

[Shri P. C. Sethi]

(Hindi and English versions) of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for the year 1969-70 together with the Audited Accounts, under sub-section (3) of section 23 read with sub-section (4) of the section 22 of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Act, 1959 and also containing Annual Report of the Hydrocarbons India Private Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1969 together with the Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the above Reports. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—732/71].

PAPERS RE: IDPL

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, New Delhi for the year 1969-70.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1969-70 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—733/71].

12.02 hrs.

WEST BENGAL BUDGET, 1971-72 ;
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (WEST
BENGAL) 1971-72 ;
STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE:
PROCLAMATION IN RELATION
TO WEST BENGAL ; AND

WEST BENGAL STATE LEGISLA-
TURE (DELEGATION OF
POWERS) BILL—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will resume consideration of the West Bengal Budget, the Statutory Resolution and the Delegation of Powers Bill.

SHRI D. N. Mahata may continue his speech.

*SHRI D. N. MAHATA (Purulia) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the last occasion I made a few observations on the West Bengal Budget. In the light of those observations I shall confine my today's speech on the West Bengal Budget. It is a matter of great pleasure that the earlier estimate of deficit in the Budget was Rs. 28.60 crores but that deficit has been reduced to Rs. 19.34 crores. It is also a matter of great pleasure that Rs. 14.54 crores including 5 crores of the Central Government grant will be spent for the improvement of Bustee areas by the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority.

Sir, I regret to say that though West Bengal is a developed State, yet in regard to rural electrification programme it is the most backward State in the entire country. I should say that it is the "darkest State" in India. When in the entire country 8½% villages have already been electrified, 6½% villages in West Bengal have not seen even electricity. Therefore, I must say that West Bengal is lagging far behind other States of India in regard to implementing rural electrification programmes.

Electricity is very much essential to the installation of pumping sets in villages. Therefore, agriculture in villages is receiving set back as pumping sets cannot be installed without electricity there. In 1969 when in the entire country the number of pumping sets used for irrigation purposes was 10 lakhs, in West Bengal only 1,000 pumping sets were used for irrigation purposes. The target of the Government is to instal 3,400 pumping sets in villages of West Bengal at the end of the 4th Five Year Plan.

Then Sir, there was 38,000 villages in West Bengal. But only 2,500 villages were

*The original speech was delivered in Bengali.