

### Telephone connections in Visakhapatnam

**3858. Dr. Vijaya Ananda:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications for telephone connections were received in 1960 and 1961 in Visakhapatnam;

(b) how many telephones were installed; and

(c) how many remains to be installed?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):** (a) 150 between January 1960 and March 1961.

(b) 88.

(c) 62.

### Blood Donations

**3859. Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of blood donated in the country in each of the years 1958, 1959 and 1960 through Government Hospitals; and

(b) how much of it was utilised in each year?

**The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar):** (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will, when available, be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### I.A.C. Freight Charges

**3860. Shri Bangshi Thakur:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the I.A.C. is contemplating to increase the freight charges to and from Calcutta-Agartala; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin):** (a) and (b). The question is under consideration of the Corporation.

12.00 hrs.

### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

#### ACCIDENT IN POWER HOUSE OF BHAKRA DAM

**Shri P. C. Borooah (Sibsagar):** Under rule 197 I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“Recent accident in the Power House of Bhakra Dam resulting in the death of two workers and injuries to many others.”

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** There was an accident involving a painting trolley in penstock No. 4 at the left Bank Power House at Bhakra at about 10 p.m. on 9th April, 1961. The penstocks are steel pipes of 700 ft. length and 5 ft. diameter. These are laid at a steep slope from the up-stream face of the Dam to the Power House to take the water to the turbines. The penstocks are painted with the help of a special trolley which runs up and down, on the inside, of the penstock by means of winchs. Similar trolleys have been successfully used in other penstocks for quite some time. In fact, the painting of three penstocks out of the five has since been completed. Two of these penstocks for the two units which have been commissioned, are already carrying water to the turbines. The accident is reported to have occurred while the trolley was being shifted from one position to another. The trolley slipped and roled down the penstock for a distance of about 300 ft. and caused injuries on the way to 24 persons working in the penstock. Shifting of such trolleys, however, is a normal feature and is reported to have been resorted to time and again in the past. The accident has nothing to do with the Power House itself or any structure of the Dam.

The injured workmen were rushed to the hospital immediately. In-

juries to two of them proved fatal. The condition of one is still serious while another has rallied round and is considered to be out of danger. The remaining persons suffered minor injuries. Of all the injured workmen, 16 have since been discharged from the hospital, leaving only six who are still undergoing treatment.

There is no damage to any structure of the Power House or the Dam. Painting work is proceeding normally.

A Committee consisting of the Director, Construction and Plant Designs, Bhakra Dam and two executive engineers is conducting an enquiry into the cause of the accident. Compensation will be paid to the families of the deceased and injured workmen at double the amounts admissible under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

I share with the House our deep concern on the unfortunate happening leading to the loss of two lives and injuries to others. The General Manager, Bhakra Dam, has been asked to convey our deep sympathies to the persons involved in the accident and the bereaved families.

12-05 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT OF DVC AND AUDIT REPORT THEREON FOR THE YEAR 1959-60

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): On behalf of Hafiz Mohammed Ibrahim, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Annual Report of the Damodar Valley Corporation and Audit Report thereon for the year 1959-60 under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2880/61].

NOTIFICATION UNDER EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS ACT

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. GSR. 535 dated the 15th April, 1961, making

certain amendment to Schedule I of the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the said Act. [placed in Library, See No. LT-2881/61].

12.06 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (GENERAL), 1958-59

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): On behalf of Shri Jagjivan Ram, I beg to present a statement showing the Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1958-59.

12.06½ hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

THIRD REPORT

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman (Kumbakonam): I beg to present the Third Report of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

12.07 hrs.

ORISSA STATE LEGISLATURE (DELEGATION OF POWERS) BILL

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to confer on the President the power of the Legislature of the State of Orissa to make laws, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

As the House is aware, the President issued a Proclamation on 25th February, 1961, under which the administration of the State of Orissa was taken over by the President. As the natural corollary to it, the legislative powers of the State Legislative Assembly have been vested in Parliament. Now, oftentimes, questions arise either when the Parliament is in session or when it is not in session, to have certain Acts passed as early as