

14.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

FIFTEENTH REPORT

DR. HENRY AUSTIN (Ernakulam): Sir, I beg to present the Fifteenth Report of the Committee of Privileges.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

TWENTY-SECOND REPORT AND MINUTES

SHRI SHIVNATH SINGH (Jhunjhunu): Sir, I beg to present the following Report and Minutes of the Committee on Petitions:—

(1) Twenty-second Report of the Committee; and

(2) Minutes of Fifty-second to Fifty-seventh sittings of the Committee.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

SIXTEENTH REPORT

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO (Kakinada): Sir, I beg to present the Sixteenth Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

SEVENTH REPORT

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH (Mandi): Sir, I beg to present the Seventh Report of the Railway Convention Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fifth Report

14.05 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS OF SIKH COMMUNITY

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): Government deeply regret that an agitational atmosphere is sought to be created....

MR. SPEAKER: You can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI OM MEHTA: Sir, with your permission I beg to lay the statement on the Table of the House.

Statement.

Government deeply regret that an agitational atmosphere is sought to be created on the ground of alleged Government interference in religious affairs of the Sikh community. Government has never interfered, and do not intend to interfere, with the religious affairs of the Sikh community or any other community. On the other hand, the constitutional safeguards and protections ensured to all religions have been consistently upheld and supported by the Government.

Recently, a number of Members of Parliament and other leaders of Sikh opinion met the Prime Minister and expressed their misgivings about certain matters. The first of these related to a demand that Sikh religious and charitable trusts as well as Gurdwaras should be exempted