

the Public Accounts Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Hundred and sixtieth Report on paragraph 42 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73, Union Government (Civil) relating to Indian Agents' Commission—Department of Supply.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE EIGHTY-THIRD REPORT

SHRI R. K. SINHA (Faizabad): I beg to present the Eighty-third Report of the Estimates Committee regarding Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fifty-seventh Report on the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Department of Health)—Central Government Health Scheme.

12.3-1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

EIGHTEENTH REPORT

Dr. KAILAS (Bombay South): I beg to present the Eighteenth Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Thirteenth Report

SHRI B. K. DESCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Bihar): I beg to present the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

Fifteenth and Sixteenth Reports

SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO (Rajamundry): I beg to present the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Reports of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. HELICOPTER ACCIDENT IN THE BOMBAY HIGH

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): Mr. Speaker Sir, it is with deep regret that I rise to make this statement regarding an accident that occurred on the afternoon of Friday, the 9th of January. As the Honourable Members are aware, ONGC has been exploring for petroleum in the Bombay High area. Apart from its own rig, the Sagar Samrat, ONGC has chartered-hired two rigs namely, the Haakon Magnus and the Dalmahoy. The periodical crew-change on the rigs is effected with helicopter services provided by the Indian Air Force.

On 9th January, a helicopter landed on the Haakon Magnus and after the relieving crew disembarked, it flew on to the Dalmahoy and picked up six persons from that rig. While returning to the Haakon Magnus around 1532 hours to pick up the relieved crew, the tail-rotor of the helicopter appears to have struck against some part of the drill ship, caught fire; as the helicopter landed on the helipad there was an explosion.

The helicopter crew came out with minor injuries. Of the six passengers, Mr Mike Ryan, a French national working with Schlumberger, was thrown out of the helicopter in a State of severe shock. The other five passengers died instantaneously and their bodies were recovered. Among those killed was a Canadian employee of a firm of Singapore engaged in the cementing work of oil wells; and four were Indians, of whom one was a Senior Driller of the O.N.G.C., and three were Indian employees of foreign contracting firms.

On receipt of the information, a rescue helicopter was immediately flown out. The helipad of the Haakon Magnus having become unserviceable due to the accident, the rescue heli-