

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

FIRST AND SECOND REPORTS

Shri Dasappa (Bangalore): I beg to present the following Reports of the Estimates Committee:—

- (1) First Report relating to action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the **Eighty-first** Report of the Estimates Committee (Second Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of S.R. & C.A.—Part III—National Atlas Organisation Survey of India etc.
- (2) Second Report relating to action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-third and Eighty-seventh Reports of Estimates Committee (Second Lok Sabha) on Hindustan Steel Limited, Ranchi.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): In this connection I wish to say just a word. I am glad to note that the rather clumsy phrase "Action Taken Report" used yesterday has been dropped now.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO
STARRED QUESTION NOS. 1411
AND 1616.

The Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas): Sir, Shri U. M. Trivedi had asked the following supplementary question:

"May I know if Government proposes to have a uniform law of land acquisition throughout India and consolidate all the laws as amended up-to-date by the various States?"

In reply I had stated as follows:

"The present Land Acquisition Act of 1894 which has been the subject matter of the decision of the Supreme Court is applicable throughout the country."

The correct position is that the Land Acquisition Act of 1894 applies to the whole of India except the territories which immediately before November 1, 1956 were comprised in part 'B' States. It also does not apply to Jammu and Kashmir. Since acquisition of land is in the concurrent list, the State Governments have enacted laws with regard to the territories of former part 'B' States. In the former part 'A' States also, the Act of 1894 has been amended in some cases.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture has already stated the correct position in the Lok Sabha during the debate on the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 1962, on August 21, 1962.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Shri Sham Nath): Sir, during the course of my reply to supplementaries to question No. 1626 on the 22nd June, 1962 I had stated "The installation of this 20 KW shortwave transmitter will take about three to four months more". The correct position, however, is as already indicated in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2156 answered on 29th May, 1962 that the installation of 20 KW Shortwave transmitter at Trivandrum is expected to be completed during the year 1963-64.

STATEMENT RE. COMMISSION OF
ENQUIRY ON DUMRAON ACCI-
DENT

The Minister of Railways (Shri Swaran Singh): As the Honourable Members will recall, I made a statement on the floor of the House on 31-8-1962 about the circumstances leading to the adjournment of hearing by the Commission of Inquiry constituted by the Government to inquire into the accident to 6 Down Amritsar-Howrah Mail at Dumraon.

According to the Commission the proceedings before the Commission and the Criminal Court could not go

[Shri Swaran Singh]

on simultaneously. The matter has been considered in consultation with the Government of Bihar, who have now advised that the charges against the two Cabinmen of Dumraon have not yet been framed. The Government of Bihar are taking steps to withdraw the criminal case. The Commission will recommence their hearings as soon as the necessary formalities connected with the withdrawal of the case are completed.

STATEMENT RE. RETENTION
PRICES OF PIG IRON AND STEEL

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): Sir, with your permission I would like to make a statement on the important subject of the fair ex-works retention prices of pig iron and steel payable to the main producers of iron and steel for the period 1st of April 1960 to the 31st March, 1962. The uniform retention prices for steel payable to the Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. and the Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. were enquired into by the Tariff Commission in 1955. In their resolution No. SC(A)-2(149)/55 dated the 1st of February, 1956, Government accepted the Tariff Commission's recommendation that the average retention price payable to the two major producers should be fixed at Rs. 393 per ton. Government also agreed to examine, on merits, claims for escalations in retention prices resulting from changes in railway freights, changes in statutory prices of coal and other fuel etc. As a result of the escalations allowed, the basic retention prices fixed in 1956 were increased under the Escalator Clause four times and the average escalated retention price in force on the 31st of March, 1960 was Rs. 474.59 per ton including excise duty. The prices then fixed were for a period of five years from 1955-56 to 1959-60.

A reference was made to the Tariff Commission by the Government on the

13th of March 1961 to enquire and recommend, having regard to the various agreements with the steel companies, (i) what the normal retention prices of steel should be for the period from the 1st of April, 1960 to the 31st of March 1962; and (ii) the special element that should be allowed in the price in addition for payment by the Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., and the Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. of interest on and repayment of the special advances made to those companies by Government.

A similar reference regarding the fixation of pig iron prices for the period 1-4-1960 to 31-3-1962 was made on the 1st of August 1961. Meanwhile, after having a preliminary cost examination of the Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. and the Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. undertaken by the Cost Accounts Branch of the Ministry of Finance, Government decided to increase the retention prices of steel to an average of about Rs. 512 per tonne. This price was purely provisional and was subject to adjustments in the light of Government's decision on the recommendations of the Tariff Commission.

The Commission having conducted an enquiry submitted their report at the end of April 1962. The main recommendations of the Commission are as follows:

- (i) The average fair retention price of saleable steel (inclusive of the special element for payment of interest on and repayment of special advances) for 1960-62 should be Rs. 550 per tonne. This recommendation was based on an assessment of a fair or standard block on the basis of a comparative study of the capital blocks of the existing units. The Tariff Commission recommended that for the price period 1960-62, a capital block of Rs. 1300 per tonne of saleable steel should be reasonably representative;