12·37 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

TWENTY-SECOND REPORT AND MINUTES

श्री महीलाल (बिजनौर): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी अनुमति से प्राक्कलन समिति का निम्नलिखित प्रतिवेदन तथा कार्यवाही-सारांश प्रस्तुत करना हूं :

(1) वित्त मंत्रालय—अनुदानों की मांगें (सामान्य)—कार्य—सारणियों का पुनरीक्षण—पर 22वां प्रतिवेदन ।

(2) उपर्युक्त प्रतिवेदन से संबंधित समिति की बैठकों के कार्यवाही सारांश ।

12.37½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

EIGHTY-THIRD, EIGHTY-SIXTH AND NINETIETH REPORTS

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO (Hanamonda) : I beg to present the following Reports of the Public Accounts Committee :

(1) Eighty-third Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report on Export of Engineering Goods relating to the Ministry of Commerce.

(2) Eighty-sixth Report on paragraph 47 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1975-76, Union Government (Railways) on Unauthorised Occupation of Railway Land.

(3) Ninetieth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report on Fifth International Film Festival relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

12.38 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) REPORTED RESEARCH INTO THERMO-NUCLEAR FUSION.

SHRI D. D. DESAI (Kaira) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of this august House an event that happened at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Princeton, U.S.A. which has the potential to remove poverty from the entire face of the earth where all sources of energy like firewood, coal, oil, hydro and uranium are getting exhausted while the demand for them is growing at a fast rate. On August 1, a team of physicists led by Dr. Melvin Gottlieb, Director of the Plasma Physics Division of the Laboratory, heated up a mixture of heavy hydrogen atoms to the incredible temperature of 60 million degrees Centigrade—that is 10,000 times the temperature on the surface of the Sun—which, helped set off the fusion of these hydrogen nuclei to form helium and in the process release 180 times the energy used in achieving this temperature. Such controlled reaction once started can go on for ever—and without external stimuli. The raw material—heavy hydrogen—is available in plenty in sea water. One litre of sea water could provide energy equivalent of 300 litres of high grade gasoline. It is said that the break-through came much earlier than anticipated and that 'thermo-nuclear fusion under controlled conditions will become a reality in another decade'.

Because of the promise this break-through holds, of plenty of energy cheap and from inexhaustible source (sea water) and also because the process does not produce problems of pollution from residual radiation, it would be the Alladin's lamp we have all been hoping for to provide cheap and plentiful energy to mankind in any part of the world. But a top U.S. scientist says : "This is the most difficult technological development ever undertaken by man for non-military purposes. It is too big for any country to do alone." For instance, the U.S. scientists in this experiment used an equipment devised by the Russians.

The need for international cooperation in research to make this dream of cheap and plentiful energy a reality early, opens for us an opportunity to focus international attention on this one problem. India has scientists of calibre, so too many other nations in the world. The research on this is open to all. Therefore, I am sure this House will join me in requesting the Government that it takes the lead and proposes through an appeal international cooperative research on quickly transforming what is now a laboratory success into a great commercial venture to help the poor and the wretched of this world to see a brave new world of plenty within our life time.

(ii) NEED FOR FOUR-LANING OF ROAD BETWEEN PANVEL AND DEHU ROAD

SHRI S. R. DAMANI a (Sholapur): Sir, the Bombay-Pune Road, National High Way No. 4, is a very important road and carries very heavy traffic, about 4300 vehicles per day, from Bombay towards Bangalore, Madras and Hyderabad. The Maharashtra Government