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#### 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