

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORTS OF GOVERNMENT COMPANIES

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of Section 639 of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy of each of the following Reports:—

- (i) Annual Report of the Indian Rare Earths (Private) Limited for the year 1957-58 along with the Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1263/59]

- (ii) Annual Report of the Travancore Minerals (Private) Limited for the year 1957-58 along with the Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1264/59].

AMENDMENT TO CENTRAL SILK BOARD RULES

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 13 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, a copy of Notification No. G. S. R. 208 dated the 21st February, 1959 making certain further amendment to the Central Silk Board Rules, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1265/59].

NOTIFICATION ISSUED UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

Shri Manubhai Shah: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a copy of Notification No. S.O. 250 dated the 31st January, 1959 as amended by Notification No. S.O. 291 dated the 7th February, 1959.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1266/59].

HALF-YEARLY REPORT OF COIR BOARD

Shri Manubhai Shah: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section

(1) of Section 19 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953, a copy of the Report on the working of the Coir Board for the half-year ending the 30th September, 1958.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1267/59].

12.14 hrs.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

NINTH REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Bhatinda): Sir, I beg to present the Ninth Report of the Committee of Privileges.

12.15 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ACTIVITIES OF HOSTILE NAGAS IN ASSAM

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri (Nabardwip): Sir, under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

“The resumption of activities by the hostile Nagas in Assam.”

But, Sir, the Prime Minister has gone.

Mr. Speaker: There is another Minister who will answer it.

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Sir, on the evening of the 20th February, 1959, two separate groups of Naga Home Guards, each estimated at 40 to 50 in strength, armed with rifles and stenguns and wearing olive-green military uniforms carried out raids on Naga-Jangka and Naginijan Tea Estates under Titabar and Teok Police Stations in the Sibsagar District of Assam. Naga-Jangka Tea garden is about 15 miles South East of Jorhat and Naginijan is about 20 miles South East of Jorhat. The two Tea Estates

are separated by a distance of about 6 miles.

12.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

In the first case the raiders, who apparently lay in ambush near Naga-Jangka Tea garden earlier in the day, overpowered 7 labourers of the garden who had gone that side for shooting in the foot-hills and snatched away two guns with 9 cartridges from them. All the labourers except one were detained for the whole day and released after sun-set. The person who was detained was later made to show the raiders the Marwari firms. At about 7.30 P.M. the Naga Home Guards came down to the garden and divided themselves into two groups. One group attacked the firm of the garden Banker and at the point of rifles looted away cash, ornaments and other food-stuffs of the approximate value of Rs. 10,000. The other group ransacked a shop nearby in the village and took away cash and other articles valued at Rs. 3,000. During their retreat, the Naga Home Guards opened fire indiscriminately towards the garden hospital, killing two women labourers and injuring five others. Three of the seriously injured persons were removed to Cinamara Central Hospital. The Naga Home Guards also forced one labourer to carry a bag of rice with them. He was released at 10.30 A.M. on the following morning.

On receipt of the information regarding this raid at the nearest Army post at Mariani (9 miles South East of Jorhat), the Company Commander along with one platoon moved out of Mariani and reached Nagejunka at 20.00 hours. The troops searched the area up to the border along the route alleged to have been taken by the raiders, but could not contact the raiders.

On the same evening the second batch of raiders looted about 40 shops in Naginijan bazar under Teok Police Station and took away cash, clothes, foodstuffs and other articles. Later

they (NHGs) looted two Marwari shops and removed cash and properties worth Rs. 500 and Rs. 150 respectively. The NHGs also attacked several pedestrians and cyclists and looted two cycles and a few wrist-watches and small purses etc. On their way back, they looted a liquor shop and took away about Rs. 5,000 in cash and four gallons of liquor. The owner of the liquor shop was taken as hostage at the point of rifle for a distance of about a mile and then released with a warning not to disclose the identity of the raiders.

On receipt of the information of this raid two sections of Assam Police moved from Debrapara (12 miles South East of Jorhat) to Naginijan and reached the place of incident at 21.30 hours on the same day. No raiders, however, could be contacted.

It appears that the intention of the raiders in both the cases was to loot cash, clothing and other articles. Several cases have been registered in Titabar and Teok Police Stations. We have also received information indicating that Naga Hostiles are intensifying activities on the borders of Manipur and the Assam Plains.

The Army has taken immediate measures to prevent recurrence of such raids. The steps taken include the following:—

(a) Intensive day and night patrolling throughout the Plains Sector is being carried out. The patrols have been instructed to visit the maximum number of villages along border to restore confidence amongst the locals.

(b) Ambushes are being laid at all likely approaches and routes from the hills.

(c) Mobile patrols have been ordered.

(d) Army posts have been established at Hunwal MZ 7394 (12 miles South East of Jorhat) and Naginijan.

(e) Railway tracks are being patrolled.

Closure of Maheshwari
Devi Jute Mills

[Shrimati Lakshmi Menon]

(f) All night trains are being escorted.

(g) Action is being taken to comb the Naga Hills-Tuensang Area which adjoins the Plains Sector.

mills would be closed from the 24th March, 1959, for the following reasons:

(i) Management's inability to bear further losses;

(ii) Low production due to non-cooperation of Labour;

(iii) Deterioration in plant and machinery;

(iv) Unsatisfactory conditions in jute trade; and

(v) Failure to raise adequate finances to replace old machinery.

The closure of the mills is likely to involve 1,118 workers. The State Government are examining the reasons for closure with a view to rendering such legitimate assistance as may be possible.

The Mills had applied in August, 1957, for a loan from the National Industrial Development Corporation for modernization of its machinery. The Corporation could not, however, agree to the grant of the loan as the security offered was inadequate.

12.19 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: CLOSURE OF
MAHESHWARI DEVI JUTE MILLS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Abid Ali.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, before the hon. Minister makes the statement, I would like to seek one clarification.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not usual to allow any questions after the statement has been made.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the time I submitted my adjournment motion I said that the hon. Minister for Commerce and Industry will make a statement, because my adjournment motion related to the Commerce and Industry Ministry. I want to know whether the hon. Minister, Shri Abid Ali, is making a statement now which has the concurrence of the Minister of Commerce and Industry, because the real problem related to him.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister.

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): The hon. Member, Shri S. M. Banerjee, wanted to know the position with regard to the notice of closure of the Maheshwari Devi Jute Mills, Kanpur.

The subject of industrial relations concerning jute industry is within the State sphere. Therefore, details had to be obtained from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. According to the information received from them, the Maheshwari Devi Jute Mills, Kanpur, has put up a notice of closure on the 23rd February, 1959, notifying that the

12.22 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business for the week commencing Monday, the 9th March, will consist of—

(1) General Discussion of General Budget.

(2) Submission to the Vote of the House of Demands on Account.

(3) Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha:

(i) Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Bill; and