

MESSAGES FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATES

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following two messages received from the Secretary of the Council of States:—

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Bill, 1953, which has been passed by the Council of States at its sitting held on the 16th February, 1954."

(ii) "I am directed to inform the House of the People that the Council of States at its sitting held on the 16th February, 1954 has passed the following motion extending the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Special Marriage Bill, 1952:—

MOTION

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to provide a special form of marriage in certain cases, and for the registration of such and certain other marriages, be extended upto Thursday, the 18th March, 1954."

DRUGS AND MAGIC REMEDIES
(OBJECTIONABLE ADVERTISEMENTS) BILL

Secretary: Sir, I lay the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Bill, 1953, as passed by the Council of States, on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT RE: COMMONWEALTH
FINANCE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE
HELD IN SYDNEY

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): With your permission, Sir, I wish to make a statement on the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Conference held recently at Sydney, which I attended on behalf of the Government of India.

This Conference is one of a series held in recent years with the object of facilitating consultations among Commonwealth countries in regard to the economic policies that should be followed by the Sterling Area countries in order to strengthen their balance of payments and to promote the expansion of world production and trade. The deliberations of the Conference and its conclusions were published in a Press Communiqué in Sydney on the 15th January 1954 and I am laying a copy of it on the Table of the House for the information of hon. Members. [Placed in Library. See No. S-20/54.]

During the period of over a year which had elapsed since the last Conference met in December 1952, there had been an improvement in the balance of payments position of the sterling area. The action taken in the previous years had enabled it to overcome the crisis in its central reserves of gold and dollars and a continuous deficit had been turned into a moderate surplus during 1953. This encouraging result has been achieved by the determined action of member countries in following sound economic policies, internal and external. The essence of these policies is that each country should maximise its production and development and achieve.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let there be no talking, please.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh:...a competitive position in foreign markets so that its exports and balance of payments may be maintained and an expansion of world trade as a whole secured. It is not sufficient for this pur-