

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Members know that it is this House which has passed legislation on these matters. So far as the Representation of the People Act is concerned, the hon. Members know that a short time before the elections actually take place, the dates are announced.

An Hon. Member: The exact date.

Mr. Speaker: That is what the Commission has to do. No Minister of the Government can do so. So far as the general impression as to when the elections will take place is concerned, as at present advised the spokesman of the Government has said that the elections will be in February or March. What is the meaning of pinning the Government to a particular date which they are not competent to say in this House?

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AMENDMENTS TO AIR CORPORATIONS RULES

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 44 of the Air Corporations Act, 1953, a copy of each of the following Notifications making certain further amendments to the Air Corporations Rules, 1954:

- (1) Notification No. 7-CA(9)/55, dated the 20th August, 1956.
- (2) Notification No. 7-CA(10)/55, dated the 17th August, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. S-411/56].

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUNDS ACT

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai Desai): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.R.O. 2026, dated the 8th September, 1956, under sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Employees Provident Funds Act, 1952.

I also beg to lay on the Table a Copy of the Notification No. S.R.O. 2027, dated the 8th September, 1956, under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees Provident Funds Act, 1952.

[Placed in Library. See No. S-412/56].

REPORT ON TRAVANCORE-COCHIN STATE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report on the Travancore-Cochin State Transport Department by Shri K. P. Velu Pillay, in pursuance of an assurance given on the 3rd September, 1956, by the Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1255 regarding Travancore-Cochin State Transport Department, by Shri V. P. Nayyar. [Placed in Library. See No. S-413/].

Shri Kamath: What was his name?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: His name is Shri K. P. Velu Pillay. It is given in the order paper itself.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members must look at the Order Paper.

DELIMITATION COMMISSION, INDIA, FINAL ORDERS

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 9A of the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, a copy of each of the Delimitation Commission, India, Final Orders Nos. 32 to 35, published in the Gazettes of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, dated the 30th July, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. S-414/56].

AMENDMENTS TO CENTRAL EXCISE RULES

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha): I beg to lay on the Table under section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, a copy of the Central Excises Notification No. 10-CER/56, dated the 1st September, 1956, making certain further amendments to the Central Excise Rules, 1944. [Placed in Library. See No. S-415/56].

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Shri Altekar (North Satara): I beg to lay on the Table the minutes of the sittings of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House (Seventeenth to

[Shri Altekar]

Nineteenth) held during the Twelfth and Thirteenth Sessions. [Placed in Library. See No. S-41/56].

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 sub-rule (6) of rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Central Excises and Salt (Amendment) Bill, 1956, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd September, 1956, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILL

Secretary: Sir, I have to inform the House that the Travancore-Cochin Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1956, which was passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current Session was assented to by the President on the 9th September, 1956.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

TENTH REPORT

Shri S. C. Deb (Cachar-Lushai Hills): I beg to present the Tenth Report of the Committee on Petitions.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

FLOODS IN TEHRI-GARHWAL

Shrimati Kamalendu Mati Shah (Garhwal Distt.—West cum Tehri Garhwal * Distt. cum Bijnor Distt.—

North): Under Rule 216, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"Floods in Tehri-Garhwal and relief rendered."

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): I have a fairly long statement running to a number of cyclostyled pages.

Mr. Speaker: He may place it on the Table of the House.

Statement

In Tehri Garhwal floods occurred in the night of 14th-15th August 1956 in Nailchami Gad and its rivulets affecting 5 *patties of Deoprayag Tahsil namely Nailchami, Badiyargarh, Karakot, Dagarkri and Soura Bhar-dhar. 250 acres of lands in 70 villages were affected. 10 persons are reported to have lost their lives and none was injured. 8 cattle were lost. 2 houses and 7 pucca cattle sheds collapsed and a number of houses were damaged. The estimated value of collapsed houses is Rs. 10,000. The total value of the loss in these floods is estimated at Rs. 20 lakhs.

2. Detailed report Patti-wise is as follows:—

Patti Nailchami. Floods this year in Nailchami surpassed all previous floods. Irrigated land on either side of Nailchami were devastated and dry land on higher levels were damaged. Almost all villages of the patti have been badly affected. Landslides have occurred, roads have been breached at several places and four bridges have been washed away dislocating traffic completely. Half of the community orchard of village Bhatwari has been destroyed by floods. Some *diggis and Guls* (small reservoirs and minor channels) constructed on subsidy basis have been damaged. No loss of human life is reported but some

*Patwari Revenue Circles.