

मिले। इस मामले पर विचार किया जा रहा है।
आशा है इस पर जल्द फैसला हो जायेगा।

(ग) सीनियारिटी लिस्ट तैयार की जा
रही है। इसके तैयार होने पर ही सही स्थिति
का पता लगेगा।

Messengers and Boy-Peons in Tele- graph Offices

4131. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of messengers and boy-peons working in the Central Telegraph Offices and other Telegraph Offices in the different circles of the P. & T. Deptt.;

(b) whether it is a fact that they are going to be brought under reduction from the 1st May, 1961;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what other alternative employment will be given to those affected by this reduction?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Power Rates for Industries

4132. Shri Rajeshwar Patel: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been made of the power rates charged to industries in the various parts of India *vis-a-vis* in the U.K., U.S.A., Canada, Germany and Japan;

(b) whether any survey has been made of the relation of power cost to cost of production in important industries such as textiles and aluminium; and

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(c) the cost of production of power by thermal as compared with hydro in India *vis-a-vis* in the U.K., U.S.A., Canada, Germany and Japan?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No.

(b) While conducting load survey, the Central Water and Power Commission have made a study of the relation of power cost to the cost of production in certain important industries including the textile and aluminium industries.

(c) No.

12.01 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

DEATHS DUE TO DROWING IN JAMUNA ON
BAISAKHI DAY

Shri P. G. Deb (Angul): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The inadequate arrangements by the Delhi Administration on the Jamuna bathing Ghats on the last Baisakhi Day which resulted in the death of 5 persons due to drowning in the river.

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): Every year thousands of persons go to the Jamuna to bathe on the Baisakhi day. As in previous years, this year also elaborate rescue arrangements had been made by the authorities of the Delhi Municipal Corporation near the bathing ghats on the west bank of the river from Gita Bhawan in the north to Qudisia Ghat in the south. Adequate lighting arrangements had also been made. As many as 10 country crafts were in attendance and the help of 22 professional divers was obtained. A unit of the Fire Brigade was on duty throughout. In addition, a number of private organisations had made their own rescue arrangements and worked in close co-operation with the

[Shri Datar]

municipal staff on duty. Arrangements for first aid had also been made. The bathers were warned through loudspeakers constantly against the danger spots which had been marked. About 250 police personnel of all ranks were on duty to maintain law and order and help the municipal staff and others in their rescue arrangements. As a result of these arrangements, the Corporation staff were able to save about 108 persons and the voluntary organisations also saved a large number of persons. The exact figures of these are not known.

2. In spite of these arrangements, it is regrettable that five boys between the ages of 14 and 16 were drowned. Four of these were drowned at the Qudisia ghat. They were not accompanied by their relations and it seems that while bathing, they went into deep water and were unable to return to the bank. The tragedy came to notice when another companion of these boys observed that they were in difficulties and made efforts to save them. A constable who happened to be nearby also jumped into the river in an effort to bring the boys back to the bank. He was helped in his efforts by some members of the public and some employees of the Municipal Corporation. All the five boys were immediately rushed to the hospital but it was found that four of them had died due to drowning.

3. Another boy was drowned at the Dhobi Ghat near the Jamuna Bridge. He was about 16 years of age and had gone there accompanied by his father and uncle. He continued to bathe even after his relations had come out of the river. It seems that he strayed into deep water and was drowned. His body was recovered with the help of the Fire Brigade authorities.

4. The discharge in river on that day was only 1,538 cusecs at Wazirabad. The river divides into two parts near the ghats located about three miles downstream of Wazirabad. Thus, only half the river was flowing by the side of the ghats and as such,

the water level in the river was not excessive and had it been less, it would have been difficult for people to bathe.

5. These regrettable deaths were purely accidental and were not due to the negligence of either the authorities of the Delhi Administration or those of the Delhi Municipal Corporation.

12.05 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Shri Dasappa (Bangalore): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the Minutes of sittings of the Estimates Committee relating to the following Reports:—

- (i) 126th, 127th and 128th Reports on the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Food); and
- (ii) 129th, 130th and 131st Reports on the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Agriculture); and
- (iii) 133rd Report on the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation (Department of Co-operation).

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1961, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th April 1961, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill".