

versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Notifications mentioned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1687/72]

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REPORT OF ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD, MADRAS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English Versions) of the Animal Welfare Board, Madras for the year 1970-71 along with the Audit Report thereon, under sub-rule (4) of Rule 24 of Animal Welfare Board (Administration) Rules, 1962. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1688/72].

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha :—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Hire-purchase Bill, 1972, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd April, 1972."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 6th April, 1972, agreed without any amendment to the Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 1972, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th March, 1972."

HIRE-PURCHASE BILL

AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY : Sir, I also lay on the Table of the House the Hire-purchase Bill, 1972, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

13.14½ hrs.

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
THIRTIETH AND THIRTY-FIRST REPORTS**

SHRIMATI MUKUL BANERJI (New Delhi) : I beg to present the following Reports of the Public Accounts Committee :

- (1) Thirtieth Report regarding action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Hundred and Twenty-second Report (Fourth Lok-Sabha) refuting to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- (2) Thirty-first Report regarding action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Hundred and Eleventh Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) relating to Union Excise.

13.15 hrs.

STATEMENT RE FIRE IN COCHIN REFINERY

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : Cochin Refineries Limited, a company in the Public Sector, was set up in pursuance of the Formation Agreement dated 27. 4. 1963 between Government of India, Phillips Petroleum Company of U. S. A. and Duncan Brothers and Co. Limited of Calcutta, to process annually 2.5 million tonnes of crude oil. The Refinery went on stream on 19. 9. 1966 and has been in commercial production since May, 1967.

The company is managed by a board of Directors consisting of nine Directors of whom five are nominated by Government of India, two by Phillips Petroleum Company and two other shareholders. The Chairman is a Government of India nominee. The Managing Director is a nominee of Phillips Petroleum Company for a period of 10 years from the formation of the company or till all the long-term foreign exchange debts have been repaid, whichever is later.

On 3. 4. 1972 at 7.45 P. M. fire occurred in one of the crude storage tanks in the refinery and was brought under control within 1½ hours i. e. by 9.15 P. M. The

[Shri H. R. Gokhale]

Management have stated that the tank No. 20 was required to be cleaned prior to installing a floating roof, and for this purpose, two doors were to be cut in the tank walls, and while one of the doors was successfully cut the fire originated in the final stages of cutting the second door. The exact cause of the fire is not yet known.

The Management have reported that the damage due to the fire was confined to the crude tank No. 20 and the connecting pipes within Tank dike, that the tank has been damaged beyond repair, and that except for a few minor burn injuries, there were no serious personal injuries.

The management have reported that the refinery processing unit through not affected by the fire, was shut down, because the pipeline supplying crude to the processing unit was affected, but kerosene and light end section of the refinery is in operation on feed-stock from intermediate storage, and the tank truck and wagon loading have not been affected. Crude processing was resumed on the evening of 6th April, 1972.

The tank was insured. Cochin Refineries Limited have informed that the Insurance representatives are presently conducting survey to estimate the damage. In view of the fact that the tank has been in service during the past 5 years and has depreciated, CRL estimates that after taking credit for depreciation and payments to be received from the Insurance Co. the net loss may be around Rs. 7 to 10 lakhs. The cost of constructing new storage and restoring the other damage may be about Rs. 40 lakhs. These are only preliminary estimates.

Though the management have stated that it was necessary to cut two doors in the tank wall and that the work was being performed in accordance with the established safety measures and in the presence of senior maintenance and safety supervisors, this is a major incident of fire in a public sector refinery and Government are interested to ascertain facts, determine whether there was any negligence and see if any preventive measures should be adopted at Cochin and other refineries.

The Government have therefore decided to appoint a Committee of Inquiry.

15.18 hrs.

DELHI COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES BILL

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI
ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): Sir, I beg to
move :*

“That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to co-operative societies in the Union Territory of Delhi, be taken into consideration.”

The cooperative societies in the Union Territory of Delhi are at present covered by the Bombay Cooperative Societies Act, 1925 which was extended to the Union Territory in 1949. The Bombay Cooperative Societies Act, 1925 has since been repealed both in Maharashtra and Gujarat and replaced by new Acts passed by their respective Legislatures.

In order to meet the changing conditions of the cooperative movement, the Punjab Cooperative Societies (Extension to Delhi) Bill 1965 was introduced in the Third Lok Sabha in December, 1965. The Bill, however, was not taken up for consideration, and lapsed.

Under the Delhi Administration Act, 1966, the Metropolitan Council was established. The Metropolitan Council considered the matter and recommended a self-contained comprehensive Bill. The Bill as recommended by the Metropolitan Council, however, did not contain provisions for incorporating some of the recommendations of the conference of Chief Ministers and Ministers of Cooperation held in June, 1968. It also did not make provision for extension of the Deposit Insurance Scheme to the cooperative banks. Certain additions were therefore made to the Bill recommended by the Metropolitan Council.

Accordingly, the Delhi Cooperative Societies Bill, 1970, was introduced in the Fourth Lok Sabha on 26th March, 1970. Consequent on the dissolution of the Fourth Lok Sabha, the said Bill also lapsed.

In the intervening period, observations

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.