

**STANDARDS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
 RULES**

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 17 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956, a copy of the Standards of Weights and Measures Rules, 1958, published in Notification No. S.O. 2408 dated the 22nd November, 1958. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1100/58].

12-03 hrs.

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILL

Secretary: Sir, I lay on the Table the Tea (Alteration in Duties of Customs and Excise) Bill, 1958 passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current Session and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 17th November, 1958.

12.03½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

TENTH REPORT

Shri Ranga (Tenali): I beg to present the Tenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations disclosed in the Appropriation Accounts (Civil), 1955-56.

12-03½ hrs.

**STATEMENT RE: SUPPLEMENTARY
 DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
 FOR 1958-59**

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): On behalf of Shri B. R. Bhagat, I beg to present a statement showing Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1958-59.

12-03½ hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A
 MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
 IMPORTANCE**

FALL IN JUTE PRICES

Shri Rajendra Singh (Chapra): Under Rule 197 I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

‘the plight of jute growers in the country due to the sharp fall in jute prices.’

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): Some Hon'ble Members have shown concern about the recent fall in jute prices, and I am, therefore, taking this opportunity to place the facts of the situation before the House and to state the steps which have been taken or are proposed to be taken to arrest the downward trend.

The production of jute and mesta in the country has during recent years shown an appreciable increase. In 1953-54 the production amounted to 37.47 lakh bales and the area under jute and mesta was about 18.84 lakh acres. The production in 1958-59 of both jute and mesta is estimated at 62 to 65 lakh bales and the area under cultivation is only 18.94 lakh acres. On almost the same acreage productions has shown a steep increase. It is realised that the increased production is largely due to the special efforts made by the cultivator coupled with the assistance rendered by the Government under the Grow More Jute programme towards improved methods of cultivation, utilisation of better seeds etc.

The average price for Assam middle in 1953-54 was Rs. 29.5 per maund. The price which prevailed in the recent months for this same quality ranged from Rs. 24 to Rs. 27 per maund. Though there has been some