

towards the end of the year, the kerosene supply position during 1967 was satisfactory. Some oil companies were even reported to be providing inducements to their agents for its sale. With further improvement in availability, the State-wise kerosene allocations have been slightly liberalised effective from 1-3-68. This should help eliminate shortages. The State Governments have powers, under the Essential Commodities Act, to fix retail selling price of kerosene and to punish those found guilty of over-charging.

CASES OF UNTOUCHABILITY

2804. SHRI G. S. REDDI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases registered under the Untouchability (Offences) Act during the last two years, Statewise; and

(b) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA) : (a) Information readily available is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-336/68].

(b) The cases are investigated by the Police and pursued in a court of law, if the investigations reveal a *prima facie* case.

12.20 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REVIEW ON WORKING OF ASHOKA HOTELS, JANPATH HOTELS, HINDUSTAN HOUSING FACTORY AND ANNUAL REPORTS.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI JAGAN-NATH BAO) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers :—

- (1) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Ashoka Hotels Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1966-67, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report of the Ashoka Hotels Limited, New Delhi, 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-296/68.]

- (2) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Janpath Hotels Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1966-67 under sub-section (1) of section 619(A) of the Companies Act, 1956.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report of the Janpath Hotels Limited, New Delhi, 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-297/68].

- (3) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Housing Factory Limited, New Delhi for the year 1966-67 under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report of the Hindustan Housing Factory Limited, New Delhi, 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-298/68].

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha :—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Registration of Births and Deaths Bill, 1968, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th February, 1968."