

14.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at One Minute past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**Memorandum of understanding between the National Building Construction Corporation and the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): Sir, on behalf of Dr. U. Venkateswarlu, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English Versions) between the National Buildings Construction Corporation and the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2168/97]

**The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Election (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123(2)(a) of the Constitution:-
  - (i) The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (N. 13 of 1997) promulgated by the President on the 5th June 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2169/97]

- (ii) The Out-of-turn Allotment of Government Residences (Validation) Ordinance, 1997 (No. 14 of 1997) promulgated by the President on the 21st June 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2170/97]

- (2) A copy of the Himachal Pradesh Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 343(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 1997, under sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2171/97]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

14.04 hrs.

**Desecration of Statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Police Firing in Mumbai**

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): With your permission, Sir, I would like to make a statement on the recent events in Mumbai including the act desecration of the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the attack on the residence of Shri Bhujbal, the Leader of the Opposition in the Council.

The Members of this august House are fully aware through media reports and otherwise about the regrettable incident of the desecration of the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the resultant firing by police at Ramabai Ambedkar Colony, on the Eastern Express Highway leading to Pune on July 11, 1997. Since then, my Ministry has been in constant touch with the Maharashtra State Government in order to monitor the developments. Some companies of Rapid Action Force were also made available to the State Government to help in controlling the situation.

On July 15, 1997 the matter was discussed by the Members of the Consultative Committee meeting attached to my Ministry and many Members have through notices sought to discuss the issue in Parliament.

Subsequent to the incidents in Mumbai including that of the attack on Shri Chhagan Bhujbal, Leader of the Opposition in the State Legislative Council on July 13, 1997, I along with the Union Home Secretary visited Mumbai from 15th July to 16th July, 1997 to have a first assessment of the situation there.

During the course of my visit to Mumbai, I visited the spot where the statue was desecrated, where the firing took place and also visited the house of Shri Bhujbal and also the Rajawadi Hospital where the injured people in policing firing were receiving treatment. I also had very useful discussions with the State Governor. Thereafter, I separately met the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister of the State and discussed with them the details of the incident of July 11, 1997 onwards including the attack on the house of Shri Chhagan Bhujbal. Shri Bal Thackeray, Shiv Sena supreme also met me and stated that he had publicly condemned the attack on the house of Shri Bhujbal and assured me that there would be no repetition of such incident.

During my stay, I also met the representatives of all the political parties and other groups and organisations to ascertain their views on the incident. For understandable reasons, all the parties were greatly perturbed over the incidents, particularly the attack on Shri Bhujbal's house in a high security area which is also covered by the prohibitory orders under section 37 of the Bombay Police Act. Most of them severely condemned this type of attack by the cadres of one of the ruling parties in the State Government and demanded immediate dismissal of the State Government for its failure to maintain law and order and life and

In protecting the property of all sections of the people including prominent political leaders of the Opposition.

As the Members are aware, now that the State Government has ordered the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into the incident, it would not be appropriate on my part to comment on the role of the administration about the incident of police firing. However, the fact remains that the act of desecration of the statue of Dr. Ambedkar and the subsequent police firing resulting in several deaths and injuries are extremely disturbing.

During the course of my discussions with the Chief Minister, I stressed to him the need to make the Terms of Reference of the Commission of Inquiry broad enough to identify the culprits responsible for the desecration of the statue and also to ascertain if the police firing was inevitable. I also emphasised on the need for ensuring that the administration should function in a totally non-partisan manner and that this message should go down the line urgently. I have since received the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry Commission which is headed by Mr. Justice S.D. Gundewar and read as follows:

- (i) Whether any individual or group of individuals or organisation was responsible for the desecration of the statue of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and whether it was pre-planned with a view to cause communal disturbances;
- (ii) whether the public reaction towards the incident was spontaneous or instigated by any individual or group of individuals or organisation;
- (iii) whether the steps taken by the police to deal with the large crowd and to disperse it were adequate, in accordance with the procedure established for riot control or if the force used was excessive, and if so, to fix the responsibility for such lapses, if any;
- (iv) whether use of forces, including firing was justified or otherwise;
- (v) measures, general or specific which are required to be taken by the police and the administration to avoid such occurrence in future;
- (vi) any other matter of general importance regarding the above.

The Commission has been asked to submit its report within two months.

I have also, on my return from Mumbai, written to Chief Minister, Maharashtra, separately about the attack on Shri Bhujbal's house drawing attention to the fact that not only was his house located in a highly protected area but that the apprehension of an attack on his house was known on the night before and communicated to police and still the incident took place despite a large contingent of police force available there. I have requested the Chief Minister to ensure that all relevant aspects of the case are thoroughly investigated and all culprits brought to book.

The State Government have reported that they have arrested 47 Shiv Sena activists for their role in the attack on Shri Bhujbal's house. The arrested persons include Shri Vilas Avchat, Chairman of the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority, two Municipal Corporators and four Vibhag Pramukhs of the Shiv Sena. The State Government has also reported that three police inspectors have been suspended for alleged inaction during the attack.

Apart from Maharashtra, the incidents had a fallout in Gujarat and a few other places but the situation now is well under control. Immediately after the Mumbai incidents, the Central Government issued instructions to all the State Governments to keep a watch on the law and order situation arising out of the desecration at Mumbai. The Central Government is constantly monitoring the situation.

Even as the State Government will hopefully bring the criminals to book and prevent recurrence of such incidents, members would agree that incidents such as the one Mumbai are indeed a matter of concern. Both the incidents show a growing intolerance among people while the incident of attack on the house of Shri Bhujbal also shows serious laxity on the part of the State Government and the police.

Sir, with your permission I would just also like to add one or two points. One is that there is a Police Manual, as we all know, which is applicable throughout the country, not only in Maharashtra. This Police Manual prescribes steps which the police is expected to take, in case there is any necessity to take recourse to fire. If they have to disperse the crowd which has gathered—the crowd by the way was unarmed, nobody has alleged that anybody in this crowd was carrying any weapons or arms, i.e., at this Ramabhai Colony, the crowd which was gathered was totally unarmed—according to the Manual the first thing the police has to do is to fire a shot in the air as a warning. After that, one round can be fired; after a gap another round can be fired, hoping that by that time the crowd would have probably begun to disperse. Only after that the situation may arise where the police has to have recourse to firing, if they are attacked or something. But here there was no question of attack on the police.

I am sorry to go into all this because this is really a subject matter of judicial commission of inquiry which will go into the whole incident. But nevertheless, I have to point out, Sir, that no other means was employed by the police to disperse the crowd. They could have used, perhaps, tear gas or lathi charge or water canon or something like that.

But this firing was resorted to suddenly, quite indiscriminately and it has resulted in these tragic deaths of innocent people who were just coming out of their homes. I had talked to many of them. They were just coming out of their houses, their homes in the colony. It was early in the morning. It was not yet 6.30 in the morning. They were going to work, to their places of work and many of them were not even aware of the fact that a little distance away on the side of the highway, there was a police force which was preparing to open fire. Of course, the Commission will go into all this. There is no doubt about it.

I tried to make an inquiry as to who was the senior police officer on the spot, who had actually ordered the firing but nobody is able to tell us. They say there was no such senior police officer who ordered the firing...*(Interruptions)*

Then, Sir, the other point that I wish to make is that the Head of the Shiv Sena, Shri Bala Saheb Thackeray wanted to meet me. Of course, I agreed. So he came to meet me at the Raj Bhavan accompanied by his nephew and his son. Before that earlier on the same day, he had also met the Governor. If I may be allowed to mention this fact, the Governor told me that he had told Shri Bala Saheb Thackeray that he had to assure him, i.e. the Governor and also assure the people generally that such type of incidents would not be allowed to take place again and that he should also issue a statement condemning this firing that is taking place, the desecration as well as the attack on Shri Bhujbal's house. I may say that a large number of people whom I met, who came in the various delegations, were, of course, very much distressed and angry about the firing on the Dalits. But they were equally, if not more, angry about the attack on Shri Bhujbal's house. For this reason they said, 'If this is the way that a Leader of the Opposition can be treated...The house was completely ransacked. I went to the house. It was completely ransacked and pillaged. Shri Bhujbal, according to him, had a very narrow escape. He said, "They were looking for him from room to room and he was trying to hide once in this room and once in the the next room and so on."

Whatever it is, the Governor is also of the opinion that the mood in which they were at that time, if they had managed to catch him, any consequences might have followed. So the people are perturbed over this. Of course, I know that the Shiv Sena people are very much hostile and angry about Shri Bhujbal for other reasons, for his past background. We all know what kind of people he used to associate at one time and the kind of people with whom he is associating now because there are allegations in Mumbai and allegations by the Shiv Sena that he is working in very close cooperation with another well-known leader of gangsters in Mumbai.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (PUNE): The Home Minister is making an irresponsible statement on a person who is not here to defend himself in the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let him conclude, please. He has not named anybody.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: It cannot be stated like that on a person who is not here.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (HOWRAH): This is not the justification of the attack on his house. I am very sorry, Sir. I am very sorry about the Home Minister's statement. ...*(Interruptions)* He is the Leader of the Opposition. How can he make allegations? ...*(Interruptions)* The Home Minister has no right to talk about the Leader of the Opposition of another House. ...*(Interruptions)* He has to withdraw his statement. He has to only state the facts. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Instead of condemning the incident, he is talking about a person. In Mumbai, he has made a contradictory statement. Here it is a serious matter. What sort of statement is he making? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let him conclude please. Afterwards, he may add something.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: He is condemning the person. He must take the sentence back. He must withdraw the remarks. ...*(Interruptions)* He must withdraw his remarks. ...*(Interruptions)*. He has to withdraw his remarks. ...*(Interruptions)*. I am sorry. He has to withdraw his remarks. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will you listen to me? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: No. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Why not? You must listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*. You can have your say afterwards. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete the statement.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, I am sorry. It is a very irresponsible statement by the Home Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, you allow me to complete my statement; or shall I sit down? ...*(Interruptions)*. You go on shouting. ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: I demand the resignation of the Home Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL (BHANDARA): He has to withdraw his remarks. ...*(Interruptions)*.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (SOUTH DELHI): The entire statement has to be withdrawn. You are making a mockery ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You do not obey your Leader. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (SOUTH DELHI): If there is something against them. Then it is irresponsible, and when for such a long time we had been listening all that is it responsible? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Sir, how did the Home Minister take cognizance of Shri Bal Thackeray in spite of the Chief Minister, Shri Manohar Joshi, who is supposed to apprise the Home Minister about law and order since he is the constitutional authority? How can he do so? ...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

In democracy, The Chief Minister assures the Home Minister not Bal Thackeray. Home Minister assures Bal Thackeray. It is in the record of the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: I want to know whether Shri Bal Thackeray is a constitutional authority to decide the courts or law and order. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA (CHHINDWARA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Home Minister as to whether he is prepared to pay this much of price for the support that he would give the statement in the House as dictated by them ...*(Interruptions)* Are you paying that much price for the support ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (IDDUKKI): Sir, Please allow me to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir About the situation in Mumbai, the Home Minister is giving some written statement and same in oral form. There can be number of issues in that to which we would agree. There can be something with which we may disagree, but it is not necessary ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have allowed him. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: It seems to me that as long Home Minister was criticising us the slogan shouting was taking place here. When the Home Minister decided to speak further about them and about one such leader who had asked for installing a statue of Nathu Ram Godse and who had purified with 'Ganga Jal' the 'Hutatma smarak' touched by dalits ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It should be about both the sides.

[English]

Let the Home Minister complete his statement.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: The person who has stated that Statues of Godse should be installed in all villages.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Guptaji, please complete your statement.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Dalit brothers went there and that was why they washed it with Gangajal". This is their 'dalit' love.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you have completed your point. Now please sit down.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The allegation regarding Shri Bhujbal's associates or his association with certain elements in Mumbai is not mine. It is not made by me. I am only reporting the allegation that one hears in Mumbai from the Shiv Sena people and also reported by me in the Press.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Is there any justification? Who is the Leader of the House? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Secondly, some Members seem to be objecting to the fact that I met Mr. Bal Thackeray or that I have mentioned some of the things which he said to us. I do not think there was anything wrong in meeting him. He is, after all, the supreme of one of the combinations that is ruling in Maharashtra.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, all of them have met him many times.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: That I do not know. Whether they have met or not met, they are welcome to meet him if they want to ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Congressmen are shedding cocordile tears. A number of Dalits have been killed and murdered in Bihar, and they are supporting them.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Let him complete the statement.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (FAIZABAD): 112 dalits were killed near Nagpur during the Chief Ministership of Sharad Pawar and the Chief Minister didn't bother to visit there

to see them. They talk about the dalits. At that time he was the Chief Minister and this happened in his State.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Should I continue, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, or should I sit down?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please try to finish.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Some concerns were expressed that maybe the Centre was thinking of taking some action against the State Government. Indirectly this was hinted to me by Shri Bal Thackeray himself. He wanted to know what we were proposing to do. To that, I told him that everything depends on how he and his Government functioned in future. I said: "Responsibility is yours. Depending on how you behave and how you function, the Centre will make up its mind what to do or what not to do." So, he said: "I certainly assure you"—he may not go by his assurance, that is a different matter, but I am reporting what assurance he gave—"that I will see to it that such things do not occur again and I strongly condemn and deprecate what my boys have done." As far as Bhujbal's house is concerned, he said: "Yes, I agree that these were all my boys. They should never have done it. I condemn it and I am condemning it publicly." I do not know what his BJP partners there are saying. They have not, I think, come out publicly condemning this thing ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: They have.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: That is good. That is what had happened.

As far as the firing is concerned, we have to wait for the judicial inquiry's report. I should not pre-empt that. Secondly as far as the attack on Shri Bhujbal's house is concerned, well, what has happened has happened. It is deplored and condemned by everybody and I did not meet a single person in Mumbai who did not decry it and condemn it. I hope that such things will not be allowed to happen again. I take it that the Shiv Sena leader has a sufficient influence and control over his party people to see that they do not behave like this again in future, because it is something which has really created a great alarm in the minds of the ordinary people. After all, he is the Leader of the Opposition and if he is treated like this, then the ordinary citizen naturally feels very insecure. So, this is something which should never have happened and I think it will not happen again.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we take up Matters under Rule 377. Dr. Laxminarain Pandey.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have passed on to the next item.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you should hear him. He is on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is competent. He himself can say that. Let him speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Pawarji is on a Point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your Point of Order?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI): The Statement given by the Home Minister recently in regard to the attack on dalits in Mumbai ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you talking about the Point of order?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Such attacks on dalits have not taken place only in Mumbai, but in Nagpur also, Akola also ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please talk about point of order only.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: About the assurance given by State Govt. of Maharashtra it has been stated here ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. I am asking now.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The same is the condition of the Dalits in the entire country ...*(Interruptions)\**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing except the point of order would go on record. ...*(Interruptions)\**

14.34 Hrs.

[English]

*At this stage, Shri Sharad Pawar and some other hon. Members left the House.*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we express our disappointment at this statement of the Home Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

14.35 hrs.

\*Not Recorded.

*At this stage, Shri G.M. Banatwalla left the House*

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI): Sir, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs mentioned in his statement about several deaths and injuries. How many people died? We have a right to know as to how many people have been killed and how many people have been injured.

14.35 1/4 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri E. Ahamed left the House.*

14.36 hrs.

#### EARTHQUAKE IN MADHYA PRADESH

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (LUCKNOW): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, perhaps you are going to take up the matters under rule 377 again. When the 377 was taken up today in the morning, our friend from Madhya Pradesh, Shri Prahlad ji and other friends had raised the issue of earthquake which have occurred in Jabalpur. There has been a great loss of life and property there. The hon. Prime Minister has himself visited there. Perhaps he wanted to say something as the reply to the discussion or as an assurance but the House was adjourned. Such grave tragedy has occurred. We would like that the Hon. Prime Minister should express his sympathy and should also assure that the Union Government would leave no stone unturned to provide the necessary help for the rehabilitation of the people there.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you permit me, I would like to submit the same thing which I was going to submit in the morning that I am much worried about the people who have been killed and injured due to the earthquake in Jabalpur and we have sympathy with them. On behalf of the Union Government I had been there and the required assistance was made available. Besides this, some more issues have come up such as what should be done regarding rehabilitation after the relief. Some of the hon. Members, who are present here, most of them had met me there. Hon. Members from both the sides had met me there. The Hon. Chief Minister of the concerned State had also met me. I had also talked to him. On our part, we have granted financial assistance at a large scale. But besides this, I would like to assure that further assistance would be granted. At present I do not have the information as to how much amount was sanctioned by the Centre but I can give this information later on. In addition to the amount give by the centre, HUDCO has also distributed loans to the people there for the construction of houses and today I would like to assure you in the House that besides this, the necessary assistance would be provided.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I assure the House that we have full sympathy with those whose property has been

\*Not Recorded.

destroyed, with those who have been injured and with those whose near and dear ones have been killed due to collapsing of houses.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (ALLAHABAD): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a small question. Last year various parts of our country faced earthquakes. At first Latur and now it has hit this place. Some years back earthquake had occurred at Bihar and Delhi also. My submission to the hon. Prime Minister is that India comes under a very large seismic zone and these seismic zones are of different varieties. My submission is that whether you would merely think about expressing sympathy after the earthquake hits or you would elaborate the policy to be adopted to deal with this serious problem being faced by the Country? What would happen to Tehri dam if the earthquake hits Tehri? If it hits this region of the Narmada then what would happen to these dams in future? It is a serious issue.

I am happy that you have expressed your sympathy on Jabalpur tragedy and you have assured of extending all sorts of help but I would like to submit that the Government must ponder over it. It is not a simple issue. The scientists have been forecasting that a major part of India can be affected by earthquake. I would like that the Government should give a statement on it.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (IDUKKI): I want to make one submission.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do you want to say something about the earthquake?

SHRI A.C. JOS: In Kerala, about 20 people died the day before yesterday and about nine to ten kilometres stretch of road has been totally submerged.

ME. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am sorry, this is not a Zero Hour. I had allowed only one item to be raised.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, it is equally important. I appreciate what the Prime Minister said with regard to the earthquake in Madhya Pradesh. I am only bringing to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister about the landslide that occurred in Kerala the day before yesterday. In my own constituency, about 20 people died and ten kilometres stretch of road has been totally submerged. I request the hon. Prime Minister to extend generous help to the Kerala Government and to the victims of the landslide.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA (CHHINDWARA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Yesterday night the hon. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh had briefed the hon. Prime Minister in a meeting of the hon. Members of Parliament. I had asked him and I would like to submit to you also that the press, public and the politicians there have estimated the loss to be around five to six thousand crore rupees. The hon. Chief Minister in the memorandum, submitted has