

Shri R.V. Swanathan, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Coconut Development Board Rules, 1981 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No G.S.R. 34(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 1981, under section 21 of the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979 [Placed in Library See No. LT-2105/81.).

12.04 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT

SHRI BANSI LAL (Bhiwani): I beg to present the Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-eighth Report of Committee on Public Undertakings (Sixth Lok Sabha) on Public Undertakings-Delays in commencement of Production/Business, Under-utilisation of capacity and related matters.

12 05 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

EXPLOSION IN BOKARO STEEL PLANT

SHRI R. K. MHALGI (Thaine): I call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Steel and Mines to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Reported explosion in Bokaro Steel Plant on 11 March, 1981 causing death of several persons and injuries to many others.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) Sir, I report to the House with grief that an explosion place at 11.08 hours

on Wednesday, the 11th March, 1981 at Bokaro Steel Plant in the gas pipe-line between Blast Furnace No. 3 and 4 which resulted in the death of 9 workers and injuries to 23 others. There were also damages to some installations on the gas line.

2. I have personally been to Bokaro on the 14th instant to acquaint myself with the conditions of the injured persons and to ascertain the details of the damages caused by the explosion.

3. Naturally, our immediate concern was for the unfortunate victims of the explosions who lost their lives and of those who had suffered injuries. The Plant Authorities had taken all steps to give urgent medical aid to the injured and to provide relief to the bereaved families. The amount of compensation has already been deposited with the Workmen Compensation Authorities at Dhanbad for deceased employees of the Company and will be deposited shortly for others. It has been decided that the Steel Plants will offer employment to one dependent of each of the deceased employees. I may assure the House that the relief and assistance has been provided to the families most expeditiously.

4. Out of 23 injured, who were admitted to the hospital at Bokaro, 15 persons have since been discharged after necessary medical aid and 8 are presently in the hospital undergoing treatment. More are expected to be discharged from the hospital within 2 or 3 days. However, the condition of one injured person is stated to be serious.

5. I visited the hospital personally and have met the injured persons and the best is being done for them.

6. Sir, the explosion had occurred at two places of the gas main between the valves located at Blast Furnace No. 3 and Blast Furnace No. 4 and as a result. 5 Nos of the gas valves and a portion of the pipeline had been damaged.