

AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) :
Madam, I beg to lay on the Table, under subsection (3) of section 619-A of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy each of the following papers:—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Durgapur Projects Limited for the year 1966-67, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Review on the working of the company.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-637/ 68 for (i) and (ii)]

THE BUDGET ESTIMATES (1968-69) OF THE DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT-627/68]

सिंचाई तथा विद्युत् मंत्रालय में उपमन्त्री
(प्रो० सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद): मैं दामोदर घाटी
अधिनियम, 1948 की धारा 44 की उपधारा
(3) के अधीन, 1968-69 के वर्ष के लिए
दामोदर घाटी निगम के बजट प्रावकलन की
एक प्रति सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

(Some hon. Members stood up)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :
Statement to be made by the Minister of Education. He has to go to the other House. I shall give you all opportunities after that.

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE
DEPUTATION OF WEST BENGAL
PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS TO
THE PRESIDENT**

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : Madam, a Deputation on behalf of the West Bengal Primary School Teachers' Association met me on 23rd March, 1968 and discussed with me the various points

raised in the Memorandum which the Association has now submitted to the President of India. Two members of Parliament, Shri Bhupesh Gupta and Shri Niren Ghosh accompanied the Deputation and were present during the discussion.

I have studied the Memorandum. It raises some political issues and a Dumber of issues about primary education. The first is not the concern of the Ministry of Education and hence my observations refer only to primary education.

It is true that there are several deficiencies in the provision of primary education in West Bengal and that facilities for free primary education are limited in most urban areas and specially in the city of Calcutta. This is due partly to a lower priority being accorded to primary education in the first three Eve Year Plans than should have been the case and partly to such factors as a large rate of population increase due to the influx of refugees. To rectify these deficiencies, a substantial increase in the recurring expenditure on primary education will be needed and this will be possible only through a carefully planned and phased programme spread oveT a few years.

In so far as the revision of salaries of primary teachers are concerned, the West Bengal Government has appointed a Pay Commission whose report will have to be awaited. The problem of increasing Dearness Allowa]}.ce has large financial implications which are being examined. Orders regarding improved retirement benefits for primary teachers have now been issued. Steps to remedy other deficiencies are being included in the Fourth Five Year Plan which will begin in April 1969 and preparations for which have now started.