

contained in their 74th Report (1968-69) on Audit Report (Commercial), 1968 relating to the Forest Department, Andamans.

ANNOUNCEMENT *RE* GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government business in this House during the week commencing 16th March, 1970, will consist of :—

(1) General discussion on the General Budget for 1970-71;

(2) Consideration and return of the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1970, as passed by Lok Sabha.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned till 2 P. M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at three minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at two of the clock, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) in the Chair—

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SERIOUS SITUATION ARISING OUT OF THE POLLUTION OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLIED FROM THE OKHLA WATER-WORKS—*could.*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : Mr. Mohta, you want to ask clarifications?

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Yes, Sir, The pollution . . .

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE (West Bengal) : How is it that we are taking this up . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : When we adjourned it was decided and the House agreed that clarifications should be taken up at 2 o'clock. If the House does not want . . .

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no. Calling attention now.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : The pollution of the drinking water supplied to South Delhi is an extremely serious matter, and it is very surprising that the hon. Minister has tried to play down the matter and simply said that every step would be taken to improve matters. This is not the first time that this sort of thing has happened in Delhi. Before also polluted water was supplied to the colonies and there was an outbreak of jaundice, and that risk persists even now. I would like to ask the Government whether it is a fact that the Okhla water-supply scheme was recommended to be scrapped by experts something like five years ago, and if so how is it that alternative supply of water has not been arranged even during this long period of five years ? It was decided by the authorities to supply 40 MGD from Wazirabad to South Delhi, but that station is supplying only 10 MGD up till now. Secondly, may I know from the Government whether the Delhi Administration made a request for a grant of Rs. 56 crores for improving the water-supply to Delhi, whereas the actual amount of money made available to it was much less, perhaps Rs. 25 crores or so? If so, what are the reasons for not giving sufficient funds for this most important project, and do the Government have any plans to increase the grant to the Delhi Administration for this particular purpose ?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I am extremely sorry that some extraneous questions have been imported into very lamentable and serious matter. It is not a question of availability of finance which has been responsible for this. I will just for the information of the hon. Members read out what has been done. If we take 1967-68 the Municipal administration was given for this purpose Rs. 250 lakhs; in 1968-69 Rs. 200 lakhs; this year Rs. 245 lakhs; next year it will be Rs. 409 lakhs. Therefore, it is not a question of non-availability of funds. In fact they have not been able to return the loans which have been given to them, and still monies have been given. The real question is, when this Committee was appointed, this Committee had said that so long the water supply is not available in enough quantity, extreme measures should be taken to see that the water supply is not polluted. For this purpose enough care should be taken. Daily readings are