

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-

[Shri K D Malaviya]

copter landed on the deck of a lay-barge operating about four to five miles away. With the help of a supply boat, the injured were brought to the lay-barge and flown to Bombay for treatment.

The dead-bodies were brought to Bombay and handed over to the representatives of the respective organisations in which the deceased were working. The dead body of Shri Ram Pal, Senior Driller of the ONGC was flown to New Delhi and taken by road to Hoshiarpur, his home town. ONGC further arranged for the funeral and other obseques. Apart from a cash grant for meeting the immediate expenditure, ONGC would be paying a sum of Rupees one lakh to Shri Ram Pal's family, under the basis of an insurance scheme.

I visited Bombay on Saturday, immediately after getting the news of the tragedy. The Chairman of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission had also arrived and necessary consultations were held with regard to the disposal of the bodies and other duties that had to be performed in this connection. Mr Mike Ryan the French national is receiving treatment in the Beach Candy Hospital and is wholly out of danger. As the burnt helipad was to be cleared yesterday afternoon it was not considered practical for any one of us to reach the Haakon Magnus just now. All alternative arrangements for normal drilling operations and communication with the Haakon Magnus drill ship have been made and the testing of the Haakon Magnus drilled well is at present going on according to programme.

A Court of Inquiry will be held by Air Force authorities. The ONGC has been advised to go into the question of additional safety precautions they may be considered necessary.

12.06 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1975-76

MR SPEAKER Now, Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) by Shri Qureshi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI) Sir, I beg to present a statement showing Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1975-76.

UNIT TRUST OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Unit Trust of India Act 1963.

MR SPEAKER The question is

'That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Unit Trust of India Act 1963.'

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI I introduce the Bill.

12.6-1/2 hrs

STATEMENT RE UNIT TRUST OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1975

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English ver-

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 12-1-76

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.