

could not be opened at Calicut because there was no International Airport there. But even after an Airport has started functioning at Karipur, no steps have been taken by the authorities to open the Immigration Office. It is therefore requested that immediate steps should be taken in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet again at 2.40 p.m.

13.39 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till forty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.47 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at forty seven minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair.*)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Memorandum of Understanding between the Madras Refineries Ltd. and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for 1991-92 etc.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Madras Refineries Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1992-93
[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 2370/92]
- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Cochin Refineries Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1992-93.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 2371/92]

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Oil India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1992-93.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2372/92]
- (4) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1992-93.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 2373/92]
- (5) Memorandum of Understanding between the IBP Company Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1992-93.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 2374/92]

Review on the Working of and Annual Report of the Rajasthan State Agro Industries Corporation Ltd., Jaipur for 1988-89 and reasons for delay in laying these Papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Rajasthan State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1988-89.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Rajasthan State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1988-89 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay

In laying the papers mentioned at
(1) above
[Placed in Library. See No. LT -
2375/92]

14.48 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Drought Situation in Various Parts of the Country - *CONTD.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will you take Discussion under Rule 193 on the prevailing drought situation in various parts of the country. Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, I need not tell either the House or the hon. Minister that drought is very devastating than flood in terms of long-term consequences. Drought has a long term effect unlike flood. We remember that long time back, Panditji said that floods have a benign effect also. Now this is a problem which we cannot control. We cannot control rains. They neither follow the rules of procedure of the Parliament nor are they guided by the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India. The point is that there two kinds of consequences to which I would like to draw the attention of the Agriculture Minister. I have only questions to make.

There are short-term consequences and those short-term consequences generally could mean that every year, there is drought somewhere or the other. Firstly, there should be a contingency plan generating income in the drought affected areas. This should be the first thing because people who live on agriculture lose all their income. Secondly, there should be a package plan. Arrangements for transportation of food and fodder to these drought affected areas from the rest of the country should be there. Thirdly - I am a little perplexed here and I do not really know what the solution is - since income cannot be generated adequately,

food has to be subsidised and fodder has to be subsidised. We know the difficulties. There is an imposed restriction on giving of subsidies from forces outside our country. In the Budget also we are proposing that there should be reduction in subsidies. This is a problem to which, I do not know whether the Minister of Agriculture alone can give an answer. I really do not know. But subsidies have to be there. Then, there is the problem of import intervention. Given the situation in our economy, it is extremely difficult unless our export-import policy is modified to that extent. After the compression of imports last year, we have already started relaxing and during this March and April, we are having a record deficit in our balance of trade. Unless there is some import of foodgrains, the situation cannot improve. Given the very low level of our foodgrain stocks, I have to say this and I do not know what answer the Minister of Agriculture will give. But I must say that this is a question which is almost eating into my mind. And I do not know the answer. I leave it to you. These are the short-term consequences.

But there are long term consequences also. In the long term consequences I formulate drought as non-availability of water - not only quantitatively but qualitatively too. We know the famous adage: 'Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink.' You see water but you cannot meet the problem of drought. I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and through him, the Minister of Water Resources to the problem of drinking water supply also. In West Bengal, we are going to be affected in a very long term way with regard to good quality water supply which is being affected by arsenic poisoning. I do not know whether he knows about it. In several districts on the left bank of River Hooghly, water is infected with high deposits of arsenic. Not only the top layers of water, but water at deeper levels, even at the third level, is affected with this arsenic. The districts of 24 Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Malda, Burdwan and Birbhum are affected in this way. Some studies have been made by the Centre and also by the State and it is reported that certain arsenic deposits in Chota Nagpur Hills are passing,