

[Shri B. Gopala Reddi]

(iii) G.S.R. 1265 dated the 29th October, 1960.

(iv) G.S.R. 1266 dated the 29th October, 1960.

(v) G.S.R. 1325 dated the 12th November, 1960. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2461/60].

(3) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 1324 dated the 12th November, 1960, under sub-section (4) of Section 43B of the Sea Customs Act, 1878 and Section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2462/60].

(4) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 1321 dated the 12th November, 1960 making certain further amendments to the Central Excise Rules, 1944, under Section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2463/60].

(5) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 1257 dated the 29th October, 1960 making certain further amendment to the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Rules, 1956, under sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2464/60].

STATEMENT RE: MADHYA PRADESH FOOD ZONE

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): The House is aware that we had been pursuing for some time the question of linking Madhya Pradesh with Maharashtra and Gujarat States, so that the surplus wheat and rice of Madhya Pradesh could move freely to the other two States. I am glad to announce that an agreement has now been reached.

The Madhya Pradesh Government are issuing an order under which the wholesale dealers of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat States who

want to undertake export of wheat and rice from Madhya Pradesh will be granted licences freely for this purpose. Such licensed dealers will have the authority to export wheat and rice from Madhya Pradesh to Maharashtra or Gujarat State without any export permit.

Since Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat States taken together are surplus in rice, it has been decided that a levy of 25 per cent should be imposed by the Central Government on the licensed mills and dealers in the main rice producing districts.

So far as wheat is concerned, the Government of India have adequate stocks and there is, therefore, at present no need for any procurement of wheat by or for the Central Government. The Madhya Pradesh Government also hold at present a large stock of wheat and therefore do not propose to impose any levy. They may, however, impose a levy on wheat later if they find it necessary. We hope that this new arrangement will work to the best advantage of all the three States.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): The Food Minister has said that he is thinking on the lines of abolishing these zones. What has happened to that proposal? In view of the surplus stocks, is he going to abolish the zones with regard to wheat at least?

Shri S. K. Patil: That is a step in that direction.

Shri Radhelal Vyas (Ujjain): May I know whether a copy of the agreement that has been entered into will be placed on the Table of the House? Only the substance has been given. We would like to know the details.

Shri S. K. Patil: If that is the desire of the House, I have no objection in doing so.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi (Puri): What are the main terms and conditions on which the M.P. Government

had agreed to this proposal? What is the price at which the M.P. Government is fixing for the sale of rice and wheat?

Mr. Speaker: Is the price also part of the agreement?

Shri S. K. Patil: The price is part of the agreement. These licensed dealers cannot pay greater; nor can they pay less than the price fixed so that we have protected the farmers. Nor will the Government sell at a price higher than what the Maharashtra and the Gujarat Governments fix in that connection.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla (Baloda Bazar): I want to know whether any precautions have been taken so that the farmers in the rice-growing districts do not get less than what they are getting and if any provision has been made so that they can get a little more? The M.P. Government has been requesting the Central Government to take measures so that the rice growers get a little more than what they are getting. I want to know also whether the Government have devised any means of keeping the prices in check because the prices are likely to rise because of the bigger food zone.

Shri S. K. Patil: This step has been taken in order to protect the farmer, particularly because the prices were falling to an extent where we thought that it would be a disincentive to the farmers. Therefore, what we have done is this. The licensed dealers cannot pay to the farmer anything less than the procurement price that has been fixed. In fact the farmers will get more than what they are getting today.

Shri Birendra Bahadur Singhji (Raipur): What is the procurement price for Madhya Pradesh here *vis-a-vis* Bombay and Maharashtra?

Shri S. K. Patil: That is a question of detail and if the hon. Member gives me notice, I will answer.

12-29 hrs.

COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL —contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, as reported by the Joint Committee.

The other day the Business Advisory Committee appointed a sub-committee to group the various clauses and allot the time for them. I thought that this matter should be put in the Bulletin and I think it must have appeared. We shall proceed on that basis, making here and there some small adjustments. A few minutes this way or that way does not matter.

The House will now take up clauses 2 to 16. Hon. Members will pass on to the Table in about 15 minutes the numbers of amendments which they would like to move to these clauses. I am only suggesting that this is the method we have been adopting with respect to such Bills and we shall adopt it here also subject to any other representation that may be made.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Let them first hear me. So far as clauses 2 to 16 are concerned they would be taken up together. If there is any objection or if they want any particular clause to be taken up separately they may inform me. So far as the different groups of clauses are concerned, hon. Members may immediately send chits to the Table giving the numbers of amendments which they want to press. After their chits are received here I shall declare in a concise manner the list of amendments that hon. Members want to move so that the House may know what exactly are the amendments that are being pressed.

So far as discussion on these different groups of clauses is concerned, each hon. Member who want to participate in the discussion will have only one opportunity to speak on all or any