

Hon. Prime Minister to reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat, Today, we do not have any 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? Today, you cannot raise it. You can raise it tomorrow. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot discuss all the matters.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, what do you want to say?

12.14 hrs.

RE : DEVASTATING FIRE IN JHUGGI CLUSTER IN DELHI

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a devastating fire in Delhi where 50 lives have been lost...(Interruptions) A serious damage has been caused. Shri Hannan Mollah has visited that place. He has given notice. Please allow him to raise it...(Interruptions) It is my earnest request. This is a very serious matter. He has been there. He has visited the place. Kindly allow him to raise it.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, the Chair has already made a reference about the fire incident.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that the Chair has already made a reference about the fire incident in the first instance itself.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : As I said earlier, he had been there. Kindly listen to Shri Hannan Mollah... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that the Chair has already made an observation today with regard to the fire incident which took place yesterday.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH) : Sir, I have also given a notice...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

12.16 hrs.

At this stage Shri Paras Nath Yadav and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Otherwise, I will have to take action against all of you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the proper way. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you again.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot raise matters pertaining to State Government in this House.

...(Interruptions)

12.17 hrs.

At this stage, Shri K.P. Munusamy and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand, you cannot raise issues pertaining to State Government in this House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

12.18 hrs.

At this stage, Shri K.P. Munusamy and some other Hon. Members sat on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : First of all, hon. Members, please go your seats. What is this ?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to hon. Members to go their seats first. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

12.19 hrs.

At this stage, Shri K.P. Munusamy and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I am appealing to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any reaction from the Government on the fire accident?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seat. I am appealing to you once again.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, please allow us.

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any reaction from the Government on the fire accident?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, please let me speak first. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is on his legs. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

No, I will allow you later.

Now the Minister of Home Affairs.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, the Chair has already made some observations about the fire accident. The hon. Minister is on his legs. I have received a number of notices.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Khurana has also given a notice. What is this? Please take your seat. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Please allow us.

[Translation]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA) : Sir, you must hear us ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that I have received a number of notices. The Chair also has made some observations about the fire accident. The Minister of Home Affairs is going to give a reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am once again appealing to you all to take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : You are not even allowing the Home Minister to respond. Is this the way? What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : When the Home Minister wants to respond, you are not allowing him to respond. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Hannan Mollah was present there. He has seen the accident, So, he wants to say what has happened there. Why should he not be allowed ?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, I appeal to you to please understand the situation. The Chair has already made an observation and the Home Minister is going to respond. But you are not allowing him to respond. I have received a number of notices? Shri Madan Lal Khurana also has given a notice. How can I allow all the Members who have given notices?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we are apprehending that it is a case of arson. That is the charge. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir the place in Delhi where fire incident took place yesterday was inhabited poor people from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Bengal. They were living there for the last 15 to 20 years. All of them were poor and they are spending their life in poverty ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madan Lal Khurana.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Hannan Mollah, I have to allow Shri Madan Lal Khurana first. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you chance. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH (JALORE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Home Minister must inform the House as to what has happened there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh, you are a senior Member. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, the Home Minister should let the House know as to what has happened; such a huge calamity has taken place, but the Government is sitting silent.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madan Lal Khurana.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (DELHI SADAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given formal notice in this regard ...*(Interruptions)* The incident of fire that took place in Delhi yesterday ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulyam Singh Yadav, I have allowed him, because I have received a notice.

[Translation]

SHRI MULYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is saying a wrong thing. Fire did not break out there incidentally but someone set them on fire. There the people were killed knowingly ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mulayam Singhji, you please speak afterwards. First let me speak...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir devastating fire incident took place in Delhi. Some newspapers have mentioned that 26 persons have been killed and some other newspapers have mentioned that 50 persons have been killed. After independence, perhaps this is the biggest fire incident that took place in Delhi. Earlier also such incidents used to occur, fire used to break out in jhuggi-jhonpris and floods also occurred but the kind of incident that has taken place this time since independence incident of such magnitude was never seen before in Delhi.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 50 people have been killed and more than 60 people have sustained burn-injury and thousands of jhuggies have been gutted. Most of the dead bodies have

been recovered from mosques as it has been mentioned in the newspapers...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice in this connection. I may be given an opportunity to speak. If I am not allowed to speak then incident bigger than this may occur in Delhi again. My submission is that it is the first incident of its kind in Delhi. Such tragic incidents are unprecedented. In Delhi floods and incidents of fire occur every year but

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You please tell us as to what we should do now?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : However, such tragic a incident occurred for the first time. I am sorry to say that such incidents occurred in Delhi due to carelessness, cruel and inhuman attitude of bureaucracy and Delhi Government. These people have come from other States to earn their livelihood. At present, there are 4.5 lakh jhuggi-jhonpris in Delhi in which 20-25 lakh people are living. Only rich people are living comfortably in Delhi. Out of one crore population, 60 lakh people are living in jhuggi-jhonpris, Slum areas and other rehabilitation colonies. Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I was Chief Minister, I mentioned three things. Had these three things been fulfilled...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, the manner in which these jhuggi-jhonpris have come up there is no passage and in case of any untoward incidence, there is no way to escape and there is no way for fire tenders to reach to the spot of incident. I had constituted Delhi Slum Development board. We should enact law in this regard. Five years passed...*(Interruptions)* Even today, that law has not been enacted. My request is that these jhuggi-jhonpris should be re-allocated and proper arrangement should be made for this. One such committee was constituted which submitted its report some 3-4 years back but no action has been taken over it. Had the action been taken then, I think, perhaps, this incident could have been prevented to some extent.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the place where the incident took place yesterday, there flood and incident of fire occur every year. Buch committee was formed for the protection of that area but even then nothing could be done. I do not want to prove that any party or Government is responsible for this miserable plight of poor people. The bitter truth is that we do not consider them as humanbeing instead we consider them only as our vote bank. We just remember as to how to get votes from them at the time of election. They have come here from other States in order to earn their livelihood. No attention has been paid to take care of their basic needs and to rehabilitate them permanently. Thus, there is lack of political will. For this, I have some suggestions.

Delhi Slum Development Board should constitute one Task Force. The three things which I have mentioned is that legal powers should be given to Slum Development Board...*(Interruptions)* I want to say that one judicial enquiry committee consisting of a judge of High Court should be constituted which will enquire as to what are the reasons behind such incidents and what steps should be taken so that such incidents do not occur in future.

My second request is that third master plan of Delhi is being formulated and till now in the two master plans formulated for 20 years each did not make any mention of jhuggi-jhonpris. There is no mention about such unauthorised colonies. My submission is that the third master plan which has to be implemented after 2001...*(Interruptions)* If you do not know then please let me speak. Try to understand the problem of Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the period 1961 to 2000, two master plans were formulated for 40 years but in those two plans not even a single line has been said about the rehabilitation of jhuggi-jhonpris...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, my suggestion is that compensation of Rs. 1 lakh should be given to the families of those who have died, they should be rehabilitated and all jhuggi-jhonpris in Delhi should be re-allocated. Land in Delhi is very limited. When it cannot be reallocated in horizontal manner then it can be reallocated in vertical manner. For this plan should be formulated so that such incidents do not occur in future. One task force should be formed for this purpose. This unfinished work should be completed in a time-bound manner only then such incidents can be prevented.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Delhi the incident that took place yesterday is the biggest fire incident in the capital since independence in which maximum number of people have been killed, maximum number of houses have been gutted and maximum losses has been suffered.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday I was there since 4 O'clock. When this incident took place, I was present there. That area has 20,000 population and poor people who have come from Bihar, UP and West Bengal live there who are Rag pickers and labourers. All of them are poor labourers. The police commit atrocities on them. There the SHO and constable keep on harassing them. On last 30th police arrested 73 people and later on they released them after taking money from them. Sometimes, they call them Bengali and sometimes they call them Bangladeshi. They take bribes by levelling many allegations against them. We convened one protest meeting against the injustice being done to them. Yesterday, the meeting was to be held near mosque. Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji, I myself and some of our Members of Parliament and local people were supposed to address that protest meeting. When their meeting with the police started houses were set ablaze at the distance of 30 yards from the venue of the meeting by the people who hatched a conspiracy to build a building after demolishing houses. I maintain that police, communal forces and anti-people forces have deliberately set these jhuggis ablaze. I discussed this matter with the Chief Minister and urged him that an enquiry in this incident should be conducted by the high power committee headed by the high powered judge to ascertain the real cause behind it. S.H.O. and other police personnel should be transferred. The family of those who have died should be given Rs. one lakh as compensation. Those who are injured should be treated free of cost and should adequately compensated. The duplicate ration cards should be issued to the persons who have lost their ration cards. The temporary housing facility should be immediately made available to the victims. The people are not hav-

ing clothing, potable water and medicines etc. They should also be arranged. Rs. 30,000 should be immediately given to each one, whose house has been set ablaze for the reconstruction of the house. Shri Madan Lal Khurana has told about a plan. The plan or scheme should be such that there should not be any cluster of jhuggis, roads should be properly built and there should be proper drainage system, availability of proper potable water etc. so that in future recurrence of such incidents of fire could be avoided... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BUTA SINGH (JALORE) : Sir, we should also get an opportunity to speak... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh, please take your seat. You are a senior Member. Is this the procedure? When one Member is speaking, how can you stand like this?

[*Translation*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Police atrocity should be put to an end. Compensation should be paid to the next kin of those who have died.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I also want to speak.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh, how can you speak when I have allowed one Member to speak? How can you stand like this? Please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, the compensation should be given to the family of the persons who have died and atrocities of the police should put to an end. We demand that in the aftermath of this incident the Central Government and the State Government should formulate a comprehensive plan and it should be executed in a timebound manner.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. speaker, Sir I have given a notice in this regard. Other Members have also given notices. They should also be heard. The incident, that took place yesterday in Delhi is a very unfortunate one. The fire brigade took so much time to reach there. In the mean time all the houses were gutted. Thousands of huts were reduced to ashes due to late arrival of the fire brigade. As Khuranaji has said that.

[*English*]

There is no comprehensive plan for people living in jhuggis in Delhi.

[*Translation*]

The Police did not help the people. The fire brigade also provided no help. The people who needed medical treatment were not attended. Yesterday it was Sunday, keep it in mind.

[*English*]

Sir, we have seen in our State also that the fire takes place on Saturdays or Sundays especially.

[*Translation*]

It is pertinent to note that it happened on the day which was a holiday. The flames also spread upto the Mosque and the people in the Mosque also fell victims to it. Therefore, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that the fire-incidents are not easy to handle. It is a pre-planned game, it is a case of sabotage. Therefore, the Government should investigate this matter and should constitute a high power committee which gives impartial report in this regard. The Minister of Home Affairs should give a statement in Parliament in this regard. More than 50 people have been killed and more than two thousand houses have been gutted. The people are lying on the roadside. No emergency arrangements have been made for them. Medicines are not available in hospital. Many people have died for want proper treatment. Whenever an emergency arises, it is the duty of the emergency cell of the Government to make emergency arrangements. But so far this has not been done. I would like to submit to the Minister of Home Affairs, that though the State Government is of a different party, but the Minister of Home Affairs is of the Central Government. We can request him in the Parliament to make arrangements to construct houses for them.

[*English*]

Because the Government have the HUDCO with them. They have a Minister for Urban Development and the HUDCO can be requested to build huts for these people... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HUDCO can construct houses.

[*English*]

I support what Khurana and Shri Mollah have said. These people should be rehabilitated and adequate compensation, i.e. a sum of Rs. one lakh should be given to each of the near relatives of persons who lost their lives.

[*Translation*]

Sir, money cannot bring life back. But something can be done to compensate the next of the kin of the victims. The culprits should be severely punished, so that such incidents do not occur in future. The Government should keep vigilance in this regard. The loss of property should be compensated. The police should have arrangements for emergency. The poor people cannot register their complaints as nobody listens to them. They do not lodge their F.I.R. They have lost much of their property.

[*English*]

Unfortunately, they are Bengali speaking people. They are being subjected to harassment. It is a fact. When Shrimati

Sushma Swaraj was the Chief Minister, I took up this matter with her also.

Sir, we are all Indians. Ours is a secular country. We do not know who is a Bengali, who is a Gujarati, who is a Marathi, who is a Christian or a Sikh or an Assamese or an Andhrite or a Tamilian. The people belonging to different communities are staying in different parts of the country. Some communities are in minority and some are in majority. It is the duty of the Government to protect everybody.

There must be a comprehensive plan of action, specially for the minorities so that they should not suffer. I would request the hon. Home Minister—he has visited the spot—and also the hon. Prime Minister to provide not only relief and rehabilitation measures but also convey condolences to the bereaved family members. If they can visit the hospital, at least the affected people will get medicines. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I allow Parasnath Yadav to speak, after that, I will allow Shri Buta Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Parasnath Yadav has given a notice.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (EAST DELHI) : Sir, I have also given a notice ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PARASNATH YADAV (JAUNPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you that yesterday in Delhi... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very wrong. Whenever a person from our side rises to speak, the people from other side make noise. Please stop it.

SHRI PARASNATH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Khuranaji has said, I too would not like to go into the details, but would like to say that this is a very serious matter. More than 50 people lost their lives in this fire incident and more than 10 thousand huts have been reduced to ashes. What is the reason behind it? Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the august House towards the news item published in a Urdu daily *Qaumi Avaz* which is an old and prominent daily. It has very clearly been written in that daily that last Sunday a meeting of Shiv Sena was held in which Shri Udhav Thakeray said...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? Do you want to say everything ?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You can not say like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PARASNATH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on that day it was said that the slogan of Hindutwa is not being raised by the Prime Minister, but Shri Udhav Thakeray has said... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (AMROHA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people have lost their lives over there and here these people are politicising the issue. Through you, I would like to make request to them that they should not say such things... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If it is objectionable, it can be expunged from the records. Is there any response from the Government side?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI : Sir, please allow me... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Are you a local MP?

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : You please speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed the local MP.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir you please allow me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh, you are not on the same subject. Please take your seat. I will call you afterwards.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, you allow me to speak for half a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you afterwards. Please understand that you are not on the same subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, I need only half a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari, has it happened in your constituency.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI : Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to tell about a tragic fire incident of East Delhi in which 60 huts were gutted and items worth lakhs of rupees turned into ashes. Among those who were ruined in this incident there was one unfortunate woman whose all items of dowry worth Rs. 15-20 thousand were destroyed in fire. She had purchased these items for her daughter's marriage with borrowed money. This incident of fire breaking out in the Jhuggis of Vijayaghat is the second such incident which took place within 24 hours after the fire tragedy of east Delhi. Sir, as Shri Khurana has said, east Delhi Parliamentary Constituency is very vast Constituency and jhuggi dwellers constitute 25 per cent of its population. Dozens of such devastating fire incidents are likely to take place during this summer. Through you I would like to submit that besides the fact that fire incidents take place there in summer, people have to be rescued from there during rainy season when Yamuna river is in spate and Government spends crores of rupees on rescue operations. Through you I would like to request the Government that in order to ensure safety of these poor people and their belongings some arrangements should be made for resettlement of these people on permanent basis. Earlier also such people were resettled in Rohini and Narela.

Through you, I urge upon the Government that permission should be given for building brick houses for them because in case one jhuggi catches fire, the fire spreads to thousands of jhuggis. If the roof is made of bricks then jhuggi will not catch fire. Therefore, I request that special arrangements should be made in this matter. Hon'ble Home Minister went there and listened what people said. I want to say that some good arrangements should be made for them so that no jhuggi is left in Delhi and public amenities should be provided to the jhuggi dwellers so as to ameliorate their condition.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (RAJNANDGAON) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, devastating fire incident which took place yesterday in Delhi has gutted thousands of jhuggis, destroyed property of jhuggi-dwellers and took a toll of 40 lives. State Government is giving proper attention towards this problem. The incidents of fire breaking out in jhuggis take place many a times and often in Delhi. We have to think of making proper housing arrangements for those living in Jhuggi-Jhompris. The Central Government should provide financial assistance on regular basis to the next of the kins those who have died or those who got injured in the fire tragedy so as to enable them to become self-reliant. The State Government has made a declaration in this regard but the Central Government has to bear a big responsibility in this regard. Exact number of people who have died cannot be ascertained till debris are not removed. But information of 50 people's death has come through newspapers. I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Home Minister to immediately provide help to them and arrangements should be made for their proper resettlement.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, devastating fire in Delhi which took place or was the handiwork of someone has deeply hurt and moved the whole House and people

belonging to all the parties. This is a serious matter. This must be got investigated. My pointed question is that why these people who live in Jhuggi-Jhompri of Delhi and are really poor people, back benchers, hard-working and engaged in decorating the city have not been so far provided ownership of land. When V.P. Singh was Prime Minister the people living in Jhuggi-Jhompri were provided ration cards. But now a days they are beaten, evicted from their homes, the jhuggis are being burnt and they are subjected to police atrocities and thus they are resorting to exodus ...*(Interruptions)* Central Government should know that large number of poor Jhuggi-Jhompri dwellers have not voted in favour of Delhi's BJP Government, instead they voted in favour of Congress. Therefore, where people are already settled, there you give ownership of land to the people. They should be given houses. Flat should be made for them separately. This would be big help for them. Those who have died cannot be called back whatever efforts we may make. Home Minister should look into the rationale behind determining 'foreigners.' People can be seen begging everywhere...*(Interruptions)* I am talking about all places. People whom you have burnt were from Bihar, U.P. and Bengal. The identity of those who burnt them would be established after investigations only. Is it the handi work of those very people who are burning the Christians alive. This is the subject of investigation. I do not want to touch the matter without investigation. Therefore, I submit to the hon'ble Prime Minister and Home Minister that people who are living in Jhuggi-Jhompri are poor people. People who have come from Bihar and outsiders are not made voters here. Those who are labourers and have settled down here, their names have been struck off from voters list. Sometimes Bangladesh is talked about. Therefore you should carry out the relief work on a large scale and instead of giving compensation of Rs. two lakhs to their dependents, compensation of Rs. five lakhs and service to each and every person should be provided. They do not have drinking water, lavatory. Where our daughters should go to ease themselves? Mr. Speaker, Sir, you yourself are considerate towards the poor and dalits. Whether it is Government of Delhi or Central Government, in case a Jhuggi dweller is displaced, then the Government should feel as if it has been displaced. Give them money, build houses for them, make provision for educating their sons and daughters, then only it will be established that here we have the people who take care of the interests of the poor. We people demand that you should get this incident investigated and those who are found guilty after investigation, their names should be published...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh, are you on the same subject?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Yes, Sir.....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has never happened so far. You have not given me an opportunity to speak and now the former

Prime Minister is on his legs. He also wants to speak... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (BALLIA) (U.P.) : I will conclude within a minute. This incident is very distressing. All of us are worried about it. All of us want to rehabilitate the jhuggi dwellers. I would like to request through you to this House, that all hon. members should contribute Rs. 10 lakh from MP fund to end the slum clusters. Shri Ram Naikji is present here, he should grant permission to constitute a fund for this. The Prime Minister is present here, he should sanction money from Prime Ministers relief fund. The work should begin today and Members should decide right now... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, the biggest tragedy that struck the capital of the country, has caused disaster on poor people. The House has unanimously expressed its concern and sympathy over it. I would like to request only two things to the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. The newspapers have reported that hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs visited the site and issued some directions to Delhi Administration. After visiting the site it was the prime duty of the Minister of Home Affairs to make a *suo moto* statement in the House about the situation prevailing there. But it is very regrettable that the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs did not consider it necessary... (*Interruptions*). Let me speak. A statement should have been made.

In this tragedy many poor, dalit and people belonging to minority were killed. I would like to know, as Shri Madan Lal Khuranaji has spelt me in the right perspective, the Government's policy on rehabilitating slum and footpath dwellers. It has been reported in the newspapers that it is a big conspiracy and not an accident. Are they going to conduct a judicial inquiry under the commission of Inquiries Act to probe this conspiracy, so that it could be ascertained whether it was an accident or a conspiracy? We are ready to part with entire MP fund for compensating the victims as suggested by Shri Voraji, Shri Chandra Shekharji and other hon'ble friends provided that in Delhi, nobody is left shelterless, but what is the policy of the Government of India in this regard? The hon'ble Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs should make a statement in regard to Government of India's policy on it and a discussion should be held on this.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Minister of Home Affairs.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDNI CHOWK) : The area we are talking about comes under Shri Lal Bihari Tiwariji, but a part thereof also fall under my constituency. Will you allow me for two minutes to speak... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : How can I allow all the Members? I have allowed the Delhi Members also. How can I allow all the Members?

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : You can give time to senior Members, but you cannot give the minute time to Delhi MPs... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : How can I allow all the Delhi Members? We have got other business also.

... (*Interruptions*)

13.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Goelji, please sit down.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Give me two minutes.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Goel, I am giving you only one minute to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday more than 50 people were charred to death in the fire in huts of Delhi. None of us want to go into the details of its cause, but the main reason behind it is that every year six lakh people migrate to Delhi. It is very easy to say that jhuggi dwellers should be rehabilitated. Laluji may level as many charges against me, but more than half of them have migrated from Bihar because no development is taking place over there. If development takes place in the State of Bihar, Delhi will not be over burdened... (*Interruptions*).

If you visit over there, you will find that basic amenities are not available in huts... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : An individual can go anywhere he wants... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvansh Prasadji, Please sit down.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : The Chief Minister of Delhi had called a meeting of all the MPs of Delhi. In that meeting I said the fire incidents in Delhi are caused due to unauthorised constructions. It cannot be stopped till unauthorised constructions are stopped. I said, that the congress Government should take initiative in this matter and all of us are ready to support them. Laluji said about giving compensation of Rs. 5 Lakh to every victim. I would like to tell him that he should give Rs.5 lakh as compensation to Jahanabad victims. He should not politicise this issue. I want that this issue should be probed. Development should take place in the States to discourage growth of huts and migration of people to Delhi...*(Interruptions)*. It cannot work till the facilities are provided in the huts... *(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, do not allow the country to be divided like this. They are also the citizens of India ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : If development does not take place there, the people will migrate here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : All this is taking place under a conspiracy...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY (KHAGARIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me a minute ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Let us hear the Home Minister now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)* *

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (MUMBAI NORTH CENTRAL) : I also want an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Athawale, you are not from Delhi. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while living in Delhi during last few years, I have seen many fire incidents, but perhaps such frightening, horrible and painful fire incident, which was witnessed, yesterday evening, has never happened in the capital. Due to this reason, I associate myself with the agony and sorrow expressed by the Members of the House. I agree that this incident will compel us to think about many things, it will be good Khuranji has mentioned certain things related to development of Delhi, but many people have expressed certain apprehensions about yesterday's incident. I have no apprehension on the basis of what I saw yesterday, but an investigation should be made. I have consulted the Prime Minister. I understand that it will be appropriate to set up a commission under the commission of Inquiry Act to get to the bottom of the cause behind yesterday's tragic fire-incident. Therefore, the Government will move ahead in this direction. It will set appropriate terms of reference in this regard. I would like that a High Court judge should investigate the matter... *(Interruptions)*.

Yesterday, when I reached there, I was told by the officers, that till then 26 dead bodies had been counted, but they said, there could be more dead bodies. Some people said, some dead bodies have been carried direct to the hospitals and they were saying, 40 people have died. Today, the newspapers have reported the number of casualties to be more than 50. All these things are being looked into. The Government of Delhi, The Municipal Corporation, Police and the urban Development Department of the Central Government are collectively engaged in the relief work. We should provide them the relief as much as we can, we should make arrangements for them, but we should have the information that much of that area come under river bank. We cannot allot river-bank area to Jhuggi-dwellers, as has been said by some Members, it is not appropriate. Some parts of that area fall under New Delhi constituency and some part of its came under Tiwariji's constituency. This is a widespread area and people living there are poor. This type of incident has taken place earlier also, but not so frightening, fire-incidents have taken place. Therefore, it would be appropriate that while making plans for the slum development, we should also keep in mind that on the basis of this plan how we can get rid of this problem in future also. We have to think about this also I am sure that we will be able to provide adequate relief to the weaker sections affected by this incident. The terms of the commission of Inquiry set up by us will be such that some guidelines are provided enough them about by slums to us, I want to say this much only ...

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, what about the rehabilitation?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : There is no doubt that immediate

* Not Recorded.