

[Mr. Speaker]

I request the members to allow me to go to the next item? Or I will keep the House sitting. Let any Member say anything; nothing will be taken down. I only appeal to the hon. members to allow me to go on to the next item. If any Member wants to speak now, it will not be recorded. (Interruptions)\*\*

12-41 hrs.

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE  
TWELFTH SESSION OF INDUSTRIAL  
COMMITTEE ON PLANTATIONS  
THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOY-**

- (1) (i) Supplementary Statements Nos. VI and VII  
(ii) Supplementary Statement No. VI  
(iii) Supplementary Statement No. VIII  
(iv) Supplementary Statement No. XI  
(v) Supplementary Statement No. XIX  
(vi) Supplementary Statement No. IX

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1951/67].

- (2) A copy of the Indian Telegraph (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 1967 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1773 in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 1967, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1952/67].

**NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE ESSENTIAL  
COMMODITIES ACT ETC.**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNA-  
SAHIB SHINDE) :** I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :—
- (i) The Madhya Pradesh Rice Procurement (Levy) Third Amendment Order, 1967, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1754 in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 1967.

**MENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) :** On behalf of Shri Jai Sukh Lal Hathi, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Main Conclusions of the Twelfth Session of the Industrial Committee on Plantations held at Madras on 19th and 20th August, 1967. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1950/67].

**STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY  
GOVERNMENT AND INDIAN TELEGRAPH  
(EIGHTH AMENDMENT) RULES**

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICA-  
TIONS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) :** On behalf of Shri I. K. Gujral, I beg to lay on the Table :—

- Second Session, 1967 (Fourth Lok Sabha)  
First Session, 1967 (Fourth Lok Sabha)  
Sixteenth Session, 1966 (Third Lok Sabha)  
Fifteenth Session, 1966 (Third Lok Sabha)  
Eleventh Session, 1965 (Third Lok Sabha)  
Eighth Session, 1964 (Third Lok Sabha)

- (ii) G.S.R. 1755 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 1967, rescinding the Uttar Pradesh Paddy (Restriction on Movement) Order, 1961.

- (iii) The Roller Mills Wheat Products (Price Control) Amendment Order, 1967, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1776 in Gazette of India dated the 1st December, 1967.

- (iv) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 1775 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st December, 1967, making certain amendment to Notification No. G.S.R. 1842 dated the 24th December, 1964, under section 12A of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1953/67].

**NOTIFICATION UNDER THE EMPLOYEES'  
PROVIDENT FUNDS ACT**

**SHRI D. R. CHAVAN :** On behalf of Shri S. C. Jamir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 1716

published in Gazette of India dated the 11th November, 1967, under sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, adding "Tent making Industry" to Schedule I to the said Act. [Placed in Library, see No. LT-1954/67].

#### COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

##### FOURTH REPORT

SHRI KHADILKAR (Khed) : I beg to present the Fourth Report of the Committee of Privileges.

12.43 hrs.

#### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

##### TWELFTH REPORT

SHRI M. R. MASANI (Rajkot) : I beg to present the Twelfth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Excesses Over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations disclosed in the Appropriation Accounts (Civil) 1965-66 and Action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee contained in their Forty-fifth Report (Third Lok Sabha) relating to Excesses Over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations disclosed in the Appropriation Accounts (Civil), 1963-64.

12.43½ hrs.

#### STATEMENT RE: TUTICORIN HARBOUR PROJECT

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao to make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (DR V. K. R. V. RAO) : Should I read it out or shall I lay it on the Table of the House ?

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

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : I beg to lay on the Table of the House a statement on the Tuticorin Harbour Project. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1955/67].

12.44 hrs.

#### STATEMENT RE: EARTHQUAKE IN WESTERN INDIA

श्री जार्ज फरनेम्बीज (बम्बई दक्षिण) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने कोयना के भूकम्प के बारे में स्थगन-प्रस्ताव दिया है।

श्री बेवराव पाटिल (यवतमाल) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने इस बारे में काल-एटन्शन नोटिस दिया है।

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday there was a very shocking earthquake in Maharashtra and a large number of people died. Naturally, not only the Members of this House but the whole country is anxious to know what the details are. May I request the Prime Minister or the Home Minister to make a statement sometime today ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : May I just say a few words ? I do not have much information just now, but I should like to say a few words if you will allow me.

I should like to express my deep distress at the great human tragedy which has been caused by the earthquake in western India. It is one of the severest we have had and certainly the biggest ever felt in that area. It has resulted, as the hon. members know, in a high death toll. We do not, as yet, have the full figures because it is only as they remove the debris and the information comes in from towns and villages that the full extent of the loss will be known. But we know that there had been extensive damage to property. The Home Minister happened to be in Maharashtra when this news reached him and he flew immediately to Koyanagar. Yesterday when the news came to Delhi, our Minister, Dr. K. L. Rao, rushed immediately to the Koyana Dam. According to present information, no damage has been done to the Dam.

I should like to read out a report which has come from the Director-General of the Meteorological Department. He says :

'A major earthquake shock took place at 04 hours 21 minutes Indian Standard Time on the 11th December, 1967. The epicentre of this shock has been located about 115 kilometres south of Poona near Koyana. According to the records of the Delhi Observatory, the magnitude of the shock was 7½ in the Richter Scale, which will class it as a major shock capable of causing severe damage near the epicentre. Available reports indicate