

[Shrimati Mukul Banerji]
and utilisation of foreign contribution or hospitality by certain persons or associations, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

TWENTY-FOURTH AND TWENTY-FIFTH REPORTS

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO (Chattrapur): I beg to present the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Reports of the Committee on Petitions.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

THIRTY-NINTH REPORT

SHRI D. BASUMATARI (Kokrajhar): I beg to present the Thirty-ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation—Reservations for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the India Tourism Development Corporation.

12.07 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. ACCIDENT IN THE CHASNALLA COAL MINES NEAR DHANBAD

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT Yadav): Sir, I rise with a very heavy heart and profound shock to inform the House of the major accident which took place at Chasnalla Colliery of Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited on the 27th December, 1975.

Chasnalla Colliery is situated in the District of Dhanbad in Bihar and is about 25 kilometres from Dhanbad Town. At about 1.35 P.M. on 27th December, 1975 a large volume of water from the old abandoned workings on the rise side suddenly appeared to have rushed into the deeper horizons of the Chasnalla Colliery trapping all the employees who were working at that time. According to the records there were 372 employees inside including three Mining Engineers and 17 member of the Supervisory staff. The flooding of the mine occurred with great severity and suddenness leaving no chance for the workers to escape. The colliery Manager and the Safety Officer had inspected the workings and had come out only a few minutes before the disaster.

The report about this grim tragedy has shocked all of us and our hearts go out to our valient workers and their families.

Messages of sympathy have been received from all over the world.

Immediately after the accident, the Vice Chairman of the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. alongwith a team of senior officers, Director General of Mines Safety and his rescue team, the District Officers of the Bihar Government and senior officers of the Indian iron and Steel Company Ltd. rushed to the site and started organising recovery, rescue and relief operations. Pumps available with the BCCL were rushed to expedite dewatering operations. Over 600 men and engineers have been working round the clock from the first day for installing and carrying out pumping operations.

The total volume of water to be pumped out from the mine is estimated at about 110 million gallons. The entire mine workings have been flooded and there are only 5 narrow openings linking these workings with the surface. Pumping operations through