

- (v) "In accordance with the provision of sub-rule (6) of rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Rubber (Amendment) Bill, 1960, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 5th August, 1960, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12-10 hrs.

BILLS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA LAID ON THE TABLE

Secretary: Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha:

- (i) The Evacuee Interest (Separation) Amendment Bill, 1960.
- (ii) The Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Amendment Bill, 1960.
- (iii) The Drugs (Amendment) Bill, 1960.
- (iv) The Press and Registration of Books (Amendment) Bill, 1960.

12-16½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

TWENTY-NINTH REPORT

Shri Radha Raman (Chandni Chowk): I beg to present the Twenty-ninth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts (Defence Services), 1956-57 and 1957-58 and Audit Reports (Defence Services), 1958-59.

12.16½ hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ACCIDENT IN HINDUSTAN COAL MINE, TALCHER

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): 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:—

"The accident in the Hindustan Coal Mine, Talcher, resulting in the death of one labourer and injuries to many others."

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): An officer of the inspectorate of mines has proceeded to the mine to make enquiries and his report is awaited.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Notice was given on the 3rd. It is now more than ten days. I do not know why there is so much delay in getting the information.

Mr. Speaker: Was not the Minister able to get the information?

Shri Abid Ali: As soon as the report is received, it will be placed here.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Sir, I want to know why there is this delay. It was a Calling Attention Notice. For ordinary questions, ten days' notice is required, but even for this notice, there was a notice of ten days. I want to know the reason for the delay in getting information.

Shri Panigrahi (Puri): I would like to know whether this coal mine belongs to the National Coal Development Corporation or to any other body.

Shri Abid Ali: I do not think it belongs to the NCDC.

Mr. Speaker: He does not believe it belongs to the National Coal Development Corporation. Now, how long will the Minister take to get the information?

Shri Abid Ali: Early next week.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Is there not a rule or a convention that whenever there is any accident in coal mines, actually the Labour Minister is informed? Are we to take it that every time we have to move a Calling Attention Notice and even then we do not get any information?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members want to know about it. Has not the Minister received any information?

Shri Abid Ali: As I have submitted earlier, the inspector of the Mines Department has gone there to make enquiries. It is not that hon. Members want me to say that one man has died. They want to know the details; what was the nature of the accident and all that. About that, I will give the information as soon as the report is received.

Shri S. M. Banerjee rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members look into the newspapers and from the newspapers' report, put a question. If it is a question of the news contained in the newspaper only, the same information has to be given once again to the House, and hon. Members may have it. But if an enquiry has to be made, if details have to be given, by their waiting there is nothing lost. They may wait. Today is Friday. The hon. Minister promises to give the information in two or three days or early next week. The House only wants correct information regarding this incident with proper details.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: What we are surprised at is this. This happened in a particular mine, and

the information may be given by the regional coal mines inspector. But was not this fact reported to the Labour Ministry? This is a serious thing. The Deputy Minister says there is no information now. He is sending a person only now! An inspector is going to get the information! (*Interruptions.*)

Mr. Speaker: I do not know what to say in regard to this matter. Sometime ago, the hon. Railway Minister and the Defence Minister had all agreed to this procedure: wherever there is an accident, of their own accord, they will report to the House. As soon as an accident takes place, the House is anxious to know about the details; apart from what appears in the newspapers, the House would like to know what exactly the position is. To the best of knowledge and information, the Minister will place the details before the House. The House of course will not be insisting that all the details must be given to the House immediately, if further enquiries are to be made, and if the Government are not in possession of full information. In that case, the House will certainly say that an enquiry may be made and then the Minister will place the details before the House. On this matter in question, a notice was given. Even a question has been admitted. The question will have to be answered. The Minister says, "I have sent a man and in due course the report will come". The inspector goes there and makes enquiries with respect to the accident, whether a railway accident or other accident. That is another matter. But a Minister never comes forward and says, "I have sent my inspector and he will make a leisurely investigation." Immediately, whatever information is in the possession of the Minister, it must be given to the House. Why should there be any delay in this matter?

Shri Abid Ali: I may submit that there are more than 800 mines working here, and we have not got separate

staff, particularly for this purpose as other departments have got. (*Laughter*). For this particular purpose we have not got any separate staff. The Inspectorate of Mines has to attend to other matters also. The authorities concerned have ordered the Inspector in Charge to go there and, as I have said earlier, as soon as the details are received, they will be placed here. Hon. Members do not obviously want the information that one person has died in the accident.

Acharya Kripalani (Sitamarhi): I may suggest that the Ministers may inform their departments that whenever there is an accident result in death, the information must be sent to the Ministers immediately.

Mr. Speaker: Here, I would request the hon. Minister of Labour also to follow the same procedure which the other hon. Ministers have been following and have undertaken to follow.

Shri Abid Ali: That is what I have done.

Mr. Speaker: Then why did he not immediately report on this? He must get information automatically from any mine-owner. I suppose he will issue instructions hereafter that whenever an accident occurs, immediately the accident must be reported to him and he must report it here. The Minister may, thereafter send the authorities concerned to examine it and get fuller details.

Let us proceed to the next item.

12.20 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government business for the week commencing 16th August, 1960, will consist of:

(1) Consideration of any item of Government business carried over from today's Order Paper;

(2) Discussion and voting of the Demands for Excess Grant (General) for 1957-58;

(3) Consideration and passing of—

The International Development Association (Status, Immunities and Privileges) Bill, 1960.

The Press and Registration of Books (Amendment) Bill, 1960, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

The Agriculture Produce (Grading and Marking) Amendment Bill, 1960, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

The Evacuee Interest (Separation) Amendment Bill, 1960, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

The Drugs (Amendment) Bill, 1960, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

The Legal Practitioner Bill, 1959, as reported by the Joint Committee.

(4) Discussion on the Annual Report of the National Coal Development Corporation Limited for the year 1958-59 along with the Auditor Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, on a motion to be moved by Shri S. Ahmed Medi and others on 17th August at 3 p.m.

(5) Discussion on the Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 1958-59, on a motion to be moved by the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs on 18th August after disposal of questions.

(6) Discussion on the oil policy of the Government of India with special reference to the import of crude oil from abroad on a motion to be moved by Shri Badakumar Pratap Ganga Deb Bamra on 20th August, at 3 p.m.