

[Secretary]

and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

TWENTY-THIRD REPORT

Shri B. G. Mehta (Gohilwad): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-third Report of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Education on the subject 'Central Social Welfare Board'.

of those who died would be promptly dealt with and also that a Court of Inquiry had been ordered.

The court has found that the aircraft was fully serviceable before the flight. In the absence of conclusive evidence which is rendered difficult because there are no survivors and the plane was totally wrecked, the exact cause of the accident cannot be determined. The court also expressed the view that the most likely cause was a navigational error.

The Chief of Air Staff has concurred in this view.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SIXTH REPORT

Shri A. C. Guha (Barasat): Sir, I beg to present the Sixth Report of the Public Accounts Committee (1957-58) on the Appropriation Accounts (Defence Services), 1954-55 and Audit Report, 1956.

Government have decided that the deaths which resulted from the crash should be regarded as attributable to service. The next-of-kin are, therefore, eligible for special family pensionary awards under the rules.

Payments by way of immediate relief were made to the next-of-kin from the Air Force Benevolent Fund and the Indian Navy Benevolent Fund. These remittances were followed up with provisional payments of family gratuity to the bereaved families. The amounts paid are Rs. 2,002.50 to the widow of the Naval Officer, and Rs. 900 to Rs. 300 in the cases of each airman according to rank. These payments will be adjusted against the family pensionary awards when they are finalised.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

THIRD REPORT

Shri Barman (Cooch Behar-Reserved-Sch. Castes): Sir, I beg to present the Third Report of the Committee on Petitions.

The four Air Force officers who were killed, were bachelors. In the case of a deceased bachelor officer, a dependant's pension is granted at the discretion of Government to the parent/parents, subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions. No family gratuity as such is payable in their case.

CRASH OF I.A.F. BOMBER NEAR COIMBATORE

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): Mr. Speaker, the House will recall that on the 12th February, 1958, Government made a statement regarding an unfortunate accident when an Indian Air Force Bomber, a Liberator, struck high hills in bad weather near Coimbatore and crashed on the 5th February, 1958, and all the ten persons on board were killed. The House was then informed that the matter of pensionary awards and other benefits for the next-of-kin

Services Headquarters are completing action to determine and disburse to the next-of-kin the balance of pay and allowances due to the deceased personnel.

Services Headquarters have also sent the prescribed pensionary forms in all cases to the next-of-kin of the