

in this regard is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in the library, see No. LT-1290/63].

(b) to (d). While the power of the Government in appointing Inspectors under sub-section (a) of Section 237 of the Companies Act, 1956, is obligatory, that under sub-section (b) of Section 237 is discretionary. In exercise of this discretionary power, Government satisfy themselves on the basis of the *prima facie* material that the statutory requirements embodied in sub-section (b) are fulfilled before Inspectors are appointed. The basic considerations underlying such appointments have been set out in the relevant chapters of the Department's Annual Statutory Reports. Briefly stated, the decision to order an investigation is taken only when the Government, having due regard to the circumstances attendant on each case, are of the opinion that there are *prima facie* grounds for making a detailed probe for the purposes of ascertaining the full facts about any allegation of fraud, misfeasance, misconduct or oppression on the part of the management. Each case is considered on merits. Apart from this, there is no set of rules, which can be of universal application. Parts (c) and (d) of the Question do not, therefore, arise.

(e) and (f). The appointment of Inspectors is not required to be notified in the Gazette of India.

Export of Bamboos to Pakistan

2712, **Shri S. M. Banerjee**: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that supply of poles for tents urgently required for Defence Services is being delayed due to shortage of bamboos;

(b) whether it is a fact that in spite of the shortage, bamboos from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and U.P. are

being exported to Pakistan in large quantity;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to ban this export; and

(d) the quantity of bamboos exported during 1962 and upto 28th February, 1963 and the number of firms who exported?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) It has not been brought to the notice of the Government that supply of poles for tents urgently required for defence services is being delayed due to shortage of bamboos.

(b) and (d). Do not arise in view of reply to (a). In any case, State-wise figures of exports are not readily available and exports as a whole from India to Pakistan are very insignificant amounting to Rs. 10,18,000 in 1962.

(c) Does not arise.

12.64 hrs.

Calling Attention to Matter of Urgent Public Importance

JHARKHAND COLLIERY ACCIDENT

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya (Raiganj): I call the attention of the Minister of Labour and Employment to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The accident in Jharkhand colliery on the 19th February, 1963, resulting in the death of four persons and injuries to others, the information about which is alleged to have been suppressed by the management of the colliery.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri R. K. Malviya): I regret to inform the House that an unfortunate accident occurred in the Jharkhand Colliery on the 19th February, 1963. While

[Shri R. K. Malviya].

some persons were working in an open-cast working, a mass of alluvial soil and loose earth measuring 6m × 6m and having a maximum thickness of 1.8 metres came down from the side from an average height of 3 metres burying six persons and inflicting minor injuries on another. Four of the buried died instantaneously and two received minor injuries. The accident thus resulted in death of four persons.

The mine management did not send intimation about the accident to the Mines Inspectorate though they informed the Police. On the basis of an anonymous complaint, the Inspectorate, however, held an inquiry into the accident. According to the inquiry officer, had the provisions of regulations 98 and 112 of the Coal Mines Regulations regarding benching the sides and fencing the top of open-cast workings been complied with, the accident could have been averted.

The mine management has therefore been held responsible for the accident and steps are being taken for institution of criminal proceedings.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: Is it a fact that the quarry where the accident occurred was declared closed, but was being unlawfully worked by the management through contractors?

Shri R. K. Malviya: It appears it was not closed. The information is that it was being worked through the contractors.

12.16 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
REPORT OF COAL BOARD

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri Thimmaiah): On behalf of Shri K. D. Malviya, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Annual Report of the Coal Board for the year 1961-62. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1282/63].

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE KHADI AND
VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): On behalf of Shri Kanungo, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Annual Report of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission for the year 1961-62 under sub-section (3) of section 24 of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1283/63].

12.17 hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

श्री उदिया (शहडोल) : श्रीमान्, मैं कुछ डालमिया-जैन कम्पनियों के प्रशासन संबंधी जांच आयोग की रिपोर्ट के बारे में एक याचिकाकार द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एक याचिका पेश करता हूँ ।

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): May I know whether copies will be circulated to us before the discussion?

Mr. Speaker: The petition has to be first sent to the Petitions Committee. The Committee will decide whether copies are to be distributed or not. If the Committee decides that, certainly we will see that the copies are distributed.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: We are going to have the discussion tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: If it is too late, I cannot help it. First, it must be sent to the Petitions Committee. I will ask the Petitions Committee to look into that.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know why the petition was not submitted before this? Just to sabotage the whole discussion?

Mr. Speaker: That is not for me to say.