

have not been received from some backward States. Therefore, through you, I would like to know whether the efforts will be made to call for proposals from the States from where such proposals have not been received ?

[English]

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, there are also State Governments who hardly respond to the Central Government. Not only they never bother to respond to the Union Government but they also do not bother about the external agencies which come forward to aid this health sector in their respective States, particularly the States which he was referring to?

After a very great effort, the Government of Orissa have now finalised their project. The World Bank has also accepted the project. That is in the process now.

Construction of Ram Temple

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*185. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction of structures of Ram temple is being carried out at Ayodhya and Pindwara which are likely to be assembled at the Janambhoomi site in Ayodhya by Kar Sevaks;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to protect the status-quo as ordered by the courts?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

No construction activity is going on at the disputed Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid site at Ayodhya. However, from various sources, reports have been received that some cutting and carving of stone pillars are going on at places away from the disputed site at Ayodhya and at some villages in Rajasthan. Carving of stones away from the disputed Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid Site at Ayodhya does not constitute violation of any law. In compliance with the judgement dated 24.10.1994 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding the Ram Janma Bhoomi Babri masjid dispute, the Central Govt., as a statutory receiver, is taking all possible steps to maintain status-quo in the disputed area.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that away from the disputed site some work is going on. It is an understatement. I would say that it is a deliberate one.

The reports are that more than 30 per cent of the work has been completed and things are being sent to Ayodhya also. The Government now takes an attitude and says that the work, which is going on away from the site, does not constitute any violation of the law. That is the crux of the point.

Now, I submit that this is the language of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Government is speaking the language of the President of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad who has said that there is no legal bar in making preparations at places other than the disputed site.

I would like to submit two things here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, put your question, please.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The preparations are going on a grand scale to violate the sanctity of the court orders on the site.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your question.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : These preparations are unlawful activities.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, there are others also to put questions. You please ask your question first.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Please bear with me. I would like to know whether the Government does not consider the preparations which are going on at different places with the declared objective of bringing the prefabricated structures on the site as unlawful activities? Does the Government consider it unlawful or not?

And, whether the Government does not consider such activities as communally very provocative, detrimental to the interest of communal harmony, peace and our secular democracy? And, therefore, will the Government not take action against such unlawful, communally provocative activity? The statements are being made that they would not care for the Supreme Court and go on with the bringing of the pre-fabricated structures at the site.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member's question is, whether the construction that is going on either in Ayodhya, away from the site, or in some village in Rajasthan, is an illegal activity or not. I would reiterate what the Government and the Prime Minister had said yesterday. What I propose to reiterate is not the view either of this Government or of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad but it is the view of the Gujral Government when Shri Indrajit Gupta was the Home Minister. I would like to once again quote what he had said because this construction work has been going on since 1991. In Mid 1997 when an objection was raised to this construction work, Shri Indrajit Gupta replied to Shri Maulana Azad Madni, "I have had the matter examined. No construction activity. ...*(Interruptions)*"

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, it cannot be quoted here. This is wrong. The reply given in the other House cannot be quoted here. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please let him complete.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : It is a matter of Rule.

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

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : What is being done is not proper. It is against the Rule. There are clear Rules.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Let him complete first. You have to ask second supplementary also.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are not having a discussion on the subject. This is a Question-Hour.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : Sir, this is a letter written on 24th January, 1998. I quote:

"I have had the matter examined. No construction activity is going on at the disputed site. It is a fact that some cutting and craving of stone pillars is going in a workshop established by the VHP, which is 2 Kms. away from the disputed site. Since this activity *per se* does not constitute any violation of the law, it would not be possible for the Government of India or the District Administration to take any action in the matter."

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The question asked to me is, what is the view of my Government. This Government endorses the view that has been taken by the Gujral Government.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : It is not merely some activity going on but now, it is an activity in full swing with great communal consequences and that must be realised. The context of the whole thing has to be realised that when there is a communal threat, the threat must be recognised and in the interest of communal harmony and peace. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your supplementary. Please understand the position. There are other Members also who wish to ask supplementary on this Question.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, please understand me also.

MR. SPEAKER : You may then put your supplementary.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I have put it very clearly that the activity which is going on in full swing at various places is detrimental to communal harmony.

MR. SPEAKER : This has already been replied by the Minister.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : He has replied to only one point. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Akbar Ahmad, you must have some patience.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The hon. Minister tells us that all possible steps are being taken to maintain *status quo*. Will he please give us the details of all those possible steps being taken there in order to maintain *status quo*? What are those steps that are being taken, specially when such large scale preparations are going on and the Government is a mere silent spectator to such full swing work that is going on in violation of the *status quo*?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, in my statement, I have referred to the judgement of the Supreme Court that was given on 24-10-1994. As per the judgement, all the pending suits and other proceedings related to the disputed area have been revived for final adjudication of the dispute by the Allahabad High Court. The judgement casts a duty on the Central Government to maintain *status quo* in the disputed area till the adjudication is made in the title suits, for implementation of the final decision therein. Now, in pursuance of this directive of the Supreme Court, the Central Government has appointed the Divisional Commissioner, Faizabad, as the authorised person under section 7(2) of the Act. And for the last several years since this judgement, from 1994 onwards till this date, *status quo* has been scrupulously maintained at the disputed site. There has been no change in the *status quo*.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir you will appreciate that Ayodhya issue is a very sensitive issue. In our National Agenda for Governance, nothing is mentioned about Ayodhya issue because of its sensitive nature. As per the verdict of the court, there should not be any construction in the disputed area. In the interest of integrity of this country, we have to consider this matter very seriously. What is the stand of the Government in regard to construction work going on in an area adjoining the disputed area? Will the Government keep a vigilant eye and take necessary steps so that the court verdict is not defied; so that people's sentiments are not hurt; and so that a wrong message is not sent across to the people in the country?

Hindus and Muslims should work together. ... (Interruptions) We should not talk on party-lines. I am asking this question in the interest of the country. ... (Interruptions)

The Government should assure the House that construction work will not be allowed even in the areas adjoining the disputed area in Ayodhya. I want a clarification from the hon. Minister in this regard.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the concern expressed by the hon. Member. It was in order to express our concern on this issue that in reply to the Congress President, the Prime Minister of the country said:

"When the National Agenda for Governance was drafted and adopted as the policy blueprint for my Government, my party and its allies unanimously and consciously decided to keep the Ayodhya issue out. We did so because of our paramount commitment to national security, communal harmony and socio-economic development. We did so also out of profound faith in the wisdom of the Indian people to sort out all contentious issues amicably in conditions of stable peace and all-round development."

Sir, I am sorry to say once again, what I have already said. While the Government has been keen to keep the Ayodhya issue out of the centre stage, it is the Opposition which is trying to bring it back to the centre stage.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member's question has not been replied to by the Minister.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I would like to know from the Hon'ble Home Minister ... (Interruptions) Hon'ble Home Minister might remember that it was stated during the meeting of the National Integration Council that nobody will be allowed near the mosque. Only rounds around the 'Mandir' will be allowed and no harm will be made to the mosque. Your commitment was violated. Mosque was destroyed. You failed to protect it ... (Interruptions) I am asking the question only.

Secondly, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh was sentenced to jail for one day by the Supreme Court for not obeying its orders. The person who violated the orders and demolished the mosque has not become the Protector ... (Interruptions) Therefore, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Home Minister whether he will handover the disputed mosque to army or not.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Family Planning Programme

*186. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the family planning programme has suffered a serious setback;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any revised Action Plan has been formulated by the Government to control the population growth;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the time by which it is likely to be implemented;
- (f) the target set for the current century; and
- (g) the achievement made in family planning State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (g) It is not right to say that Family Welfare Programme has suffered a serious setback. Actually, for the country as a whole, Birth Rate has reduced from 29.5 per 1000 population in 1991 to 27.5 in 1996, and the Infant Mortality Rate has declined during this period from 80 per 1000 live births to 72. According to Sample Registration System Survey of 1996 conducted by the Registrar General of India, improvement in reducing Birth Rate during 1996 has been considerably larger than during the preceding years. There has also been significant reduction in Infant Mortality. It is, however, a fact that the situation in all the States is not similar. While the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Goa have already achieved the replacement level of Fertility of 2.1 or below, and the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and West Bengal are doing well enough to achieving the Goals set for the year 2000 in National Health Policy, some of the States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa and Assam have to strengthen their Programmes substantially. The National Health Policy had accepted the Goal of reducing the Birth Rate to 21, and Infant Mortality Rate to less than 60 by 2000 A.D. The figures of State-wise achievements are given in the Statement enclosed.

An important initiative taken by the Government in 1995 was to seek to eradicate Polio from the Country by the year 2000. With this Objective, the Strategy of Pulse Polio Immunisation (PPI) under which all the Children below the