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14.09 Â½ hrs.

Title: Statement regarding successful launch of Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft, India's first unmanned scientific mission to the moon.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I am happy to inform this august House that India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C11 successfully launched Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft, India's first unmanned scientific mission to the moon, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

Sir, with your permission I lay on the Table the rest of the statement.

The launch of PSLV- C11 was the fourteenth flight in the PSLV series. The launch vehicle systems have performed satisfactorily.

The main scientific objective of Chandrayaan-1 mission is to orbit around the moon and carry out the high resolution remote sensing for preparing the 3- dimensional atlas of the moon and in carrying out chemical and mineralogical mapping of the lunar surface. The spacecraft has eleven scientific instruments from India and from universities and laboratories of European Space Agency, USA and Bulgaria.

Today, Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft has been placed into an elliptical intermediate orbit of 255 x 22,860 km around the earth. In the coming days, the spacecraft will be maneuvered using its own on-board propulsion system to attain an orbit around the moon which is nearly 4,00,000 km away from the earth.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 9069/08.

I am sure that this august House will join me in congratulating the Chairman and the entire team at ISRO who were involved in the realization and management of the complex India's unmanned scientific mission to the moon.

...(Interruptions)