

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

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

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 125 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 21st May, 1956, agreed without any amendment to the Agricultural Produce (Development and Warehousing) Corporations Bill, 1956, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th May, 1956."

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

FIFTY-FOURTH REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda) : I beg to present the fifty-fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

PETITION *re.* INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS ACT

Shri Viswanatha Reddy (Chittoor) : I beg to present a petition signed by a petitioner relating to the amendment of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Act and Rules framed thereunder.

CONSTITUTION (TENTH AMENDMENT) BILL

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda) : I beg to present the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

EXODUS OF HINDUS FROM EAST PAKISTAN

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): I would like to make a short statement on the question of the exodus of Hindus from East Pakistan to India, which has been causing great anxiety to the Government of

India. Arising out of the discussions between the Pakistan Foreign Minister and the Minister for Rehabilitation during his visit to Karachi for the Pakistan Republic Day celebrations, the Pakistan Prime Minister suggested a meeting at ministerial level at Dacca to discuss this problem. The Government of India accepted the suggestion.

The talks were held on the 5th and the 6th May, 1956. The Indian Delegation, led by the Minister for Law and Minority Affairs, comprised among others the Minister for Rehabilitation, the Deputy Minister for External Affairs, the Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan and the Minister for Labour, West Bengal Government. The Pakistan Delegation, which was led by their Foreign Minister, included among others their Minister for Minority Affairs and the Chief Minister of East Pakistan and their High Commissioner in India.

There was a frank exchange of views between the two Delegations on the causes of migration and possible remedies for checking it. It was agreed that the minorities were the responsibility of the Government of the country to which they belonged and that they should look up to their own Government for the redress of their legitimate grievances. On their part, the Government should ensure conditions in which the minorities are enabled to live in happiness and security as equal citizens with members of the majority community.

The problem of the minority communities in East Pakistan was accordingly one to be solved by the East Pakistan Government, but the Government of India would be happy to extend all possible co-operation to the Government of Pakistan in solving it.

On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, their representatives reiterated the determination to safeguard fully and effectively the right of the minorities to live honourably as full citizens of Pakistan as guaranteed by the Pakistan Constitution. It was stated that the Government of East Pakistan had already taken certain measures with a view to restoring confidence among the minorities. An Advisory Board consisting of M.L.A's of all non-Muslim political parties had been appointed with the Chief Minister as President. This Board would supervise the implementation of measures considered necessary