

I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of each of the following Notifications under section 185 of the Navy Act, 1957:—

(i) The Navy (Discipline and Miscellaneous Provisions Amendment) Regulations, 1974 (Hindi and English versions published in Notification No. S.R.O. 37 in Gazette of India dated the 26th January 1974.

(ii) The Naval Cerimonial, Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous (Amendment) Regulations, 1974 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.R.O. 113 in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 1974.

(iii) The Indian Naval Auxiliary Service Regulations, 1973 (Hindi version) published in Notification No. S.R.O. 124 in Gazette of India dated the 31st April, 1974.

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Notification mentioned at (i) above. [Placed in Library See No LT-6826/74]

REVIEW AND ANNUAL REPORT OF HINDUSTAN COPPER LTD., CALCUTTA FOR 1972-73

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHR SUKHDEV PRASAD): 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 Hindustan Copper Limited, Calcutta for the year 1972-73.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Calcutta for the year 1972-73 along with the Audited Accounts and

the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-6827/74]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

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

(i) I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on Tuesday, the 23rd April, 1974, adopted the following motion in regard to the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, 1973:—

“That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the House on the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, 1973, be extended up to the last day of the Ninetieth Session (Winter Session) of the Rajya Sabha.”

(ii) “In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return here of with the Pondicherry Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1974, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th April, 1974, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to said Bill”

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE Fifty-eighth Report

SHRI R. K. SINHA (Faizabad): I beg to present the Fifty-eighth Report of the Estimates Committee on the

[Shri R. K. Sinha]

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting-Films Part I.

13.29 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

PILFERAGE FROM BARAUNI-HALDIA OIL PIPELINE NEAR ASANSOL

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore):

With your permission, I bring to the attention of the House a very alarming report which has appeared in the press. A PTI message of April 22 from Asansol side reports:

"Over 5000 k.l. of petroleum oil worth about Rs. 5 lakhs was stolen by some unknown persons by boring a hole in the Barauni-Haldia pipeline near here on Saturday, According to Mr. B. M. Bhat, Director Mines Safety) Eastern Zone, the Miscreants drained off the oil and carried it away in a tanker. The incident was detected yesterday. The hole has since been filled in and a police picket posted on the spot. No arrest has so far been made."

But I would like to point out to you that pilferages from this pipeline were reported two or three years ago also. I remember I has raised the matter in the House at that time, and we were assured at that time by the hon. Minister that precautionary measures would be taken to see that no opportunity was given to people to do any such thing This pipeline runs underground and it is not above ground but below the soil, and yet people are in a position to come and bore holes in that pipeline to remove the oil and just transport it away. The report further says:

"According to Mr. Bhat, these 5,000 k.l. were carried away in a tanker."

It could not be carried away in a single tanker. 5000 k.l. of oil would require more than one tanker to be carried away. Therefore, it is an extraordinary thing. I would like to know where these tankers are pro-

cured from Who are these expert thieves or miscreants or pilferers who are able to have at their disposal a number of tankers in which they can fill this oil and take it away from the pipeline. On the face of it, it does not seem so innocent as it looks. There must be some people, I do not know who they are, connected with the operation of the pipeline, some people of the IOC organisation who must be in collusion with these thieves and miscreants. Otherwise such a thing cannot be done.

I would just point out to you what a dangerous thing it is. If some saboteur wants to destroy this pipeline, they could do it with great ease. If they could make a hole in the pipeline, instead of removing the oil they may as well set fire to it and the entire pipeline would be destroyed within a short time. This pipeline was constructed after the 1962 war primarily with a view to our defence and security arrangements in the future. This is the kind of thing which is happening now. At this stage, the hon. Minister may probably say that he is collecting the information. But I would like to know what immediate precautionary measures are going to be taken for proper patrolling for mobile patrolling of the whole length of this pipeline.

You will notice also that the news report has given the information not from their own department but from the Director of Mines (Safety). The reason is that in this Asansol area, as we all know, the Haldia-Barauni pipeline has been aligned across the colliery area which is itself another matter of scandal which has led to the Takru Commission which is going into this whole pipeline business. This oil pipeline is going across an area where there are coal mines situated, and if fire breaks out in the pipeline, it will not be restricted only to that. A large number of coalfields or coal mines will also be enveloped.

A tremendous conflagration can take place in the whole area.