

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. Sec No. LT-637/68 for (i) and (i)]

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

सिंचाई तथा विद्युत् मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री
(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 प्राक्कलन का
एक प्रति सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।
[Placed in the Library. Sec No.
LT-627/68]

(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
number of issues about primary edu-
cation. 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 Five Year Plans than
should have been the case and partly
to such factors as a large rate of popu-
lation 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 over a few
years.

In so far as the revision of salaries of
primary teachers are concerned, the
West Bengal Government has appoin-
ted a Pay Commission whose report will
have to be awaited. The problem of
increasing Dearness Allowance has
large financial implications which are
being examined. Orders regarding
improved retirement benefits for pri-
mary 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.