

I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 185 of the Navy Act, 1957:—

(i) The Navy (Pension) Amendment Regulations, 1972, published in Notification No. S.R.O. 111 in Gazette of India dated the 21st April, 1973.

(ii) The Naval Ceremonial, Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Second Amendment) Regulations, 1973, published in Notification No. S.R.O. 140 in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 1973.

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Notification mentioned at (1) (i) above. [Placed in Library See No. LT-5274/73].

ACCOUNTS COAL BOARD FOR 1970-71 AND MINERAL CONCESSIONS (3RD AMDT) RULES, 1973

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Certified Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coal Board for the year 1970-71, under sub-section (2) of section 12 of the Coal Mines (Conservation Safety and Development) Act, 1952 [Placed in Library See No LT-5273/73]

(2) A copy of the Mineral Concessions (Third Amendment) Rules, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No G.S.R. 617 in Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 1973, under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5277/73].

REVIEW AND ANNUAL REPORT OF REHABILITATION INDUSTRIES CORPN., CALCUTTA FOR 1971-72 AND EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUNDS (4TH AMDT.) SCHEME

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAGHU-NATHA REDDY): On behalf of Shri G. Venkatswamy, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government on the working of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1971-72.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1971-72 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No LT-5278 '78]

(2) A copy of the Employees Provident Funds (Fourth Amendment) Scheme, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No G.S.R. 552 in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 1972, under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 [Placed in Library See No LT-5279/73].

13 224 hrs

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

REPORTS OF STUDY TOURS OF STUDY GROUPS

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Rupar): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following:—

(1) Report of Study Tour of Study Group II of the Committee on the

Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to Madras Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Kharagpur, Midnapur and Calcutta during June-July, 1972

(2) Report of Study Tour of Study Group I of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to Kanpur and certain areas in Madhya Pradesh during October, 1972.

(3) Report of Study Tour of Study Group II of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to Bombay, Nagpur and Bhopal during February, 1973

13 23 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. TALKS IN RAWALPINDI ON INDO-BANGLADESH JOINT DECLARATION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):

As the House is aware, on the 17th April, 1973 the Governments of India and Bangladesh issued a Joint Declaration which contained an offer for the immediate and simultaneous resolution of the humanitarian issues arising out of the conflict of December, 1971. The Government of Pakistan sought certain clarifications on the Declaration and for this purpose invited the Government of India to send a Representative to explain the various provisions of the Declaration. However, at the same time the Pakistan Government in its statement of April 20, 1973 came out with certain positions on these humanitarian issues which were not acceptable to the Governments of India and Bangladesh. After an exchange of correspondence between our Foreign Minister and Pakistan's Minister of State for Defence and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Aziz Ahmed, Pakistan indicated its

willingness to discuss on the humanitarian basis the repatriation of the three categories of persons mentioned in the Declaration, namely, Pakistani persons of war and civilian internees in India, Bangladesh nationals detained in Pakistan and Pakistani nationals in Bangladesh. This exchange of correspondence took place with the knowledge and in consultation with the Bangladesh Government.

A Delegation led by the Special Ambassador of the Prime Minister of India, Shri P. N. Haskar and comprising Shri Kewal Singh, Foreign Secretary, Prof. P. N. Dhar, Secretary to the Prime Minister and senior officials from the Ministry of External Affairs, visited Rawalpindi and Islamabad and held discussions with the Pakistan Delegation from 24th July to 31st July, 1973. The Pakistan Delegation was led by Mr. Aziz Ahmed, Pakistan's Minister of State for Defence and Foreign Affairs and included Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Mr. Agha Shahi and other Senior Officials.

During the course of these talks, question relating to simultaneous repatriation of the three categories of persons mentioned in the Joint India-Bangladesh declaration were discussed in full detail. In the context of normalising the situation in the sub-continent, the two sides also reviewed the progress made so far in implementing the Simla Agreement. The Pakistan side acknowledged the fact that the Joint India-Bangladesh Declaration which had separated political considerations from the humanitarian issues was a step forward and paved the way for an early resolution of these issues. Some progress was made in defining these issues and it was agreed between the two Delegations that a point had been reached where further consideration by both sides was necessary. It was, therefore, agreed that the current discussions be adjourned and later resumed at New Delhi on 18th August, 1973.