

- (2) A copy of the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 45(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th January, 1997, under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1738/97]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 19th March, 1997 agreed without any amendment to the National Environment Appellate Authority Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th March, 1997."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th March, 1997 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Uttar Pradesh Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th March, 1997 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (iv) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Uttar Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th March, 1997 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations

and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.02½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Fourth Report

[English]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY (Peddapalli) : Sir, I beg to present the Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Forty Sixth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

Fourth and Fifth Reports

[English]

SHRI ABDUL REHMAN ANTULAY (Kulaba) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals :

- (1) Fourth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Twenty-Sixth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on 'Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology' (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals).
- (2) Fifth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Twenty-Seventh Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on 'Fertiliser Education Policy and Projects' (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Department of Fertilisers).

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS

Improved people-to-people contacts with Pakistan

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, as hon. Members

are aware, Indo-Pakistan official level talks at Foreign Secretary level are due to be held from March 28 to 31 in New Delhi. Talks at a higher level are also expected thereafter. We approach these talks in a positive and constructive spirit.

As hon. Members would have noticed, Pakistan has announced its decision to release 38 Indian children who have been under detention in Pakistan since 1994. We appreciate this gesture. These children were travelling on Indian fishing vessels which were apprehended by Pakistani authorities over two years ago. We have made many representations on their behalf and I had raised the issue with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yakub Khan when I met him on December 18, 1996, in New Delhi. It is a matter of satisfaction that Pakistan has now responded positively, and steps have already been initiated by us to ensure that the children are brought from Pakistan to India at the earliest. May I also convey our deep gratitude to Maulana Abdul Sattar Edhi who has taken good care of them for over a year and a half while they were lodged in the Edhi Centre in Karachi.

As hon. Members are aware, travel by Pakistani nationals to India, under a reciprocal arrangement with Pakistan, is permitted only on the basis of visitors visa. These visas are meant essentially for visits to meet close relations. This is obviously very restrictive. In keeping with our policy to promote people-to-people relations, we have decided to permit Pakistani tourists to visit India in groups. This, as hon. Members will agree, is a major new unilateral step in the right direction. In addition, we have also decided to ease travel by Pakistani businessmen to India. They will now be eligible to one year multi-entry visa and, if travelling by air, they can exit and enter either through Mumbai or Delhi. The other measures to be implemented are :-

- (i) Young and elderly Pakistani visitors will be exempt from police reporting. This will give them relief from what can be a troublesome requirement.
- (ii) Visa fees for senior Pakistani citizens will be waived.
- (iii) The number of religious shrines in India which can be visited by Pakistani pilgrims will be increased.
- (iv) Expansion of cultural contacts between the two countries will be encouraged through exchanges of cultural groups, artists, poets and writers. Visits by students and journalists will also be encouraged. All these categories will be exempt from visa fees.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many Indian soldiers are still languishing in Pakistani Jails as war prisoner of 1971. What action the Government is going to take for their release?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him complete his statement, first.

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, let me complete.

- (v) Free flow of books and periodicals establishes better appreciation of each other. Therefore, India will unilaterally permit their import in keeping with our general policies.

The measures that I have announced today are designed to add to the goodwill between the peoples of the two countries. They are an emblem of our earnest desire to establish and maintain relations of friendship and cooperation with our neighbour Pakistan. I am confident that this gesture on our part will have the support of hon. Members.

Thank you...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir what has happened to the I.S.I. activities in this country...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Pakistan is violating border lines...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Question are not allowed on statement.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat now.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kindly ask the Hon'ble Minister to answer my question...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Pakistan is violating the actual line of Control in Rajasthan...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please take your seats.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, kindly direct the Minister of External Affairs to answer my question...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No questions are allowed on the statement.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, No questions are allowed on a statement in Lok Sabha. The hon'ble Member should know it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA (Khiri) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a number of our soldiers are still languishing in Pakistani jails as prisoners of war held in 1971 Indo Pak war. Will the Minister be pleased to state as to what action he is taking to get them released?...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question has not been replied. The Minister of External Affairs is bound to reply. We will listen to the Hon'ble Home Minister only after getting a reply to our earlier question...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have also expressed your concern in this House about the war prisoners of 1971 Indo Pak war. What steps are being taken to get them released. The External Minister should reply to this question. We are not ready to listen any other Minister unless we get a reply to this question, the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs has to reply this question...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Innocent citizens are being killed...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : You are not concerned about the officers who are in Pakistani jails ...*(Interruptions)* Gujral Saheb kindly tell us something about our soldiers who are in Pakistani jails... Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you may, please, direct the Minister of External Affairs...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have made your submission, now you may please sit down ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : The Minister is ready to give a reply. You may, please, ask him...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down. I am asking you to sit down but contrary to that you are standing.

(Interruption)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No question is allowed after statement but in case the Hon'ble Minister wants to say something, I have no objection.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : He may give us an assurance that he would hold talks with Pakistan in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are wasting your time. You could have made submissions in Zero Hour. If you cooperate it will benefit everyone.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, though clarification is not

allowed on the statement of Minister but it has been the tradition of Lok Sabha that on certain special matters ...*(Interruptions)* you may not allow but please at least listen to him...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I will show a number of instances where clarifications had been allowed...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever has been said by our minister of External Affairs is a unilateral gesture. It would have been better had that been a reciprocal. He should have dealt upon issues relating to ISI activities in India, POWS of 1971 and firing by Pakistani soldiers at our borders...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, simply I want to know whether you are allowing them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am not allowing.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record now.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[Translation]

Enough is enough, there are many other important issues also.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All other members have taken these seats, you please also take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not compel me.

[Translation]

After statement, there will be Zero Hour.

Shri Indrajit Gupta

(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am making request. Please cooperate with me. This time can be utilized for some other good purposes. There are other important issues.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Indrajit Gupta.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : At least you can say this much...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Umaji how many times. I have to request you. You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : You please ask the Minister so as to ensure that he would talk. Hon. Minister of Home Affairs we want a reply from you...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Parden?

(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Don't be so agitated. You should at least say that you will hold talks with Pakistan in this regard. Just say sentence...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : He will not talk because of your insistance...(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : You please don't speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Has our Government literally surrendered before Pakistan?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned for 15 minutes.

12.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty-five minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

12.37 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty-seven minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want a statement from the Minister of External Affairs. He should give us an assurance that he will come and

discuss. The wives of Pakistan POWs are not able to decide whether they are widowed or otherwise.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please be seated first and allow me to speak. Let me say one thing that will allow the Zero-Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Have some patience. Sit down, please.

[Translation]

You should also sit down. My submission is that some days ago I had mentioned in the House that during the war of 1971 we had released 90 thousand Pakistani prisoners of war but some of our prisoners of war are still in the jails, and this should be verified by the Government. If this is verified by the Government it would do the needful...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Still something left?

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : We should either get the reply from the Government or from the Hon'ble Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes he will give the reply.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : The Government does not want to say anything about extradition.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No use. Nothing is going on record. Please be seated.

12.39 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Release of persons still under Detention under Erstwhile Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act, 1987

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Home Minister to make a statement.

* Not Recorded.