

### STATEMENT RE EXPLOSIONS AT PATHANKOT

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon). Mr Speaker, Sir, you had given directions that any change in the situation arising from the explosions in Pathankot should be reported to the House, and I had undertaken to do so

Now, first of all, in regard to casualties, the Army casualties are now 9 instead of the 8 that I gave before, that is not to say that any of the injured persons has died, but we have discovered one more body. The total civilian casualties are now 34 which means that out of the 28 civilians who were believed to be missing some are now found dead, and out of those who we thought, had disappeared five have been traced. So, on the missing list, there are six remaining

I think you will allow me to say, Mr Speaker, that it is difficult to give with regard to these dead persons anything more than estimates, because of the condition in which they were blown up

The second is that I informed the House that road and railway traffic had to be suspended. Now, road traffic was reopened on the next day that is, the 25th February, 1958. And railway traffic which is really the sphere of my colleague the Railway Minister, has been reopened yesterday, the 26th February 1958 the Army having agreed to its being reopened

With regard to reliefs, we still have not been able to locate the next-of-kin. So far as the military dead are concerned, search is continuing. As regards civilian reliefs the Punjab Government have distributed Rs 200 per family to 10 families. Enquiries about requirements of the sufferers continue.

Finally, the Court of Inquiry has been instituted. It began work yesterday morning and it has examined two witnesses. One of the witnesses is still not in a condition to give coherent evidence. Therefore, it must take some time

### COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

#### FIFTH REPORT

Shri Mulchand Dube (Farrukhabad) I beg to present the Fifth Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House

I also lay on the Table a copy of the Statement showing names of Members who have been absent for 15 days or more continuously during the last session

### ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

#### EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) I beg to move

"That in pursuance of clause (1) of Section 4 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, read with rule 2A of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, 1950, the Members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one Member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation which is being re-constituted"

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

"That in pursuance of clause (1) of Section 4 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 read with rule 2A of the Employees'