

# Auditor-General's Powers To Be Defined

## 20 BILLS FOR LOK SABHA BUDGET SESSION

"The Times of India" News Service

NEW DELHI, February 11.

**A** BILL to define the duties and powers of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India is expected to be introduced in Parliament during the budget session.

The need for such legislation was felt even during Mr. C. D. Deshmukh's tenure as Finance Minister and stressed again when an audit report containing certain observations about the Defence Ministry was presented to the Lok Sabha, to which Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon took exception.

Another item of legislation, to amend and consolidate the law relating to patents, which has also been a subject-matter of public controversy, is due to be introduced and referred to a joint committee of both Houses.

There are 20 new Bills which, time permitting, the Government would like to bring forward during the session, apart from the Finance Bill to give effect to the budget proposals.

### BONUS PAYMENT

One of these, the Industries (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, would seek to provide for longer Government control over industrial undertakings taken over under Section 18-A of the Act. The Essential Commodities Act is to be amended to give legal entity to the joint plant committee to deal with planning and distribution of iron and steel industries.

The Insurance Act is to be amended to empower the Controller of Insurance to grant or refuse registration of any new insurance company.

The Payment of Bonus Bill, to give effect to the recommendations of the Bonus Commission, as accepted by the Government, is also due to be brought forward.

Other Bills which are likely to come up for consideration are the Income-Tax (Amendment) Bill to replace the ordinance promulgated by the President on January 6, the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Continuance Bill to extend the 1958 Act for a year the Central Excise and Salt (Amendment) Bill, seeking to implement certain recommendations made by the Central Excises Reorganisation Committee as accepted by the Government;

The Delhi Sales Tax Bill to replace the Bengal Act as applicable to the Union Territory, the Cardamom Bill, to set up a statutory board for the development of that industry, a Bill to enable service judges to subscribe to the general provident fund, legislation to constitute a Central security force for the better protection and security of certain industrial undertakings, the Indian Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, to make all offences under the Act cognizable and non-bailable;

The Union Territories (Direct Election to the House of the People) Bill to provide for direct election of members of the Lok Sabha from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindive Islands and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, the Delhi Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, to remove certain lacunae experienced in the working of the parent Act, the Coal-Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes (Amendment) Bill, to remove certain lacunae, the Employees' State Insurance (Amendment) Bill, to simplify the working of the scheme;

The Antiquities (Export Control)

Amendment Bill, to bring records and documents more than 75 years old within the purview of the Act, and a Bill to introduce a provident fund scheme for seamen.

There are already seven Bills pending before the Lok Sabha and six before the Rajya Sabha.

The report of the joint committee on the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill is due for presentation at the end of the first week of the budget session.

Three pending measures—the Banking Laws (Application to Co-operative Societies) Bill, the Registration of Births and Deaths Bill and the Delhi Secondary Education Bill—are due for consideration in the Lok Sabha on February 18. The other pending Bills are the Seeds Bill, the Judges (Inquiry) Bill and the Court of Wards (Rulers of Indian States) Bill.

The Press and Registration of Books (Amendment) Bill, the Employees' Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill, the Industrial Disputes (Second Amendment) Bill, the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill and the Warehousing Corporation (Supplementary) Bill are to be taken up in that order on February 18 in the Rajya Sabha.

### OPENING ON FEB. 17

The President will indicate the programme for the session while formally opening it on February 17.

P.T.I. adds: The non-official Bills, which have secured the first two positions in the ballot and are likely to come up in the Lok Sabha on February 19, are one in the name of Dr. Lohia seeking amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code and the other by Mr. Yashpal Singh seeking an amendment of the Constitution.