

papers laid on the table

I. Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet (on accrual basis) 1974-75) of the Telecommunication Branch of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department.

II. Notification, under the Indian Telegraph Act, 85.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet (on accrual basis) of the Telecommunication Branch of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department for the year 1974-75. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-351/77].

II. A copy each (In English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Communications, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 :—

(i) Notification G.S.R. No. 36, dated the 23rd December, 1976, publishing the Indian Telegraph (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 1977. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-402/77].

(ii) Notification G.S.R. No. 255(E), dated the 26th May, 1977, publishing the Indian Telegraph (First Amendment) Rules, 1977. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-359/77].

Report and Accounts (1975-76) of the Steel Authority of India Limited, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in Hindi) of the Fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Steel Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1975-76, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-403/77].

I. Statement on the action proposed to be taken on the conventions and recom-

mendations adopted at the Sixtieth Session of the International Labour Conference held at Geneva in June, 1975 II. Notifications under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952

III. Coal Mines Deposit linked insurance (Amendment) Scheme, 1977

IV. Corrigendum to Government Notification G.S.R. No. 488(E), dated 28-7 1976

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, on behalf of Shri Ravindra Verma, I beg to lay on the Table—

I. A statement (in English and -Hindi) on the action proposed to be taken Conventions and recommendations adopted at the Sixtieth Session of the international labour Conference held at in June, 1975. [Placed in Library See No. LT-359/77].

II. A copy each (in English and of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Labour, under sub-section of section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 :—

(i) Notification G.S.R. No. 473, dated the 2nd April, 1977, publishing the Employees' Provident Funds Second Amendment) Scheme, 1977.

(ii) Notification G.S.R. No. 57J, dated the 30th April, 1977, publishing the Employees' Provident Funds Amendment) Scheme, 1977.

(iii) Notification G.S.R. No. 648, dated the 21st May, 1977, publishing the Employees' Deposit-linked Insurance (Amendment) Scheme, 1977.

(iv) Notification G.S.R. No. 677, dated the 28th May, 1977, publishing the Employees' Provident Funds (Fourth Amendment) Scheme, 1977. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-359/77 for (i) to (iv)].

III. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Labour Notification G.S.R. No. 647, dated the 21st May, 1977, pub-

lishing the Coal Mines Deposit-Linked Insurance (Amendment) Scheme, 1977, under section 7A of the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-358/77].

IV. A copy of the Ministry of Labour Notification G.S.R. No. 534, dated the 16th April, 1977, publishing a Corrigendum to Government Notification G.S.R. No. 488(E), dated the 28th July, 1976. [Placed in Library. See No. 1.1-359/77].

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
Victimisation of Joournalis by various
Newspaper Managements**

SHRI VITHAL GADGIL (Maharashtra):

Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the victimisation of journalists by various newspaper managements in the country.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI) : Sir, the subject matter of this notice falls essentially in the State sphere, since labour disputes between employees and employers of newspaper management etc. fall within the purview of the Industrial Disputes Act administered through the State Governments. Therefore, information about such complaints is not generally received by the Government of India. However, one complaint has been made to Government recently. Earlier there was the Press Council of India to which such complaints could be addressed. After the abolition of the Press Council this forum is not available and therefore, the present complaint was made to the Government.

Shri Shrikant Verma, Special Correspondent of Dinman, made a complaint on May 21, 1977 to the effect that the management of the Times of India had called him and told him that he may have to resign, as there was pressure from the Government. Full facts were checked up

and it was found that there was no substance in his allegation. The management of the paper also confirmed that no one from the Government had even suggested anything in this regard. Shri Verma was accordingly informed.

SHRI VITHAL GADGIL : Sir, Mr. Advani is himself a veteran journalist and he was instrumental in restoring many wrong things which were done. For example, the Feroze Gandhi Act was restored. Then, the political broadcasts are introduced. All these deserve congratulations, undoubtedly. But to say that these cases strictly fall within the purview of the Labour Ministry, I submit, is taking a very technical view.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has that it comes under the Labour Mini Governments.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : I did not say that it comes under the Labour Ministry. I said that I have no information. I also do not say that I am not concerned.

SHRI VITHAL GADGIL : You are concerned. I know that you would be concerned. Now, he has already mentioned one case of Mr. Shrikant Verma. I shall presently point out other cases based on the accounts published in newspapers.

In the first place, apart from Mr. Shrikant Verma's case and the kind of the Prime Minister chose to give to him, I wish to bring to your notice and through you, to the notice of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, a few other cases. It is the case of Mr. Mahavira Adhikari, editor of the Nav Bharat Times, Bombay. He has been asked to resign although his term is valid until the end of this year. Then, there is the case of Mr. Akshaya Kumar Jain, Chief Editor, Nav Bharat Times, Delhi. He has been refused extension on the ground that he has completed 60 years of age and in his place it is proposed to bring Mr. Vatsya-yan who is at least seven years older than Mr. Jain.