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Title : Statement regarding death of Indians in a fire accident occurred in a labour camp in Manama City, Bahrain on 30.07. 2006.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri E. Ahmed, the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs wants to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that many of the hon. Members have raised a very important issue, viz, what happened in Bahrain, I would like to make a statement for the information of the hon. Members.

In a tragic accident caused by fire in a labour camp in Manama city, Bahrain, 16 Indian nationals have reportedly lost their lives. Eleven Indian nationals were injured and were admitted to hospital. The fire is said to have broken out between 0200 hours and 0300 hours on 30th July due to electric short circuit. The Bahrain Police is investigating the exact cause. One hundred and sixty-eight workers in the labour camp, all Indians, have been shifted to a temporary accommodation. The workers who were injured in the fire have been discharged from the hospital.

The Embassy in Bahrain on learning of the tragedy immediately took action to provide relief and medical assistance to the affected workers. It set up an emergency response and its contact details are available at the Embassy website and have been provided to the media. This includes both contact numbers at the Embassy during working hours and after work and at the Salmaniya Medical Camp where the injured were being treated.

His Highness, Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the hon. Prime Minister of Bahrain, visited the site of the accident at 1100 hours yesterday with

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the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Municipality Affairs and the Head of the Public Security. The Indian Ambassador was present. The Prime Minister of Bahrain was deeply concerned that 16 precious Indian lives have been lost in the fire. He assured that the Bahraini authorities would fully investigate the case. While condoling the death of the 16 workers, the hon. Prime Minister of Bahrain assured that the injured and the families of the victims will be taken care of and the necessary action would be taken to prevent such a tragedy from occurring again.

The Bahraini Cabinet expressed deep regret over the fire accident killing Indian labourers and extended condolences to the victims' families and the Government of India. The Bahrain Prime Minister has ordered the formation of a Committee to investigate into the incident to make sure that such lodgings were in conformity with housing safety and health criteria. The Committee will be chaired by the Minister of Municipalities Affairs of the Government of Bahrain and a Minister of Agriculture with the representatives from the Interior, Labour and Health Ministries.

The Embassy is getting in touch with the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Chief Secretary of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Protector of Emigrants in Chennai to provide them the details of the Indian nationals who hailed from Tamil Nadu and who were killed in the tragedy. The Embassy has also contacted the relatives of the deceased who have desired that the bodies be sent to Chennai. The Embassy is making arrangements to try and send the mortal remains by Gulf Air to Chennai on Monday, viz, today, the 31st July to reach Chennai on Tuesday, viz, tomorrow, 1st of August. The firm details will be sent to all concerned as soon as formalities regarding the dispatch of bodies have been completed [\[R15\]](#).
