12.07 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

THIRTIETH REPORT

Shri Barman (Cooch-Behar-Reserved—Sch. Castes): I beg to present the Thirtieth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit Report on the Accounts of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 1957-58.

12:07½ hrs.

DELHI PRIMARY EDUCATION BILL

REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

Shrimati Renuka Ray (Malda): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for free and compulsory primary education for children in the Union Territory of Delhi, pending in Rajya Sabha.

12.073 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MAT-TER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPOR-TANCE

CIRCULATION OF COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY

Shri Narasimhan (Krishnagiri): Under rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The circulation of counterfeit currency notes in South India and the steps taken in the matter.".

The Minister of Finance Shri Morarji Desai): May I submit that the statement runs to about three foolscap pages? Shall I lay it on the Table of the House?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, he may lay it on the Table of the House.

Shri Morarji Desai: I lay the statement on the Table of the House. [Appendix I, annexure No. 70].

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): There are press reports to the effect that the police have seized currency notes worth several lakhs of rupees from several sources. There is also a report that counterfeit currency notes have also been received by the police. The newspaper reports alone say that Rs. 10 lakhs worth of currency notes have been received....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member cannot make a speech now. What is it that he wants.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): Let the statement be read and them we may ask one or two clarifications.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members will look into the statement first.

Shri Tangamani: More particularly, in Madras, what has happened is this......

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am not able to follow what the hon. Member wants.

Shri Tangamani: I want the statement to be read here, because it is an important statement.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Then, we may seek some clarification.

Shri Balakrishnan (Dindigu!—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Many innocent poor people, especially the villagers sold their agricultural products and received in exchange counterfeit currency not knowing that it was counterfeit. So, will Government help such persons by allowing them to exchange their currency notes in the State Bank if their cases are genuine namely that they have received these currency notes in exchange for the commodities that they sold?

Mr. Speaker: I thought that hon. Members were anxious to start the discussion on the employees' strike and so on. If hon. Members want, I

am prepared to allow an hour for the reading of this statement. The hon. Minister has laid the statement on the Table of the House. I do not know why when the statement is there, this kind of impatience should be shown; I cannot understand it at all. Hon. Members forge: what they represented earlier.

12.093 hrs.

RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the the House that Dr. Gopalrao Khedkar has resigned his seat in Lok Sabha with effect from the 5th August, 1960.

12.10 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE:
ESSENTIAL SERVICES MAINTENANCE ORDINANCE AND MOTION
RE: STRIKE OF SOME CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the following Resolution:

"This House disapproves of the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance, 1960 (Ordinance No. 1 of 1960) promulgated by the President on the 8th July, 1960".

Sir. in inviting this House to disapprove of the Ordinance—Ordinance No. 1 of 1960—I am not asking the House to hold a post-mortem examination on the strike situation, but in fact I am requesting the House to consider the grave questions of our policy towards a healthy development of trade unionism in this country, the question of the efficient working of the Government machinery and indeed also the question of the success or failure of our Third Five Year Plan.

The Government's momentary victory over labour must not lead them

to the conclusion that the matter will end there, but it behoves the Government to look carefully into the genuine grievances of the employees, and even at this belated hour to listen to the request repeatedly made by the leaders of labour, namely, to sit round a table and hammer out the differences between the two parties.

For a moment, I shall recollect very briefly the background which led to the strike. The Pay Commission's recommendations generated great dissatisfaction among the employees, and was Governadded to that, there ment's delay in arriving at decisions on these. It is a matter of deep regret that the recommendations of the Pay Commission, and particularly the recommendations in respect of the most important items, were based on wrong data supplied to the Commission. I do not know who was responsible for that. Matters such data to the effect that a worker can ordinarily procure two major meals for 56 nP per day are certainly bound to lead the Commission to erroneous conclusions. The workers had a right to disagree with the decisions of the Government. But before going that. I must point one thing out this House and dispel an erroneous impression that has been created, namely, that the leaders who sponsored the strike were really trying to eke out a political advantage for their party and that this was not an industrial dispute. I maintain with all the emphasis at my command that if at all there could be an industrial dispute, this was one. This was a bona fide genuine dispute. The labour leaders made repeated efforts at negotiations, and I speak from record. My hon, friend, Shri Nath Pai, speaking in this House on the 17th December 1959, on the Report of the Pay Commission, stated as under:

"I would appeal to the Home Minister, the Finance Minister and the Railway Minister that it is not too late to try to sit with the representatives of the employees.