

12.04 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**REPORTED DEATH OF A NURSING OFFICER
AND SERIOUS INJURY TO ANOTHER DUE TO
ALLEGED ASSAULT AND MOLESTATION IN
A MINI BUS IN DELHI**

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam):
I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

The reported death of a nursing officer and serious injury to another, due to alleged assault and molestation by the driver of mini-bus on the 17th March, 1973 near Ring Road in Delhi.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHR K. C. PANT):** It is reported that two lady nursing officers of the Army Hospital, Delhi Cantonment, had gone to Patel Nagar to see an evening cinema show on the 16th March, 1973. After the show, they engaged a scooter rickshaw which took them upto Rajouri Garden. As the rickshaw driver refused to go beyond Rajouri Garden, the two officers took a mini-bus for Naraina, where the mini-bus terminated and all the passengers got down. The driver of the mini-bus volunteered to take these officers to the Army Hospital.

It is also alleged that when the mini-bus started again, the conductor drove the vehicle and the driver stood near exit door of the mini-bus. The mini-bus was driven past the Military Hospital and the driver made an effort to assault the officers in an attempt to outrage their modesty. One of the officers jumped out of the running vehicle, and the other is reported to have been pushed out. The bus sped away.

At about 10.30 P.M. a passerby telephoned the police post at Chhauha

Kuan that he had found two women lying on the Ring Road near Brar Square. The passerby brought them to the Army Hospital. At the hospital, one of them was found dead and the other unconscious. The Army Hospital authorities reported the arrival of the two nursing officers at the hospital to the police station on telephone at 11.50 P.M. The police recovered two bus tickets from the purse of the deceased. The unconscious officer recovered consciousness and made statement to the police at about 2 P.M. The police instituted a search and by the afternoon of the 17th March, they arrested both the driver and the conductor of the mini-bus allegedly involved in the incident and impounded the mini-bus. A case has been registered and is under investigation.

This has been a tragic and outrageous occurrence which has shocked us. It is a matter of satisfaction that the Police acted swiftly. The Police have been asked to complete the investigation without delay.

SHRI SEZHIYAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, I share with the Minister the feeling that it has been a very grave, tragic and outrageous occurrence in recent times in Delhi. As far as this incident is concerned, I also agree with him that the police has acted swiftly and effectively, but this is not the first incident of its kind which has been reported. Last year also, incidents had been reported of the same kind, that is of women travelling late in the night by the bus services having been molested and assaulted and, in two or three cases, having been done to death. This only reflects the alarming increase in the rate of crimes in Delhi; as per the reports given by the Government itself, more than 32,500 cognizable offences were committed in Delhi last year as against a little over 15,200 in 1969. Judging by the same increasing rate, probably the first quarter of this year might have recorded even a steeper rise in

the rate of crimes committed. This being the metropolis of this country. it is a matter of grave concern, if not shame, that we do not have an effective and efficient police force in Delhi. It has been brought out again and again, whether it be the Miranda Hostel incident the other day we had an agitated discussion here—or this incident, that those only reflect that Delhi's police force has not been prepared in an effective and adequate way to meet the challenge of the growing rate of crimes in this capital. Of course, the population of the metropolis is increasing and the floating population might have been more; so the police also should have been effectively equipped for this work.

I would like to make two or three observations in this matter for the consideration of the Minister. One is, here too, there is no separate police cadre for Delhi, and all the higher officials are being assigned here on deputation from other States so much so that there is no involvement for these officers in the Delhi police force. Just like a doctor who should know the background of the family that he is treating, the high police officials should also have the background knowledge of the locality where they have been called to serve. Therefore, a separate cadre should be created for Delhi, so that they will have an involvement in the job that they have been asked to perform.

Secondly, the petrol system is one of the weakest links in the police organisation in Delhi. The mobile patrolling is very erratic, if not absent, in the police system in Delhi. Only in Delhi you see all the traffic rules being violated. If we go to Madras and Bombay, there, more than one person cannot go on a cycle, but here in Delhi you see a whole family going on one cycle and nobody gets any complaint about this matter. The main police system is the weakest point in Delhi where it should be the strongest.

Thirdly, the indiscriminate issue of permits for the mini-bus system is a menace to Delhi's travelling public. In other places, great care is being taken before the issue of permits to the applicants. I appeal to the Minister to take into consideration one thing; why not allow the DTC buses to ply in the peripheral areas also instead of allowing the mini-buses to operate in those less congested places? In the DTC we have a system wherein this mischief could be less. By allowing these mini-buses, you leave it to the private proprietor who is not answerable to the general public and the DTC. Therefore, the DTC should be expanded to meet the needs of traffic moving in the suburban and the peripheral parts of the city.

I again say that we should revamp and reorient the entire police system in the city. The mounting rate of crime and the multiplying incidents of this nature do not do any credit to the police system that is there.

SHRI K. C. PANT: He said the Delhi police force was not adequate. Perhaps he referred to the strength of numbers.

SHRI SEZHIAN: In terms of quality and quantity both.

SHRI K. C. PANT: It may be so, but this is determined by a triennial review. That review would soon be undertaken. The strength of the police has gone up in the last few years, but if there is any need for it to go up further that will be determined by the triennial review.

So far as the equipment etc. are concerned, we pay a lot of attention to this aspect of modernisation of the police force providing it with mobility wireless sets, forensic laboratories for crime detection and so on. We also have a research bureau in the capital. We are trying to modernise the police and give it the equipment which would make it a mobile, reliable and modern force. Always the constraint of resources is there. One cannot go

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beyond that point. This constraint has to be recognised, but within the allotment of finances, we are trying to do whatever is possible. It is not quite correct to say that there is no separate cadre. There is a separate cadre for Delhi for Inspectors and below. There is a joint cadre for Delhi and the Andamans for Dy. S.Ps. and a joint cadre for all Union Territories for IPs officers. The point he was driving at really was that the officers of the lower-ranks—Inspectors and below—do not have adequate knowledge of the localities in which they are posted. This is a point of view that should certainly receive attention. I am not an expert in these matters but I did make enquiries about this aspect of the functioning of Delhi police, whether one could not have policemen living in the localities themselves. I am told that this matter is being studied in depth. There are two opinions. There are certain advantages in having the policemen living in the localities and there are certain disadvantages. But I shall certainly look into this situation further.

About violation of traffic rules there is considerable violation and several people are also caught. One of the difficulties is at the level of the judiciary. These cases tend to clog up the whole judiciary machine. That is another aspect, I do not want to bring it up here at this stage.

He said mini-buses had been permitted indiscriminately. Their total number is 84 at present. Of them 19 belong to DTC, 38 to Cooperative Societies, 18 to private limited companies and 9 to ex-sericemen.

SHRI SEZHIYAN: Did this particular mini-bus belong to the DTC?

SHRI K. C. PANT: No; this belongs to a cooperative society. Recently 30 mini-bus permits have been granted in favour of DTC by the State Transport Authority, 14 of these permits have been issued. I am mentioning it in relation to the remark he made. He wanted to know why DTC

buses were not permitted on these routes. One reason is, DTC buses do not carry luggage. These permit routes are from the two railway stations and the inter-State bus terminal where people travel with luggage. Therefore, this would suit passengers who come with luggage.

Finally he said if DTC buses were used, this sort of mischief would not have been done. I want to assure the House that in all cases of conductors and drivers, a police check is made beforehand. It is the same in respect of DTC and minibuses. In this case also, a check was made but nothing adverse was found. Therefore these two persons were appointed. In this case after the rest of the passengers got out, the conductor and driver said, "We will leave you at your place" and these two ladies consented. Then they misbehaved. This kind of thing can really not be protected against. One is very pained by it, but whatever preventive measures you may take one does not know how one can be absolutely sure of preventing it.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Bihar): The Minister's statement is simply a statement of facts as to what happened. Unfortunately we do not find in it any positive steps as to how the Government propose to stop this sort of crime in the society. Of course, in reply to the previous speaker, the Minister said that he was deeply concerned about it. There is one line in the statement saying, "It is a matter of great satisfaction that the police acted swiftly." Yes, I agree that the police acted swiftly but when? One of the lady officers died and the other one was lying unconscious. On regaining consciousness, she gave a statement to the police. Then the police acted. The basic question remains: Is it the duty of the police force simply to act after the incidents or before the incidents?

It is not a single incident, as the earlier speaker said. This is a glaring example of the most egregious breakdown of law and order, particularly

in Delhi. My friend who spoke earlier gave certain figures. I want to read one sentence from this book *Crime in India*:

"The volume of crime in the cities under study was very high, the highest being in Delhi, followed closely by Kanpur."

That is the startling report made in 1970. Government knows that the highest incidence of crime is in Delhi. What are the reasons? Probably nowhere have such things happened as have happened in Delhi. About three or four years back, an American journalist, while she was on her way to Falam Airport, was kidnapped, molested, raped and brutally murdered. We also know what happened during the autumn season in 1969 or 1970. To enjoy the Puja Holidays, a young couple came to Delhi from Calcutta. At night the wife was taken away by the same group of people—bus conductors—she was molested, raped and brutally murdered. At this rate, we do not know what is going to happen to the social life of Delhi. Only the other day, we had a discussion about Miranda House affairs. This is not an isolated instance. This is an example of the most egregious break-down of law and order in Delhi. It is not enough simply to take action after the incident. We have to consider to what stage we are passing on from time to time.

Why does that happen? Delhi society seems to have a very permissive society today. It permits everything. What about the service rendered to cultivate and to enlighten the local people even by our Television sets? If we closely follow the programmes given on the Television, except on Saturdays and Sundays when Indian films are shown, most of the time they are worthless programmes imported from other countries. All forms of cabaret dances are being shown there.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Not in my television set at least.

(Interruptions).

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Probably the hon. Member has not followed the Television programme very closely.

In most of the cases, I hold the opinion, this is a growing tendency. To bring relief to all such situations that we are facing from time to time which can be very well explained—Delhi has become a kind of crimes—I would ask whether the Government is willing to have a sort of socio-economic-cum-political study of Delhi's atmosphere, of Delhi's environment, and to come out with the findings as to what other remedial measures are the findings as to what other remedial measures are necessary, so that Delhi society may be regarded as a very civilised society.

Delhi's main problem, particularly, the city's problem is the transport problem. It is not only that the incidents happen in scooters or taxis or mini-buses or in D.T.C. buses. It has become a regular problem. We have been hearing reports regularly. It is a regular thing. The Government should come out with a solution of this problem. About the transport, it is not a pleasure to move about. It is a bare necessity to have transport.

Lastly, in view of the fact that these incidents are growing from time to time, may I know whether the Government will also consider, to put a stop to these things, instituting a proper inquiry or a Commission to go into it and act according to the suggestions given by the Commission.

SHRI K. C. PANT: My hon. friend has said that the police acted only after they found that one of the nurses was dead. That is not correct. My information is that when a telephone call was received at the Police Central Room at 10.48 p.m. and earlier at 10.30 p.m. at Police Post Dhaula Kuan, finding two women injured on the road, from Police Post Dhaula Kuan a policeman was sent. The

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Police Control Room got an anonymous call at 10.48 P.M., and at 10.51 the Control Room van reached the spot indicated by the anonymous caller. Therefore, they did move swiftly. By then, the gentleman who rang up the Police Post Dhuala Kuan had taken both the ladies to the Hospital. At 2 A.M., the statement was recorded and by the next day afternoon, the bus had been located and the two suspects had been arrested by the police. This is the sequence of events. He can judge for himself.

As for taking preventive action, as I explained at some length earlier, the circumstances of the case were that after all the other passengers has got out at the terminal point, the driver offered to take the two ladies to their Army Hospital. They got in. They were only four of them. Then, the incident took place. I do not really know if in such cases one can take preventive action. Which is adequate in all cases. Thus, I would like to place before the Hon. Member.

He referred to the crime figures of Delhi. This suggestion was for a Commission. Not very long ago, we had a Commission. We have implemented most of the recommendations of the Commission. That matter has come up before the House time and again, and I have given all the facts to the House. So, it is not merely the Commission nor merely the police which can put these matters right.

He referred to Delhi having a permissive society, and he referred to Indian films and so on. I do not want to get into a wider argument. If, in his opinion, Delhi has a permissive society, then, surely, it cannot be left to the police to correct this position. They move in later, after certain crimes have taken place or sometimes they are expected to prevent certain crimes taking place, but the overall values of the society, it is not for the policemen to make. There are limitations. It is within

the given atmosphere, within the given values, within the given temper of the society, that the police has to function.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY.
 What are the reasons for these crimes?

SHRI K. C. PANT: We are making a study of the crime situation in Delhi. We have asked the Research bureau of Police to make a study.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola):
 The seriousness of the matter cannot really be equated with the police by taking a defensive posture. Here, the policemen are in the dock. I agree with the hon. Minister that, in this case, the police did act swiftly, under the circumstances, and also efficiently having taken the clue from the two tickets found in the pocket of the deceased nurse officer. But the problem does not end here. The problem is not serious in the sense whether the police did or did not act swiftly, but the problem is serious because these incidents are getting multiplied. Within a short period this is the third incident that has come before the House, that is agitating the mind of the members of this House. In an earlier incident in the capital, the wife of an upcountry official was molested in a private bus near Munirka village, Ramakrishna Puram. This victim also died when she jumped out of the bus. Another victim was a college girl who was molested in a DTU bus. Now this incident has occurred. Hon. Member, Shrimati Sheela Kaul and myself visited the Military Hospital yesterday to find out what was the real truth from the nurse officer who has regained her consciousness. We were surprised to hear from her that this was a regular occurrence, particularly in the mini-buses. Why? It is because these mini-buses are not properly controlled by the DTC. The conductors and drivers of these mini-buses feel that they are the masters of the road, and there is nobody to control them. There are no bus-stops for these mini-buses. They stop wherever they like, and

they take particular pleasure in teasing girls, specially when they find them alone. Therefore, this problem cannot be looked at in isolation.

Yesterday, some telephone operator girls were telling us that they have to leave their jobs late at night, round about 9 O'clock and go to their homes. If this is the state of affairs, what security are we going to provide them? After all they have to work to earn due to the exigencies of the economic circumstances. Are we, therefore, going to say that we are not going to provide any protection to our womenfolk and ladies? I would submit that in this case, if we cannot control these mini-buses, then let us stop them. But you can provide lady officials. You have lady police staff. It was suggested that lady Police staff should make at least surprise checks. That will be some check. I know the Minister will say that in the particular circumstances that might not have helped. I am talking of the general effect on the conductors and drivers. This is not going to pay unless they are made to realise that there is somebody to take them to task.

Another thing, I would like to bring to your notice is that the injured lady nurse was telling us that when that bus driver agreed to take them to the hospital, he gave the steering wheel to the conductor, stood at the door and then asked the conductor to speed away. That scared the girls and when this girl asked, 'Where are you taking us?', he told her

"बप इंडी, हम जहाँ मर्जी होंगे वहाँ ले जावेंगे।"

This scared the girl and she told her colleague, 'Let us jump out' and she jumped out when the bus was in full speed. So, she got injured on her head, a very severe injury and her whole right eye was blood-red and she was in great pain even while narrating it. She said that while she was jumping, the driver left the door and

caught hold of both the hands of the deceased, Pushpa Sood. This is what she saw when she was jumping.

Therefore, the matter is really serious. This is a matter which we have to consider in the context, not as a routine, not as a routine press report and you will say, a routine call-attention, routine reply, routine condolence and routine action by the Police. All this ritual is not going to help. The whole malady, the basic malady to be considered and the basic malady is the erosion of the social and moral values which is taking place in our society, and the growth of permissive society. This is on account of the fact that we have accepted in this country the basic philosophy of exploitation of man by man. Our socio-economic philosophy, whether we like it or not, call it by any name—mixed economy, joint sector economy, whatever you like, is acquiescing in an exploiting economy and as long as that thing is there, these are only aberrations of that erosion and unless you are willing to look deeper into the basic problem, the position will be like that.

I want to know from the hon. Minister one thing. It is no use and it is no question of the Home Ministry replying, 'We as Policemen have done our duty'. That is not what we are asking. As the Home Ministry and as the Government responsible for the entire security, how are you going to rid us of these evils, the socio-economic problems and the problems which erode the moral values of our younger generation particularly? What are we going to do about that? That is the basic question.

With this question, I end, Sir.

SHRI K. C. PANT: He raised the general question of ladies who have to work late at night and return home. I think it is an important question. I would not, on the basis of this incident before us, conclude that this kind of a thing is happening all the time. But, that is not the issue now.

[Shri K. C. Pant]

The issue is that, if necessary, surprise checks should be organised, but on this point he will not doubt appreciate that it may be difficult administratively to post a police person in every bus. But, to the extent that surprise checks can be organised, this is a good suggestion and I shall certainly see what can be done on the basis of this suggestion.

Then he spoke of the basic malady and gave his own view as to why moral values are being eroded. There are various aspects of the problem. I do not think I am fully equipped to answer him on this point. The Bureau is going to investigate so far as the crime situation is concerned. There is the influence of the home, of education. There is the influence of religion, to mention only three things.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): All have been interfered with by Government.

SHRI K. C. PANT: There is the socio-economic situation and ethics. All those factors are involved and I think it is a complex interplay of various factors about which one just cannot give an off-hand answer.

SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bhanjanagar): Under the very nose of the Home Ministry all these rapes, kidnappings, molestations, outraging modesty of ladies etc. are taking place in the Capital. The most serious thing is this. In the most sacred places of learning, in the universities and colleges, such things are taking place. We know about the incident which took place quite recently when a white Ambassador car was found and certain things took place in the premises of the colleges. The Minister expressed some satisfaction that police had acted strictly. But I shall just try to draw his attention to one fact. He has stated:

This has been a tragic and outrageous occurrence which has shocked us.

Before the Ministry recovers from one shock, they allow themselves to receive another shock due to such types of incidents which are taking place in the Capital quite often.

I would like to ask him whether he would appoint a committee to review the law and order situation which is growing worse in the Capital monthwise. Cannot education be imparted to people through organisations like the taxi-drivers' association, the mini bus drivers organisation and other public transport organisations? I want him to consider whether education can be imparted through these organisations, through their leaders etc. Such a Committee could even comprise of Members of Parliament. That committee can review the situation from time to time.

Secondly, I would like to ask this. There was a Commission. They have submitted a report on police training. What steps have been taken by Government to implement the suggestions? To what extent has progress been made regarding police training? There is no safety even for the M.Ps.

We know the case of Maragatham. We know how her husband was killed by a domestic servant last year. Therefore; to provide safety and security and protection to the girls in the schools and colleges, I want to know whether the Government is going to take effective steps and direct the police to be more alert and more vigilant in addition to the setting up of a committee.

As far as the police people are concerned, I can just sound a note of warning so to say. I want to know whether there is some presumption which appears to be quite reasonable also. A reasonable presumption arises that while the two nurses were moving in the bus itself, and when there was harassment and attack, an outrage on modesty, one of them could jump out on the way. When

the bus was moving, we would like to know whether they created any sound and noise. How can there be any satisfaction with regard to the activities of the police? They could detect afterwards, but before that, on the way, on the main road, when the bus was moving, there was no other force, and can we simply shut our eyes and say that there was absolutely no sound, no *hullah*, no cry; nothing was heard? So, I would say that the hon. Minister should not be so complacent as to the activities of the police? At times, big police officers are also hand in glove with such big businessmen whose cars are found in the very premises of the university and the colleges. Therefore, I would like to know specifically whether the hon. Minister is going to accept the suggestions which I have made.

SHRI K. C. PANT: There is no complacency. The hon. Member seems to deal simultaneously with two different incidents: one involving a car and the other which is this particular incident under discussion.

So far as the Commission on police training is concerned, it has given its report only recently, and we are examining the report, and at this stage I cannot say anything further because it is under examination. He has suggested a committee. I do not know what purpose the committee will serve, but his idea of talking to the leaders of the trade union people or the leaders of organisations to deal with these matters is certainly one which I shall consider.

He wants to know the steps that have already been taken and I have spelt them out on the last occasion in the House, including the contact which the senior police officers keep with the principals of the educational institutions for girls, and the posting of policemen near places where girls are likely to accumulate, come in large numbers, that is, outside schools and colleges, and in market places and near bus stops; and, as far as possible, even in buses on the major

routes we post policemen, but that is subject to the availability of man-power. That is something which my friend will appreciate. These are the steps that we have taken. I can assure him that there is no complacency in this case.

Whether the nurses made a noise or not, these are matters of detail for investigation which I do not want to go into. All these things will come out in the course of the investigation and trial.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while sharing the concern of the previous speakers regarding the deteriorating law and order situation in the capital. I would like to say that in a country where great battles have been fought as is seen in the Mahabharata and the Ramayana to uphold the honour of women, and especially when there is a woman Prime Minister presiding over the destinies of this nation, the horrible story of molestation of women and eve-teasing and their becoming victims of all sorts of crimes, is really shocking.

Sir, just now the Minister said something about the non-availability of man-power of the police force. We all know the amount of policemen either in uniform or in plain-clothes who are being deployed for the protection of the V.I.Ps., Ministers and so many other persons and the amount of police personnel being employed to disperse and to obstruct the peaceful demonstrations of various political parties as also the amount of plain-clothed personnel that is being employed in the Congress Party meetings where they even outnumber the audience. Taking all these into consideration, I would like to know what steps the Government are going to take to streamline the entire police administration so that they do their primary job maintaining law and order? If things are better in the States, is he going to contemplate giving statehood to the Union Territory of Delhi so that things may improve?

[Shri P. K. Deo]

My second question is this. It came to such a sorry state of affairs that those victims could only be detected by a passer-by. I would like to know if there are any flying squads on the Ring Road and why they did not take notice of this and pass on the information regarding this tragic incident?

Finally I would like to know what are the sections under which investigations that are taking place. The entire incident would not have happened if the scooter driver had not refused to take these two passengers in his scooter. There is no law here which prevents the scooter drivers or taxi drivers from refusing to carry the passengers. These are my points and I would like the hon. Minister to answer them categorically.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, my, hon. friend began by referring to the honoured place of woman in the Indian Society. He narrated the cases of molestation of woman. In our society this honoured place is already there. This is not a new occurrence. These things have happened. It is true that our society holds the woman in high esteem and it is also true that such incidents have happened. One hon. Member said that Adivasis in Orissa had been molested. I would say that it is creditable for the Prime Minister to be presiding at the centre. My hon. friend had also the chance of a woman Member presiding over the State. But, he had lost the chance.

Talking about the Statehood I would say that I do not know as to how this has arisen. The answer is 'no'.

SHRI P. K. DEO: My point is that things are much better in the States.

SHRI K. C. PANT: He then mentioned about a passer-by being present when the incident took place but there was no flying squad.

I have indicated that as soon as the information was received by the Central Control Room, the flying squad near about that area was directed to

go there and they arrived at the spot very quickly. He wanted to know the sections. The case was initially registered under sections 354 and 304 IPC. But later these were amended to section 302, 366, 354 and 304 IPC. I do not think it is feasible to have a law under which you can force a scooter driver to take any passenger to a place where the scooter driver does not want to go for sufficient and good reason.

SHRI P. K. DEO: About non-availability of police personnel, these police personnel are employed on un-teen useless jobs but they are not employed for maintenance of law and order. He has not answered that.

SHRI K. C. PANT: He wants me to answer about matters which he knows fully well are not entirely within my control. If there are agitations in Delhi which are likely to create law and order situations, police have to be diverted. He will be the first to say that I have not done my duty if I did not take enough precautions.

SHRI P. K. DEO : What about VIPs and Ministers' protection?

SHRI K. C. PANT: That is also something which is known to all State Governments. He may consult his colleagues in Orissa when they formed a Government and find out if they did not find the necessity for having security personnel for Ministers. (Interruptions)

12.52 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REVIEW AND ANNUAL REPORT OF MANGANESE ORE (INDIA) LTD., NAGPUR

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—