COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Minutes

Shri Krishnamoorthy Rao (Shimoga): I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes of the Sittings (22nd to 26th) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the current Session.

12.34 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC SECTOR INDUSTRIES

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): I promised last week to make a statement with regard to the management procedures in the public sector projects, and I am making that statement. It is fairly long. I may be permitted to lay it on the able.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1788/63].

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Will it be circulated to Members?

Mr. Speaker: I will arrange that.

12.35 hrs.

STATEMENT REGARDING WORKING OF GAUHATI REFINERY

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri Alagesan): The House has taken considerable interest in the past in the working of the Gauhati Refinery and as such would like to know the latest position and the result of efforts made by the technical team from Rumania headed by their Deputy Minister, and our experts.

As the House is aware, there had been operational difficulties resulting in restricted throughput, interruptions in the refinery production, and closure of the Kerosene Refining Unit. The main problem encountered during the operation of the Kerosene Unit in 1962 was excessive corrosion at several places. This was first noticed in the Compressors, when the unit was started up in the May 1962. Later, in July and August 1962, corrosion was noticed in one of the process columns. After a series of modifications, the unit operated reasonably well for about 6 weeks in November and December 1962 but had then to be shut down for operational reasons. When it was restarted towards the end of January 1963, acute difficulties in the Compressors were encountered. The principal difficulty throughout this period was the maintenance of water content of SO_2 i.e. sulphur-dioxide within the permissible limit of 0·08%. It had been varying from 0·06 to 0.25 and the reason seemed to be the mal-functioning of the fractionating column (Drying Column) which which was intended to separate the water from SO_2. The high water content in SO_2 had contributed to excessive corrosion of the steam re-boilers in the Unit, which, after consequential rupture, increased the water content, causing more corrosion. Similarly, the inter-coolers and the compressors were badly corroded and the working of the compressors was adversely affected.

Substantial modifications in the Drying Column were made in March 1963 to improve the efficiency of the drying system. During the major overhaul in August, 1963, every part of the Unit was opened, inspected and cleaned and all defective equipment like compressors, inter-coolers, reboilers etc. were rectified and in many cases retubed with new tubes received from Rumania. Two of the compressors were completely stripped and overhauled and faulty bearings, casings etc. were renewed. It was only after the completion of this overhaul in August 1963 that the Drying Column could be put to adequate test and the Kerosene Unit was commissioned on the 25th August, 1963.