

[Shri F. A. Ahmed]

(x) Development Council for Drugs and Pharmaceuticals.

(xi) Development Council for Organic Chemical Industries.

(xii) Development Council for Sugar Industry.

[Placed in Library See. No. LT. 389/68].

ANNUAL REPORT OF HINDUSTAN STEEL FOR 1966-67 AND GOVERNMENT REVIEW THEREON.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY): I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Steel Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1966-67 under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.
- (2) A copy of the Annual Report of the Hindustan Steel Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1966-67 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See. No. LT-494/68].

NOTIFICATION UNDER MINES AND MINERALS (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT) ACT

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): I beg to lay on the Table .

- (1) A copy of Notification No. G. S. R. 1884 published in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 1967, under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.
- (2) A statement showing reasons for delay in laying the above Notification.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-495/68]

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

FORTY-SEVENTH REPORT

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandyal): I beg to present the Forty-seventh Report of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Home Affairs—Union Public Service Commission.

12.33 hrs.

STATEMENT Re. RECENT BLAZE IN THE RIVER GANGA NEAR MONGHYR

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH): I had earlier given the House information that was then available about the fire that took place in the river Ganga on 3rd March, 1968 and the contamination of the water supply at Monghyr (Bihar). Apart from the administrators and experts who have thereafter inspected the affected area, I have personally visited Patna, Moghyr and Barauni to get acquainted with the events that took place. Since it is necessary to determine beyond any doubt what actually happened, to allocate responsibility, where necessary and to devise steps to guard against such events in the future, Government have decided to order a full investigation into all these matters. This investigation will be conducted by a three member Commission appointed under the Commission of Inquiries Act. It will be headed by a retired Judge of a High Court and will have two experts in public health engineering as members; one of these two experts will be a person nominated by the State Government of Bihar. The terms of reference of the Commission will be generally as follows:

- (a) to determine the correct facts of the contamination with oil of the river Ganga near and downstream of the Barauni Refinery during last week of February or earlier and first week of March, 1968;
- (b) to determine to what extent the Barauni Refinery has been responsible for the happenings;
- (c) to recommend the steps that must be taken to prevent the recurrence of such happenings in the future;
- (d) to advise on whether there has been any negligence or carelessness on the part of the refinery management staff in the discharge of their prescribed duties;
- (e) arising out of (d), to recommend the further action, if any, that must be taken;