

12.35 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. EXPLOSION IN  
JAMNAGAR WHILE BOMBS  
WERE BEING LOADED

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P.  
SINGH DEO.): Mr. Deputy Speaker,  
Sir, with deep regret I inform the House  
about an unfortunate accident that  
occurred at the Air Force Station, Jam-  
nagar at 1240 hours on the 27th March,  
1984.

2. According to the information  
received from Air Force Station Jam-  
nagar, the accident took place in the  
course of handling of bombs during the  
routine activities at the base. Some un-  
prepared bombs were being despatched  
from the base to another Air Force  
Station on stock transfer. Three civilian  
trucks were to transport the unprepared  
bombs by road; two of them had been  
loaded and were standing by to depart  
while the other one was in the process of  
being loaded.

3. At the same time, a trolley on  
which some bombs had been loaded for  
transportation to another area in the  
same Station was standing near the out  
gate of the bomb dump. These bombs  
were to be sent to the aircraft for loading  
for the purposes of operational training.

4. All of a sudden, the bombs loaded  
on the trolley exploded causing almost  
total destruction of one of the civilian  
trucks standing loaded with bombs.  
Relatively less damage was caused to the  
other two trucks. The unprepared bombs  
loaded in these trucks were also scattered  
and suffered damage but did not explode.  
A number of fires broke out in the area  
of the bomb dump. These were put out  
by the Air Force fire brigade.

5. At the time of reporting, 7 per-  
sons, 4 of them service personnel and the  
three truck drivers had lost their lives.  
A total of 5 persons including 8 airmen,  
1 DSC Jawan and 1 civilian employee

sustained serious injuries. About 12 per-  
sons were given first aid. The injured  
personnel are being treated in the local  
hospital.

6. A court of inquiry has been  
ordered by the Air Headquarters to en-  
quire into the circumstances of the  
accident.

7. ACC-in-C South western Air  
Command and the CAS have visited the  
Station. Immediate financial relief has been  
given to the families of the affected per-  
sonnel including a payment of Rs. 2000/-  
out of the discretionary fund with  
the CAS to each of the civilian personnel  
killed in accident. Further compensation  
to the civilians who have suffered due to  
this accident will be paid after the Court  
of Inquiry report is finalised. Steps are  
also being taken for finalisation of pen-  
sionary and other terminal benefits ad-  
missible to the families of Air Force per-  
sonnel who were killed in the accident.

12.38 hrs.

## ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

## Tea Board

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the  
Motion, Mr. Laskar, on behalf of Mr.  
Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN  
THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY  
(SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR):  
On behalf of Shri Vishwanath Pratap  
Singh, I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of sub-section (3)  
(f) of Section 4 of the Tea Act,  
1953, read with rule 4 (1) (b) of  
the Tea Rules, 1954, the members  
of this House do proceed to elect,  
in such manner as the Speaker  
may direct, two members from  
among themselves to serve  
as members of the Tea