

sought to be done. We are happy and glad and we support the restoration of the previous position and I request the Government to see that such aberrations are got rid of as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: I am interrupting the proceedings just for a minute. The Railway Minister wants to make an important statement. I am allowing one statement only.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): That is also on the same subject.

MR. SPEAKER: The other statement is not urgent. You can make that tomorrow.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: That is also on the same subject. That is about the safety. That is also on the same subject.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Go on.

13.37 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE. CONSTITUTION  
OF ACCIDENTS INQUIRY  
COMMITTEE**

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): Having regard to the concern expressed by the Hon'ble Members of this House, as also of the other House, on the recent railway accidents, I have decided, with the approval of the Prime Minister, to constitute a High-Power Accidents Inquiry Committee to go into the whole question of accidents.

The Committee will consist of the following members:

(i) Justice S. M. Sikri, former Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India—*Chairman*.

**Members**

(ii) Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Member of Parliament, (Lok Sabha).

(iii) Shri Khurshid Alam Khan Member of Parliament, (Rajya Sabha).

(iv) Shri Bagaram Tulpule, former General Manager, Durgapur Steel Plant, and Ex Chairman, National Safety Council.

(v) Shri P. Sahai ex-Member, Railway Board.

(vi) Shri G. S. Parameshwaran Ex-General Manager, Railways.

(vii) Shri Arya Bhusan Ex-Commissioner of Railway Safety.

Shri V. K. Thapar, Joint Director (Safety), Railway Board, will act as the Secretary of the High-Power Committee.

The terms of reference of this Committee will be as follows:

1. To review the position of accidents on the Indian Railways since the appointment of the Railway Accidents Inquiry Committee, 1968 and to review the implementation of their recommendations;

2. To examine the adequacy of the existing organisation, equipment and practices for ensuring safe running of trains on the Indian Railways, and to suggest measures for prevention of accidents.

The Committee will be asked to submit the report within 6 months from the time they start functioning.