

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON  
THE TABLE

[English]

Tenth and Eleventh Reports and  
Minutes

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA  
MURTHY (Kanakapur) : I beg to present  
the Tenth and Eleventh Reports (Hindi and  
English versions) of the Committee on  
Papers Laid on the Table.

I beg also to lay on the Table  
Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the  
sittings of the Committee on Papers Laid  
on the Table relating to their Tenth and  
Eleventh Reports.

— — —  
(Interruptions)\*\*

MR SPEAKER : It is my job and I have  
done it. As long as I am the Speaker, as  
long as I have to carry out the wishes of the  
House, I will carry them out according to the  
rules laid down by this House. Nothing will  
prevent me from doing it.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR SPEAKER : I have done it...  
Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR SPEAKER : There is nothing in  
Rajya Sabha also.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR SPEAKER : Nothing goes on record  
...Rules do not allow me...I do not allow  
it. If there is any point, I will listen to you.  
If there is no point, I will not.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR SPEAKER : Gentlemen, you may  
say it once, you may say it ten times. I have  
gone through everything, all the pros and  
cons. I have gone through the rules, I have  
gone through the Constitution; everything  
I have gone through and I am convinced, I

have done it very very ably. I am convinced  
of the ruling that I have given and I stick  
to it.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR SPEAKER : No, Sir. Not allowed  
anywhere. This is our House.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR SPEAKER : I am going according  
to the rules which I have. Nothing doing.  
I have done the right thing and I stick to it.

Now, Statement by the Minister.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR SPEAKER : Nothing goes on record  
except the statement of the Minister, because  
you do not follow the rules.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR SPEAKER : Except the statement  
nothing goes on record. I have not allowed  
anything on that subject, because I go by the  
rules.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR SPEAKER : Except the statement  
nothing goes on record. I have not allowed  
any Hon. Member.

12.11 hrs.

STATEMENT REGARDING MINIMUM  
SUPPORT PRICES IN RESPECT OF  
KHARIF PULSES AND OILSEEDS  
OF 1987-88 CROP

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND  
CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF  
AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA  
MAKWANA) : Sir, The Government have  
fixed the minimum support prices of kharif  
pulses namely Urad, Moong and Tur (Arhar)  
of 1987-88 Crop at Rs. 325 per quintal  
each marking an increase of Rs 5 per quin-  
tal over the corresponding price for the  
produce of 1986-87 crop.

As in the 1986-87 season, State Co-operative Marketing Agencies have been authorised to purchase pulses during 1987-88 if offered at the minimum support price with the assurance that NAFED would lift the pulses so purchased, should the State Agencies be unable to market the same within the State.

It has been the endeavour of the Government to provide incentives to the farmers to step up the production and productivity of oilseeds. Accordingly the minimum support price of Groundnut-in-Shell of 1987-88 crop has been fixed at Rs. 390 per quintal, marking an increase of Rs. 20 per quintal over the previous year's level.

The minimum support price of Soyabean (Yellow) of 1987-88 crop shall be Rs. 300 per quintal as against Rs. 290 for the last year. The minimum support price of Soyabean (Black) has been increased by Rs. 5 and fixed at Rs. 260 per quintal for the 1987-88 season.

We are keen to provide encouragement and incentives to the farmers for taking up and expanding the cultivation of new and upcoming oilseeds. Accordingly the minimum support price of Sunflower of 1987-88 crop has been fixed at Rs. 390 per quintal which marks a substantial increase of Rs. 40 per quintal over the price fixed for the previous year.

I am sure that the incentives offered by the Government in terms of a substantial increase in minimum support prices will enthuse our farmers to achieve rapid increases in productivity and production of oilseeds and pulses.

12.13 hrs.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE ACCIDENT TO MADRAS EGMORE-TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI ROCKFORT EXPRESS ON  
15 MARCH, 1987

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): Sir, I deeply

regret to apprise the House of an unfortunate accident to 177 Down Madras Egmore-Tiruchchirappalli Rockfort Express at about 4.45 hrs on 15.3.1987. While the train was running over Marudaiyar Bridge between Ariyalur and Sillakkudi stations on the Madras-Tiruchchirappalli metre gauge single line section of Southern Railway, the locomotive and the first eight coaches derailed, three coaches falling into the dry river bed. Nine coaches remained on the track, six on the bridge and the last three outside it. The load of the train was 17 coaches.

As a result of this accident, 25 persons lost their lives. Among the dead were 13 railway employees, including the engine crew. 45 persons suffered grievous injuries and 94 simple injuries.

The General Manager of Southern Railway who was travelling by the same train, immediately supervised the relief and rescue operations. Medical relief was rushed from Ariyalur, Thanjavur and Tiruchchirappalli in co ordination with the civil administration. Senior officers of Southern Railway from Madras and those from the Divisional Office in Tiruchchirappalli rushed to the site of the accident. I, accompanied by Member (Traffic), Railway Board and Director General, Railway Protection Force, left for the site, inspected the place of accident and visited the injured in the hospitals. Ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of those who lost their lives and had been identified, as also to those who were injured has been arranged.

Commissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle will hold a statutory enquiry into the accident.

Prima facie cause of the accident is sabotage. A very powerful explosive appeared to have been used to damage the bridge. A 75-metre wire was found connected to the place where the explosion occurred. It appears to have been a wanton act of terrorism with the intent to cause loss of lives of innocent citizens. As a preventive measure, I have ordered further patrolling of tracks and guarding of important bridges in certain identified areas. I am sure all Members will join me in condemning this senseless and wanton act of violence in which the lives of innocents were cruelly forfeited.