

[Shri Datar]

municipal staff on duty. Arrangements for first aid had also been made. The bathers were warned through loudspeakers constantly against the danger spots which had been marked. About 250 police personnel of all ranks were on duty to maintain law and order and help the municipal staff and others in their rescue arrangements. As a result of these arrangements, the Corporation staff were able to save about 108 persons and the voluntary organisations also saved a large number of persons. The exact figures of these are not known.

2. In spite of these arrangements, it is regrettable that five boys between the ages of 14 and 16 were drowned. Four of these were drowned at the Qudisia ghat. They were not accompanied by their relations and it seems that while bathing, they went into deep water and were unable to return to the bank. The tragedy came to notice when another companion of these boys observed that they were in difficulties and made efforts to save them. A constable who happened to be nearby also jumped into the river in an effort to bring the boys back to the bank. He was helped in his efforts by some members of the public and some employees of the Municipal Corporation. All the five boys were immediately rushed to the hospital but it was found that four of them had died due to drowning.

3. Another boy was drowned at the Dhobi Ghat near the Jamuna Bridge. He was about 16 years of age and had gone there accompanied by his father and uncle. He continued to bathe even after his relations had come out of the river. It seems that he strayed into deep water and was drowned. His body was recovered with the help of the Fire Brigade authorities.

4. The discharge in river on that day was only 1,538 cusecs at Wazirabad. The river divides into two parts near the ghats located about three miles downstream of Wazirabad. Thus, only half the river was flowing by the side of the ghats and as such,

the water level in the river was not excessive and had it been less, it would have been difficult for people to bathe.

5. These regrettable deaths were purely accidental and were not due to the negligence of either the authorities of the Delhi Administration or those of the Delhi Municipal Corporation.

12.05 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Shri Dasappa (Bangalore): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the Minutes of sittings of the Estimates Committee relating to the following Reports:—

- (i) 126th, 127th and 128th Reports on the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Food); and
- (ii) 129th, 130th and 131st Reports on the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Agriculture); and
- (iii) 133rd Report on the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation (Department of Co-operation).

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

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

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1961, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th April 1961, 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 the said Bill".