19.18 hrs.

STATEMENT *RE.* SIEGE OF INDIAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): Sir, on behalf of the Minister of External Affairs, I beg to make the following statement.

As hon. Members may have heard, our Mission and the Guatemalan Mission in Maxico City were occupied at about 0130 hours Indian Standard Time by a group of Mexican Indians. It is believed that they were protesting against the arrest of one of their leaders by the Government of Mexico They probably wanted our Embassy to intercede with the Mexican Government on their behalf, considering our close and friendly relations with Mexico. However, they assured our Embassy officials that it was not their intention to treat our Embassy people as hostages or to harm them.

The siege was lifted at about 0600 hours Indian Standard Time with the co-operation of the local Government authorities. All our officers and staff are safe. There was no violence.

19. 20 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

SHRI V. N. GADGIL (Pune): I beg to move:

"That an address be presented to the President in the following terms:—

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 16th February, 1981."

19.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, February 26, 1981/*Phalguna* 1, 1902 (*Saka*).

GMGIPND—Job—I—3693 L.S.—30.3.81—890