th November, 1963 by the Director of Food and Civil Supplies under the Delhi Khandsari and Gur Dealers' Licensing Order, 1963. The licence specified only one place of business, namely, 8/4, D.B. Gupta Road Delhi. On 29th November, 1963, the Secretary of the Society, Miss Sulhan, informed the Director of Food and Civil Supplies verbally and then in writing that the gur was being stored in 5 depots, namely, Medaganj, Phuta Road, Nangloi Regal Buildings and Jagannath Market. It is stated that the Director had informed the Secretary that no licence was required for storage and sale of less than 50 quintals at any

one place. It is also stated that the Director had verbally approved of the storage at these five places. But the Directorate did not issue any licence for effecting sales at the above 5 depots or at three other places where they were subsequently stored. It seems that in three places out of the above five places, Medaganj, Phuta Road and Nangloi, and at Najafgarh also, gur was not only stored exceeding 50 quintals but was also sold exceeding 50 quintals involving a breach of clause (3) of the Delhi Khandsari & Gur Dealers' Licensing Order punishable under section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act. The Directorate only approved of storage in these unlicensed premises and not sale.

With regard to the sale of the gur thus imported it seems the sale took place prior to the 5th December, 1963 at first at rates varying from Rs. 80 to Rs. 85 per quintal and later on at rates varying between Rs. 66 and Rs. 69 per quintal for wholesale and Rs. 69 and Rs. 71 for retail sale. At that time no order was issued by the Director of Food and Civil Supplies fixing the price for the sale of the gur in question.

On the 6th December, 1963 the Director had fixed the price of the gur in question as follows:—

Quality of gur	Quantity in quintals	Wholesale rate per quintal
1. Gur Pansera	726.30	66.00
2. Gur Chakoo	241.19	68.00
3. Gur Khurpa	649.49	69.00
4. Gur Ladoo	198.25	69.00

After the aforesaid fixation of price, the Stores do not appear to have sold any gur at prices exceeding the prices fixed as above.

In these circumstances, the Delhi Administration took the opinion of the Secretary, Ministry of Law, who opined that there was a case for prosecution against the persons responsible for sale of the gur from