

6575 Re: Correction of PAUSA 1, 1881 (SAKA) Re: Papers Laid on the 6576
 Answer to Starred Table
 Question No. 585

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR
 SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED
 TRIBES

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): I beg to lay on the Table, under article 338(2) of the Constitution, a copy of the Report (Parts I and II) of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 1958-59. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1842/59.]

AMENDMENTS TO MEDICINAL AND TOILET
 PREPARATIONS (EXCISE DUTIES) RULES

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955, a copy of Notification No. GSR 1363 dated the 12th December, 1959 making certain further amendments to the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Rules, 1956. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1843/59.]

RE: CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO
 STARRED QUESTION No. 585

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Pali): You will observe from the correction that a big slip was made by the Deputy Minister. It was stated on the floor of the House that a committee was appointed in May 1959, whereas it is obvious now by the correction that the committee was constituted as early as 1955. Therefore, the complaint of the Auditor-General has a lot of substance, that the high-powered committee has not functioned. May I have a clarification now from the hon. Deputy Minister as to the stage in the working of this committee, when it was appointed as early as 1959?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has just laid a paper on the Table.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It is a correction to the reply given to a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: He is referring to something else. This is item No. 8, relating to Papers laid on the Table.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It is just correcting the answer given to my question.

Mr. Speaker: No, that correction of a reply to a question comes later. He is anticipating it.

RE: PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Mr. Speaker: I would like to make an observation regarding the two statements laid on the Table of the House by Shri K. C. Reddy today. This is not an ordinary report, submitted in the usual course, relating to the administration of any property, or any autonomous corporation. So far as this is concerned, two adjournment motions were tabled here on the explosions in Asansol and Hyderabad. Naturally, the hon. Minister was not in a position to give sufficient details on the horrible explosions that took place. Whenever such information is sought to be given to the House, because at an earlier stage the hon. Minister wanted time to collect information, when he presents a report of this kind, he should make some observation as to what exactly is the cause of the accident. It should be a summary of the report, which gives the details. Whenever matters come up before this House by way of adjournment motions, if the Minister is not in a position to give a reply then and he takes time, whenever they get some more information, instead of merely putting it on the Table of the House, I would urge upon them to make a statement as to what exactly has happened. When these serious explosions took place people were naturally agitated, and the hon. Minister was not in a position to give the information then.

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): The reports which I have laid on the Table of the House today contain all the information on this subject.

Mr. Speaker: How many people died in each case?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The report of the enquiry committee gives all the details. They are placed on the Table of the House. It is for the House to decide whether they would like to have a discussion in this House.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): Have you now come to know how many people died?

Mr. Speaker: With respect to audit reports, annual reports relating to autonomous corporations etc., they stand on a differing footing and in such cases it must be left to the members to ask for discussion. Otherwise, the report stands approved as it is. But with respect to accidents etc. in respect of which adjournment motions and other motions have been brought up before this House, if the hon. Minister takes time to give some more information, beside the information that he is able to give to the house in the report, he must give a summary of the report when he places the report on the Table of the House. Otherwise, the House would not take notice of it, and the country would not take notice of it, even though it has been laid on the Table.

So, I want a different procedure to be adopted in relation to matters with respect to which the hon. Ministers promise to supply information to the House, instead of merely placing a report on the Table of the House. They must also give a summary of the report relating to accidents etc. This procedure may be followed in future.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): The summary of the report should be read out in the House.

Mr. Speaker: That is right. Whereas the report is laid on the Table, the summary should be read.

Shri K. C. Reddy: That is noted and it will be done. So far we had been following the same procedure that is followed with regard to judicial and other enquiries in connection with railway accidents from time to time. That has been followed in this case also.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May I know the number of deaths in each case—Asansol and Hyderabad?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister does not have a summary with him. Whenever any accidents are brought to the notice of the House relating to any Ministry and information is sought, if the Ministers are not in possession of the information, if on a future date they lay a copy of the report on the Table, the House would not be satisfied with that. They have to give a summary of what happened, what action has been taken to prevent recurrence and so on, in addition to placing the entire report on the Table of the House.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

MINUTES OF SIXTEENTH SITTING

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Hisar): I beg to lay on the Table the minutes of the Sixteenth sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances held during the Ninth Session.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH SITTING

Shri Achar (Mangalore): I beg to lay on the Table the minutes of the Seventeenth sitting of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House held during the Ninth Session.