

12.09½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications under Central Silk Board Act, Notification re: Committee on Low cost car and Annual Report of Praga Tools Corporation Ltd.

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of each of the following Notifications under sub-section (3) of Section 13 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948:—

(i) G.S.R. 1291 dated the 5th November, 1960 making certain further amendments to be Central Silk Board Contributory Provident Funds Rules, 1955.

(ii) G.S.R. 1326 dated the 12th November, 1960 making certain further amendments to the Central Silk Board Rules, 1955.

(iii) G.S.R. 1327 dated the 12th November, 1960 making certain further amendment to the Central Silk Board Study Leave Rules, 1955. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2465/60].

(2) A copy of Notification No. A.E. Ind. 1 (90)/60 dated the 20th October, 1960 regarding the appointment of an Expert Committee on the manufacture of a low cost car in India. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2466/60].

(3) (a) A copy of the Annual Report of the Praga Tools Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1958-59 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under sub-section (1) of Section 639 of the Companies Act, 1956.

(b) A copy of the review by the Government of the working of the above Corporation. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2467/60].

12.10 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

IMPORT OF COCONUT OIL AND COPRA

Shri Kunhan (Palghat—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Sir, 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 situation arising out of the policy of the Government allowing exporters of groundnut oil to import coconut oil and Copra.”

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): Sir, it is 1½ pages long; shall I read it?

Mr. Speaker: Not necessary. He may lay it on the Table.

Shri Satish Chandra: Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Coconut oil is not allowed to be imported and the question of its import by the exporters of groundnut oil does not arise.

2. Groundnut oil has been an important source of earning foreign exchange which in the year 1955 amounted to about Rs. 21 crores. Though the production of groundnut improved in subsequent years it became difficult to export groundnut oil on account of high internal prices and severe competition in foreign markets.

3. It was decided sometime ago to link the export of groundnut expeller cake carrying a good margin of profit with the export of groundnut oil to compensate the loss incurred in selling the oil at international prices. The gap between the internal and world prices widened further during the current year and this link of groundnut expeller cake became ineffective.

4. The landed cost of imported copra is much lower than its local price so that the actual users of crushers who