

Incident of fire In Naya Bazar, Delhi

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Amendments must be circulated by tomorrow.

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 1992-93, be taken into consideration."

(5)

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Incident of Fire in Naibasti, Naya Bazar, Delhi on 29th April 1992

(with minutes)

SHRI SOMANATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, today they deserve a good conduct certificate.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, Mr. Somanath Chatterjee heartily congratulates the Finance Minister. The whole House also congratulates him

SHRI SOMANATH CHATTERJEE: Not for everything, Sir, but for today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Actually, the Private Members' Business ought to have been started at 3.30. Sorry, we are late by five minutes. The hon. Minister Mr. Jacob wants to make a statement. If the House agrees, may I request the hon. Minister to make the statement?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): Sir, when should the amendments be moved? (Interruptions). Only after we get the copies of the amendments which the Government intend to move, we can do that. Can you indicate when do we move our amendments?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall let you know after five minutes.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: It should be on Monday or Tuesday. The time should also be given.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, you can submit your amendments on Monday at 3 o'clock.

Now the hon. Minister may make the statement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): I wish to apprise the Hon'ble Members of this august House about the unfortunate of fire in Nai Basti, Naya Bazar on 29.4.1992.

2. At about 10.12 A.M. on 29.4.1992, information was received at P.S. Lahori Gate that smoke was coming out near Sushil Mohan School and that there was some fire. At about 10.14 A.M. another information was received in Police Station Lahori Gate on wireless from PCR that unknown caller had informed that a bomb had exploded in Naya Bazaar near Pilli Koho behind Novelty Cinema.

3. The police rushed to the spot and found that three buildings bearing number 1725, 1726 and 1727 which were two/three storeyed, has collapsed.

4. The Control Room of Delhi Fire Service had received information at about 10.10 A.M. about the fire. Three water tenders and one ambulance were rushed to the spot. At 10.30 A.M. fire was declared medium and at 10.45 A.M. serious. The fire was brought under control at 1.15 P.M. In all 43 fire-units were deployed in fire-fighting and rescue operations.

5. The ground floor of these three buildings are occupied by transport companies. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Delhi Fire Service, with the assistance of the Delhi Police launched a joint rescue operation. About 400 persons of the Corporation and 250 personnel of the Delhi Fire Service were deployed for the work.

[Sh M M Jacob]

6 The rescue operations have been continuing uninterruptedly since yesterday morning. The MCD officials and the personnel of the Delhi Fire Service with the assistance of police are still removing the debris to rescue those who may be still entrapped.

7 According to the information available so far, 28 persons have died and 24 have sustained injuries. Of these 4 have been discharged. The remaining are admitted in various hospitals.

8 After the explosion the Crime Team, the Bomb Disposal Staff, the experts from CFSL and Operation Cell visited the site. The cause of fire has not yet been determined. According to preliminary inquiries fire started after an explosion which was followed by two other explosions. The area is highly congested and a business centre. A number of transport combines are located in the area which handle all sorts of goods, including highly inflammable items.

9 A case under sections 4/5 Explosive Substance Act and sections 304/308/427/436 JPC has been registered at P S Lahon Gate and detailed investigations regarding the cause of fire are under progress. Preliminary enquiries made by the police so far show that the explosion took place in the office-cum godown of a company located in 1725, Nai Basti. One person has been arrested.

10 The Lt Governor of Delhi, senior officers of the MCD, Delhi Fire Service and the Delhi Police visited the site yesterday.

11 I also visited the site yesterday. I have directed the officials of MCD/Fire Service and Delhi Police to undertake expeditious rescue operations and clear off the debris. Delhi Administration has ordered a magisterial enquiry into the incident. I shall share the findings of the enquiry with the Hon'ble members.

12 Delhi Administration has taken steps

to grant ex-gratia relief to the victims of the tragedy.

13 In order to decongest the Walled City and disperse the wholesale trade to different areas of Delhi, Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar has been developed on GT-Karnal Road, where many transport companies, particularly godowns, can shift. Many have done and others are in the process of shifting. This process will be expedited. Delhi Administration had decided some time ago that from 1st June, 1992 entry of heavy goods and vehicles to certain congested areas of the Walled City would be banned.

[Translation]

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL (Chandni Chowk) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not discussing anything on this.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER No, the rules will have to be followed.

[English]

Whenever there is a statement, clarifications are not allowed.

(Interruptions)

We have to follow the rules. Whenever an hon. Minister makes a statement, there will not be any clarification. We have never allowed it.

[Translation]

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL (Chandni Chowk) I am not discussing on this statement but saying about the situation that has emerged out of it. Meanwhile the people, whose houses caught fire or whose houses are about to fall should be sent to transit camps or to other places. And action should be taken immediately to rehabilitate the family members of those people who are living there. I would like to make this much request only. (Interruptions)

SHRI DAUDAYAL JOSHI (Kota) These

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transport companies have been provided godowns But they deliberately do not shift there The owner of the godown whose godown caught fire has been allotted godowns but he does not want to shift from there The wonder of the godown but how does not want to shaft from there The Central Government should order them to shift immediately from there (Interruptions)

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Now, we shall take up Private members' Business SHRI P P Kaliaperumal

15.46 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Tenth Report - *Approved*

[English]

SHRI P P KALIAPERUMAL (Cuddalore) Sir, I beg to move

"That this House do agree with the Tenth Report of the Committee on Private members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 29th April, 1992"

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER The question is

"That this House do agree with the Tenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 29th April, 1992"

The Motion was adopted

15.47 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE REJECTION OF PROPOSALS PERTAINING TO TRIPS ETC

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Before we take up further discussions on the Resolution moved by Shri Rupchand Pal regarding

rejection of proposals pertaining to TRIPS, etc, I would like to mention that four hours and 28 minutes have already been taken on this Resolution, thus exhausting the time allowed for this discussion On the last occasion, the mover the Resolution, Shri Rupchand Pal was replying to the debate and he has already taken 12 minutes Therefore, to enable him to complete his speech, we may extend the time for 15 minutes I hope the House agrees

SEVERAL HON MEMBERS Yes

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER The time is extended by another 15 minutes

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, I will not take much time Since I spoke last, some developments have taken place and the negotiations in GATT had stumbled because of sharp differences between the US and the EC on questions of farm subsidy and other issues We know that it had been struck even in the first step The pall of gloom over the trade of the Uruguay Round might be cause of concern to many, who have been trying to build up their future primarily on multi-lateralism Now, this failure in GATT is going to wreck the Earth Summit which is going to take place in Rio in June That also will be a matter of serious concern to all of us All this is due to the recalcitrance, the arrogance and the protectionism of the US and its accomplices The protectionism of the developed countries has always been a source of major concern to the countries of the Third World, particularly in a new world situation when new equations are coming up, the US is trying to impose its will on the developing countries

15.49 hrs.

[SHRI P M SAYEED - in the Chair]

Sir, strangely enough, the US practices certain things, but they do not allow the developing countries to do it even if they need it most in their own background For example, we have discussed the subsidy issue here But, they have even given subsidy to their farmers for export of their grains We,