

the House to take it up, but not on this adjournment motion.

12:23 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT OF KHADI AND VILLAGE  
INDUSTRIES COMMISSION

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** On behalf of Shri Manubhai Shah, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 24 of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, a copy of the Annual Report of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission for the year 1958-59. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1896/60.]

AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT  
FUNDS SCHEME

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of Section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, a copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 147 dated the 6th February, 1960 making certain amendment to the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952 [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1897/60].

12:24 hrs.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO  
ANIMALS BILL

REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE LAID ON  
THE TABLE

**Shri C. R. Narasimhan (Krishnagiri):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and for that purpose to amend the law relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals.

12:24½ hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A  
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC  
IMPORTANCE

SUDDEN FLOODING OF COLLIERY AT  
DAMUA IN MADHYA PRADESH ON THE  
5TH JANUARY, 1960

**Shri P. G. Deb (Angul):** Under Rule 197, I beg to 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:

"Sudden flooding of Colliery at Damua in Madhya Pradesh on the 5th January, 1960."

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra):** As the honourable members are already aware, the regrettable accident took place in Damua Colliery at 1.30 P.M., on the 5th January, 1960. The mine is owned by M/s Kanhan Valley Coal Company Limited and is situated in District Chhindwara of Madhya Pradesh.

2. The Additional Chief Inspector of Mines has made enquiries. It appears that on the day of the accident, arrangements to set supports at the face of a gallery, adjoining a waterlogged gallery, were being made when the intervening strata between the two galleries collapsed and water from the waterlogged workings rushed in, drowning sixteen persons employed at different places in the dip workings. The management is held responsible for this unfortunate mishap. Appropriate action is being taken.

3. Officers of the Mines Inspectorate arranged with other mine managements for speedy dewatering of the mine and by 9 A.M., of the 17th January 1960, the dead bodies of all the drowned persons were recovered.

4. About 250 persons are employed in the Colliery and the workers have been provided with alternative employment.

5. An ad-hoc relief of Rs. 100 per family to the families of the 16 deceased workers has been paid from the

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

Miners' Emergency Relief Fund. The Management of the mine have also paid Rs. 1600 as immediate relief to the bereaved. A sum of Rs. 2880 has been sanctioned from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund for payment of an allowance at the rate of Rs. 10 per month to each of the twelve widows of the victims of the accident for a period of two years. Scholarships of Rs. 5 per month for a period of 3 years to all the school-going children of the deceased workers has also been sanctioned. This is in addition to the amount payable by the employer to the heirs of the deceased workers under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam):** The hon. Parliamentary Secretary said that appropriate action was being taken against the management. May we know the nature of the appropriate action?

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** It is under consideration whether to set up some court of enquiry, or to start with the prosecution.

† CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO  
STARRED QUESTION No. 617

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): In course of the supplementaries raised on the Starred Question No. 617, answered in the Lok Sabha on the 7th December, 1959, to a question asked by Shri S. M. Banerjee about whether the Cawnpore Cotton Mills, which is a unit of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur was likely to start or not, it was stated that the new management of the British India Corporation Limited were taking steps either to open or to improve it. The true position is that as the unit was continuously incurring heavy losses from 1952 onwards, and as it was found to be an uneconomic unit the Corporation had no alternative left but to close down the Mills from December, 1958. The Board of Management of the British India Corporation Limited appointed by the High Court of Allahabad subsequently obtained

permission from that Court to sell or dispose of the assets of the Mills either wholesale or piece-meal. The efforts to sell off the Mills have, however, not yet met with any success. It is understood that a subsidiary of the British India Corporation Limited viz., Elgin Mills Limited, is at present negotiating for the purchase of the plant and machinery of this unit.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I find from the statement that:

"It is understood that a subsidiary of the British India Corporation Limited viz., Elgin Mills Limited, is at present negotiating for the purchase of the plant and machinery of this unit."

May I know whether the Central Government are a party to this negotiation or whether it has been left entirely to the State Government, and what the prospects of this mill being taken over by the Elgin Mills Ltd., are?

**Shri Kanungo:** This is a direction by the High Court.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** That is true, but during the negotiations, will anybody be present on behalf of either the Central Government or the State Government?

**Shri Kanungo:** No.

12.31 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET

**The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to present to the House the estimates of receipts and expenditure of the Indian Railways for the year 1960-61, the concluding year of the Second Five Year Plan.

**Financial Results for 1958-59**

2. As usual, I propose to give the House a brief resume of the completed accounts for the year 1958-59. The gross traffic receipts came to Rs. 390.21 crores, and fell short of the Revised Estimate of Rs. 394.38 crores by