FRIDAY, THE 25TH JULY, 1997
(The Rajya Sabha met in the parliament House at 11.00 a.m.)

1. INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER
Shri Inder Kumar Gujral (Prime Minister) introduced Shrimati Kamla Sinha, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs to the House.

2. RETIREMENT OF SHRIMATI V.S. RAMA DEVI AS SECRETARY GENERAL, RAJYA SABHA
Members paid tributes to Shrimati V.S. Rama Devi for her services to the House.

3. PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
Shri M. Arunachalam (Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers) laid on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals Corporation Limited, for the year 1997-98.
Shri S.R. Bommai (Minister of Human Resource Development) on behalf of Shri Muhi Ram Saikia laid on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:-
(ii) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.
(iii) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) above.
Dr. S. Venugopalachari (Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture) laid on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 109 of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984 a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation) -
Shri. P Chidambaram (Minister of Finance) laid on the Table, under Sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) together with Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:-
(1) No. 22/97, Central Excise (N. T.) dated the 25th July, 1997 regarding collection of excise duty on ingots and billets on the basis of the annual capacity of the factory manufacturing such ingots and billets.

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(2) No. 23/97-Central Excise (N. T.) dated the 25th July, 1997 regarding collection of excise duty on Hot Re-rolled products on the basis of the annual capacity of production of the factory manufacturing such products.
(5) No.26/97-Central Excise (N. T.), dated the 25th July, 1997 seeking to amend notification No. 5/94-Central Excise (N. T.) dated the 1st March, 1994 with the aim of not allowing the credit of duty paid on.
(6) No. 27/97- Central Excise (N. T.) dated the 25th July, 1997 publishing the Central Excise (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 1997.
(7) No. 42/97-Central Excise, dated the 25th July 1997 seeking to prescribe a rate of Rs.750 per metric tonne of the annual capacity of production as the duty of excise chargeable on specified ingots and billets of non-alloy steel.
(8) No. 43/97- Central Excise, dated the 25th July, 1997 seeking to prescribed with effect from 1st August, 1997 a rate of Rs 400 per metric tonne of the annual capacity of production as the duty of excise chargeable on specified hot re-rolled products on non-alloy steel.
(9) No. 44/97- Central Excise, dated the 25th July, 1997 seeking to amend notification No. 16/97-Central Excise dated the 1st April, 1997.
(10) No.45/97-Central Excise, dated the 25th July, 1997 seeking to amend notification No.38/97- Central Excise dated the 27th June, 1997.

4. MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
Secretary-General reported to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:
"I am directed to inform you that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on Thursday, the 24th July, 1997, adopted the following motion:
"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate two members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of this House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri.N. Giri Prasad died and Shrimati Kamla Sinha appointed as Minister and do communicate to this House the names of two members so nominated by Rajya Sabha".
2. I am to request that the concurrence of Rajya Sabha in the said motion, and also the names of the members of Rajya Sabha so nominated, may be communicated to this House."

5. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

6. LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Shri Abdul Gaiyur Qureshi (Madhya Pradesh) was granted leave of absence from all sittings of the House during the current Session of the Rajya Sabha.

7. MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Shri S.R. Bommai (Minister of Human Resource Development) moved:
"That in pursuance of the provisions contained in clause (i) of Sub-Section (4) of Section 3, read with Sub-Section (1) of Section 4 of the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987 (52 of 1987), this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the chairman may direct, one Member from among the Members of the House, to be a member of the All India Council for Technical Education."
The motion was adopted.

Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan (Minister of State in the Ministries of Civil Aviation and Parliamentary Affairs) announced that Government Business during
the week commencing Monday, the 28th July, 1997 will consist of:-
1. Consideration and passing of the Coast Guard (Amendment) Bill, 1996.
2. Discussion of Resolution regarding rejection of the Award given by the Board of Arbitration in CA reference No.1 of 1991 under the JCM Scheme.
5. Consideration and passing of the Export-Import Bank of India(Amendment ) Bill, 1997 as passed by Lok Sabha.
6. Consideration and passing of Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill, 1996 as passed by Lok Sabha.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
The Vice-Chairman informed Members that the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held on Thursday, the 24th July, 1997 recommended that the following business be taken up during the week commencing Monday, the 28th July, 1997:-
1. Short Duration Discussion on Police Firing on Dalits in Mumbai and atrocities committed on them in other parts of Maharashtra on Monday, the 28th July, 1997; and
2. Short Duration Discussion on complete break-down of the constitutional machinery in the State of Bihar on Tuesday, the 29th July, 1997.

10. WELCOME TO SHRI SHRINIVASRAO S. SOHONI ON ASSUMING CHARGE AS SECRETARY-GENERAL, RAJYA SABHA.
Shrimati Kamla Sinha (Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs) and Members welcomed the new Secretary-General, Shri S.S.Sohoni.

11. PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL-INTRODUCED

The motion was adopted.
(2) The code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1997
Shri H. Hanumanthappa moved for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal procedure, 1973.
The Motion was adopted.
Shri H. Hanumanthappa introduced the Bill.
Shri Suresh Pachouri moved for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the State of Uttarakhand by reorganisation of the existing State of Uttar Pradesh by carving out the districts of Almora, Nainital, Pauri Garhwal, Tehri, Dehradun, Uttarkashi, Chamoli and Pithoragarh and the Kumbha Mela area of Haridwar district therefrom and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.
The motion was adopted.
Shri Suresh Pachouri introduced the Bill.
(4) The Prevention of Environment Pollution by Distilleries Bill, 1997
Shri Suresh Pachouri moved for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the prevention of environmental pollution by wine, beer, spirituous liquor and alcohol producing distilleries which discharge toxic fumes in the air and dangerous chemicals in the water and for matters connected therewith.  

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The motion was adopted.
Shri Suresh Pachouri introduced the Bill.
Shri Suresh Pachouri moved for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the auditing of accounts of banking companies by the Comptroller and Auditor- General of India and for matters connected therewith.
The motion was adopted.
Shri Suresh Pachouri introduced the Bill.
(6) The Electricity (Priority Supply to to Rural areas and Agriculture Sector) Bill, 1997.
Miss Saroj Khaparde moved for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the compulsory supply of electricity to the agricultural sector and rural areas in order to boost the agricultural production and promotion of village industries so as to increase the foodgrain stocks and encourage agricultural exports and employment generation in rural areas and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
The motion was adopted.
Miss Saroj Khaparde introduced the Bill.
Miss Saroj Khaparde moved for leave to introduce a Bill to secure rapid, accelerated and overall development of poverty stricken and backward regions of the country which continue to suffer and languish in the matter of development in the economic, social educational and industrial fields, by establishing an autonomous Central authority for assured and speedy development of such regions in a planned manner and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
The motion was adopted.
Miss Saroj Khaparde introduced the Bill.
(8) The Press and Registration of Books (Amendment) Bill, 1997
Shri V.N. Gadgil moved for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.
The motion was adopted.
Shri V.N. Gaadgil introduced the Bill.
Shri. V.N. Gadgil Moved for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the compulsory teaching of Sanskrit language in Schools.
The motion was adopted.
Shri V.N. Gadgil introduced the Bill.
(10) The High Court of Andhra Pradesh (Establishment of a permanent bench at Visakhapatnam) Bill, 1997
Dr. Y. Lakshmi Prasad moved for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh At Visakhapatnam.
The motion was adopted.
Dr. Y. Lakshmi Prasad introduced the Bill.
Shri Som Pal moved for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the Administration of the Council of States.
The motion was adopted.
Shri Som Pal introduced the Bill.
(12) The House of the people (Administration) Bill, 1997
Shri Som Pal moved leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the administration of the
House of the People.
The motion was adopted.
Shri Som Pal introduced the Bill.

12 PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL-UNDER CONSIDERATION
The public Interest Litigation (Regulation) Bill, 1996
Further discussion of the motion for consideration of the Bill moved by Shri Suresh
Pachouri on the 16th May, 1997 continued.
Members took part in the discussion.
The discussion was not concluded.

13. STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER
Shri Inder Kumar Gujral (Prime Minister) made a statement regarding the Nagaland
peace talks.

(The House adjourned at 5.08 p.m. till 11.00 a.m. on Monday, the 28th July 1997)