

12.26½ hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:

'In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 1st December, 1965, agreed without any amendment to the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes (Amendment) Bill, 1965, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th September, 1965.'

12.27 hrs.

STATEMENT UNDER DIRECTION
115 RE. SPECIAL AUDIT REPORT ON ORISSA GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi): Sir, in reply to a leading Supplementary of Shri R. C. Mallick to a Starred Question No. 2, dated the 3rd November, 1965, "May I know whether it is a fact that no allegation has been proved in the audit report and therefore, Shri R. N. Singh Deo, the Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, Orissa, and now the Leader of the Opposition, wants to postpone the thing and the matter has been deliberately delayed whereas the Chief Minister of Orissa has asked him to discuss the matter in the Public Accounts Committee as soon as possible", the Home Minister, Shri G. L. Nanda stated "Yes, it is a correct factual statement".

All the charges have not yet been enquired into by any agency. Whatever financial transactions the Audit have examined, they have made adverse and serious remarks.

The P.A.C. Chairman, Shri R. N. Singh Deo's press statement of 4th November clearly states that by that time he was not aware of any such request by the Chief Minister, Orissa, to expedite matters. On the other hand, in spite of repeated requests being made by the P.A.C. to make the Audit Report available earlier, the Government made delay in placing their report in the Assembly even though they received it in May, 1965. The P.A.C. Chairman further says that it would be unfair to expect to hustle the Committee to act in a hasty manner. Sir, I must say that the Home Minister should not put the blame on the P.A.C. Chairman, Orissa, who is not present here to defend himself, specially when the Audit Report only deals with a part of the very serious charges made in the memorandum to the President against the former Orissa Ministers.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Nanda): Shri P. K. Deo has made a statement in the House now in connection with the reply I gave on the floor of the House to Shri R. C. Mallick's Supplementary to Starred Question No. 2 on the 3rd November, 1965.

The Supplementary Question was a rather lengthy one. It was the latter part of the Question that I had in mind when I said that "it was a correct factual statement". This part referred to the Leader of the Opposition wanting to postpone consideration of the Special Audit Report and the Chief Minister asking him to expedite its consideration.

In accepting the position as factually correct, I was relying on the letter dated the 27th October, 1965, by the Chief Minister to the Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, Orissa. In this letter he wrote:

"In view of the great anxiety shown by you at that time, I

[Shri Nanda]

am rather surprised that while the report was placed in the Assembly over a month back and when the Public Accounts Committee is seized of the Report, you now wish to delay its consideration by six months."

He had also further suggested—

"If you find that the Public Accounts Committee cannot legitimately do justice to the consideration of the entire 1965 Audit Report within a short period, I am sure, the Special Audit Report contained in Chapter IV of the 1965 Report could be conveniently considered by the Public Accounts Committee within two or three weeks. In this case, the report could be placed in the next session of the Assembly scheduled to meet on the 29th of next month."

In the concluding paragraph he wrote,—

"Since this report was called for at your instance, it is only right and proper that the present Public Accounts Committee under your Chairmanship should consider it, and not leave it over till March next year to a new Committee. I trust that you would reconsider your decision. Inordinate delay would be against public interest."

A copy of this letter forms an annexure to this statement. The receipt of this letter has subsequently been acknowledged by Shri R. N. Singh Deo after his Press Conference on the 4th November, 1965. In his reply to the Chief Minister he has stated that he had received the letter on the 7th November as he was on tour.

It is unfortunate that the hon. Member thinks that I am trying to place the blame on the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. It has never been my intention to cast any aspersion on him.

ANNEXURE

SADASIVA TRIPATHI,
Chief Minister,
Orissa State.

BRUBANESWAR

The 27th October, 1965.

My dear Sri Singh Deo,

I understand that the consideration of the Special Audit Report is going to be postponed till March next year when a new Public Accounts Committee will be appointed. I consider this as most unfortunate.

In this connection I would like to draw your attention to your letter dated the 24th July, 1965, where you accused me and the Government for deliberately delaying summoning of the Assembly to avoid placing the Special Audit Report before the Assembly. In view of the great anxiety shown by you at that time, I am rather surprised that while the report was placed in the Assembly over a month back and when the Public Accounts Committee is seized of the Report, you now wish to delay its consideration by six months. After all, it was Sri Biju Patnaik, who as Chief Minister, ordered the Special Audit only at your instance. In the last session of the Assembly you also congratulated him for his democratic action. A great deal of public commotion was created and many wild charges have been levelled against Sri Patnaik and my predecessor. Consequently, it is high time that there must be some finality of facts. What the State Government, the Assembly and the public wish to know is, whether Government have shown any undue favours to the firms concerned and if so what exactly is the loss to the Exchequer by Government's undue patronage.

If you find that the Public Accounts Committee cannot legitimately do justice to the consideration of the entire 1965 Audit Report within a short period, I am sure, the Special Audit Report contained in Chapter IV of the 1965 Report could be conveniently considered by the Public Accounts Committee within two or three weeks. In this case, the report could be placed in the next session of the Assembly scheduled to meet on the 29th of next month.

Since this report was called for at your instance, it is only right and proper that the present Public Accounts Committee under your Chairmanship should consider it, and not leave it over till March next year to a new Committee. I trust that you would reconsider your decision. Inordinate delay would be against public interest.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) S. TRIPATHI.

SHRI R. N. SINGH DEO, M.L.A.,
Leader of the Opposition and
Chairman, Public Accounts
Committee, Orissa,
Bhubaneswar.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Sir, it would have been fair on his part to have reproduced his reply to the Chief Minister.

Mr. Speaker: That reply has been attached to that statement.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: No, Sir. He has only referred to the letter of the Chief Minister to the Leader of the Opposition. The letter of the leader of the Opposition to the Chief Minister—he has sent a reply also—should be placed on the Table of the House in all fairness.

Mr. Speaker: Has he got that? (Interruption). Order, order.

12.31 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FORTY-SECOND REPORT

Shri Rane (Buldana): I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Forty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 3rd December, 1965."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Forty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 3rd December, 1965."

The motion was adopted.

12.32 hrs.

DISPLACED PERSONS (COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION) AMENDMENT BILL*

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Tyagi): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954."

The motion was adopted

Shri Tyagi: I introduce the Bill.