

with the Auditor's Report thereon.

- (ii) Report on the working of the Tripura State Bank Limited (in liquidation) during the year ended the 31st December, 1958.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2796/61 for (i) and (ii)].

REVISED ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 1960-61 AND THE BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 1961-62 OF THE EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT AND PLANNING (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under section 36 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, a copy of the Revised Estimates for the year 1960-61 and the Budget Estimates for the year 1961-62 of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2792/61].

THE ORISSA HOUSE RENT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1961

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Orissa House Rent Control (Amendment) Ordinance, 1961 (Ordinance No. 2 of 1961). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2801/61].

STATEMENT RE FIRE IN RAILWAY TIMBER DEPOT AT DHILWAN

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): Sir, the statement runs into two pages. May I put it on the Table of the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think it is an important statement. You may read it.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: On the 23rd March, 1961 a fire broke out at about 5 p.m. in the Railway Sleeper Treatment Plant at Dhilwan which is situated on the East bank of river Beas. The fire alarm was immediately sounded and a call for help sent out to the Military, Civil and Police Authorities at Beas, Amritsar, Batala, Jullundur, Ludhiana, Kapurthala etc. About three hundred Railway Staff who were at the plant at the time made all possible efforts to bring the fire under control with water and sand from the hydrants and sand bins situated at a number of points in between the stacks of sleepers. The fire which had started simultaneously at 6 or 7 spots in a series of stacks at the southern end of the Depot, however, spread quickly fanned by high wind. Help arrived very soon from the Military Fire Brigades at Beas and Jullundur and also from the Police and Civil Authorities at Amritsar, Batala, Jullundur, Ludhiana and Kapurthala etc. The first fire brigade from Beas was at work by 6.30 p.m. and it was joined by 8 other fire brigades before midnight. Water was drawn from the open well inside the Depot and also from the river Beas. In spite of strenuous work by the fire brigades and the army and civil personnel who joined in the operations the fire could not be brought under control immediately on account of the high wind which kept changing direction frequently. All that could be done was to save the stacks of sleepers at the eastern end of the Depot by creating a gap from the burning stacks and by soaking them with water. More than 1½ lakhs of sleepers of the value of about Rs. 30 lakhs were thus saved. The fire was eventually brought under control by about 6.30 hrs. the next morning.

One Driver's quarters in the middle of the Depot was damaged in the fire. Other staff quarters at the fringe of Sleeper Depot were slightly damaged but fortunately there has been no loss or injury to any of the staff and their families and there has been no loss of their property also.