

MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT)  
BILLAS RETURNED BY RAJYA SABHA WITH  
AMENDMENTS

Secretary: Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1960 which has been returned by Rajya Sabha with amendments.

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

## TWENTY-THIRD REPORT

Shri Barman (Cooch-Bihar—Reserved-Sch. Castes): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-third Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations disclosed in the Appropriations disclosed in the Appropriation Accounts (Civil), 1957-58.

12.25 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCEFIRE ACCIDENT IN THE REFUGEL CAMP  
NEAR BHARATPUR

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal (Uluberia): Sir, under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The recent fire accident in the refugee camp situated in Uttar Pradesh near Bharatpur."

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): Sir, the statement covers a little over a page. May I read it or place on the Table of the House?

Mr. Speaker: I have always said that hon. Ministers may prepare a short summary and read it to the House.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I can give a summary of the statement. We have been moving the families of refugees from camps in West Bengal to U.P. for a long time. Now, recently, about 240 families were moved to U.P. to a particular area. Unfortunately, a fire broke out. An old man—I am told he was 100 years old—was smoking a hukka at night and accidentally his quilt caught fire and the fire spread to certain other portions. The old man, unfortunately, died. The U.P. Government made every possible arrangement. They have given relief to those persons who have been injured and substantial relief to the family of the man who was deceased. Some doles have been given. According to the information given to me by the State Government everything humanly possible has been done for those affected by this unfortunate incident or accident, to alleviate their sufferings. That is the position. It was a pure accident; and nothing beyond that could be done under the circumstances.

Mr. Speaker: The detailed statement may be placed on the Table.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am laying the Statement on the Table, Sir.

## STATEMENT

About 240 families were recently moved from camps in West Bengal to a newly acquired area of land known as Rattan Farm in the Tarai area of U.P. for resettlement. These families were housed in temporary huts put up for the purpose, pending construction of permanent structures. On the night of the 4th/5th February, 1960, one Shri Raj Mohan Acharya, a very old displaced person from East Pakistan carelessly emptied a lighted 'chilam', which he had been smoking, near his bed before going to sleep. The quilt with which Shri Acharya was covering himself, unfortunately caught fire from the 'chilam' and the fire spread rapidly. The Government staff, though few in numbers, brought the fire under control as quickly as possible, but not before loss of personal