

the House to take it up, but not on this adjournment motion.

12:23 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT OF KHADI AND VILLAGE
INDUSTRIES COMMISSION

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): On behalf of Shri Manubhai Shah, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 24 of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, a copy of the Annual Report of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission for the year 1958-59. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1896/60.]

AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT
FUNDS SCHEME

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of Section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, a copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 147 dated the 6th February, 1960 making certain amendment to the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952 [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1897/60].

12:24 hrs.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO
ANIMALS BILL

REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE LAID ON
THE TABLE

Shri C. R. Narasimhan (Krishnagiri): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and for that purpose to amend the law relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals.

12:24½ hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

SUDDEN FLOODING OF COLLIERY AT
DAMUA IN MADHYA PRADESH ON THE
5TH JANUARY, 1960

Shri P. G. Deb (Angul): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Labour and Employment to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Sudden flooding of Colliery at Damua in Madhya Pradesh on the 5th January, 1960."

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): As the honourable members are already aware, the regrettable accident took place in Damua Colliery at 1.30 P.M., on the 5th January, 1960. The mine is owned by M/s Kanhan Valley Coal Company Limited and is situated in District Chhindwara of Madhya Pradesh.

2. The Additional Chief Inspector of Mines has made enquiries. It appears that on the day of the accident, arrangements to set supports at the face of a gallery, adjoining a waterlogged gallery, were being made when the intervening strata between the two galleries collapsed and water from the waterlogged workings rushed in, drowning sixteen persons employed at different places in the dip workings. The management is held responsible for this unfortunate mishap. Appropriate action is being taken.

3. Officers of the Mines Inspectorate arranged with other mine managements for speedy dewatering of the mine and by 9 A.M., of the 17th January 1960, the dead bodies of all the drowned persons were recovered.

4. About 250 persons are employed in the Colliery and the workers have been provided with alternative employment.

5. An ad-hoc relief of Rs. 100 per family to the families of the 16 deceased workers has been paid from the