

[English]

- (vii) **Need to impress upon the University Grants Commission the necessity of providing more funds for the development of the Marathwada University's sub-centre at Nanded**

DR. VENKATESH KABDE (Nanded): Marathwada is a backward region in the State of Maharashtra with inadequate facilities for education and vocational training. Education received a boost with establishment of Marathwada University in 1956. A sub-centre of Marathwada University started several years ago at Nanded and courses like Biotechnology, Masters course in Social Work etc., are run through this centre in rented places with very inadequate facilities. The Maharashtra Government has donated 500 acres of land near Nanded for development of different facilities for Post Graduate Courses. But proper attention has not been paid for the development of this sub-centre at Nanded. I, therefore, request, through you, to the University Grants Commission to provide funds to develop this area into an inspiring centre of knowledge in this backward area of Maharashtra.

- (viii) **Need for allocation of more funds for the expeditious completion of the first stage of Upper Krishna Project**

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur): It is estimated by the Government of Karnataka that the first stage of Upper Krishna Project would be completed by 1995. The total cost is estimated to be Rs. 500 crores. The State Government is planning to spend Rs. 100 crores every year with the assistance of the Central Government and the World Bank. The proposed rehabilitation plan covers only 580 families and not the entire area of Bagalkote as reported in some newspapers. This project after the completion of its first stage would irrigate 4.5 lakh hectares of land. It would be a boon to the drought prone areas of North Karnataka.

The Planning Commission would be providing only 30 crores of rupees for the irrigation projects in Karnataka. This meagre amount is not at all sufficient and it is apprehended that the first stage of this project may not be completed in another ten years.

I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government of India to allocate at least Rs. 100 crores to this project during the current year and expedite the completion of the first stage of this vital project which is a long cherished dream of the people of Karnataka.

- (ix) **Need to instal T. V. towers at Thana Mandi, Darbal and Surankot In Jammu and Kashmir State**

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu): The residents of Tehsils 'Thana Mandi' and 'Darbal' in District Rajouri and of Surankot in district Poonch of Jammu and Kashmir State are unable to watch the programmes of Doordarshan because there are no TV transmission towers in that area. So, the residents of those areas have no other option but to watch the programmes of Pakistan TV.

I would like to urge upon the Government of India, Ministry of Information to get the TV transmission towers installed at those places, so that the people of that area could see the programmes of Doordarshan.

15.27 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Incident of Fire at Motia Khan, Delhi on
23.4.1990**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): I wish to apprise the Hon'ble Members of this august House about the incident of fire in Motia Khan jhuggis on 23.4.1990 in the jurisdiction of

Pahar Ganj police station, New Delhi.

At about 3.30 in the afternoon, a call was received at the Control Room of Delhi Fire Service that a fire had broken out in jhuggis situated in Motia Khan. Immediately, fire fighting vehicles were rushed to the spot. Initially, the fire was considered medium, but within minutes it was declared serious. The fire spread rapidly to the adjoining jhuggis due to strong winds. 36 fire tenders were pressed into service and the fire was finally brought under control by 5.30 p.m.

About 1,500 jhuggis were gutted in the fire. The material used in the construction of jhuggis was highly combustible and inflammable. The fire-fighting operations were hindered by the haphazard lay-out of the jhuggis. The extent of damage is being ascertained. A case FIR No. 208/90 under sections 436/437/304-A IPC dated 23.4.1990 has been registered. The experts from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory and Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking have been summoned to ascertain the cause of fire.

11 persons (2 women and 9 children) lost their lives in the fire. As immediate relief, milk and bread were distributed to the affected families through the Red Cross. The Delhi Administration has erected shamianas to provide shelter. *Ex gratia* payment of Rs. 20,000/- to the next of kin of 2 ladies killed, Rs. 10,000/- to those of the 9 children killed, Rs. 3,000/- in the case of those seriously injured and Rs. 500/- in the case of those with simple injuries have been announced by the Lt. Governor of Delhi. In addition Rs. 500/- will be given for each jhuggi burnt and Rs. 250/- to each jhuggi dweller who lost his cycle rickshaw.

I, alongwith Minister for Urban Development and senior officers of Delhi Administration visited the affected area to make a personal assessment on the spot and to supervise the relief operations.

As we have already informed the Hon'ble Members of this House, the Delhi Administration is reviewing its fire-fighting arrange-

ments to determine their adequacy and state of preparedness, especially keeping in view of the nature of developments that have taken place in the Delhi urban areas, the congested localities and the densely populated areas.

I would request the Hon'ble Members to join me in conveying the deepest sympathies to the bereaved families.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh); Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is my constituency and I should, therefore be permitted to seek some clarification in this regard.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN; Please hear me for a minute. Normally, as per the rules, no one is permitted to seek clarification, after statement by the Minister. But, since it is in your Constituency, as a very special case, I permit you to seek clarification... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you have permitted me to speak, I would request that I may be allowed to speak first. He could speak thereafter, you have given me the opportunity to speak first... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT (East Delhi): The Members of Parliament from Delhi should be allowed to seek clarification. Even if Shri Khurana wants to seek clarification, I do not mind. But, give him priority.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs said just now that he visited the spot where

[Sh. Kalka Das]

jhuggis were burnt. At that time, I was also present there and met him. The site where fire broke out falls in my constituency. I saw that about 3000 jhuggis were destroyed in the fire. Nine children sustained burn injuries and 2 women were burnt in the fire. Nearly 300 jhuggis were gutted in the fire but the Government is providing an assistance of Rs. 500 only per family. This amount is too meagre. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs.... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot permit you to make a speech. You can just seek clarification. But, this is not the way to seek clarification.

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS: Sir, I am seeking clarification only. Fire broke out in the jhuggis of Motia Khan all of a sudden. I would like to know from the Government whether a high level enquiry will be ordered into the incident and also whether some more relief will be provided to the affected people. Besides, will the Government provide any temporary shelter to these people who have been rendered homeless and passing their time in utmost agony on footpaths and provide them any site so that they could raise their jhuggis again. I want to know whether any alternative site would be made available to them.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me time to speak. First of all, I would like to convey my sympathy and congratulation to the new Minister. I express my sympathy to him because just in the beginning, he had to face such a situation. I know that he reached the spot and I myself had also gone there.

SHRI KALKA DAS: But I did not see you

anywhere there where as I met the hon. Minister.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I know that you had gone and I also had gone. The hon. Minister had also gone there.

SHRI KALKA DAS: We did not see you anywhere.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I am saying that I had gone there. Even if you knew, will you ever say that I had gone. I am telling you that I had also visited the spot, then what is there in it to get annoyed. Our hon. Minister is a youngman and we have full sympathy with him. I would like to tell him that I had gone there. I reached there at about 1.00 O'clock. Perhaps you reached there a bit earlier. I would like to know whether any team of doctors was sent there as a relief measure. I remained there upto 2 O'clock and I have come here just now. I know that except the team of doctors sent by the Congress Party no other team of doctors was present there.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALKA DAS: You did not go there at all and even then you are trying to give political colour to this incident.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Madan Lal ji, you may contradict me later on, but please let me speak now... (*Interruptions*)

I would like to know (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a tragic incident and he is trying to give it a political colour. No Congressman was present there. That is my constituency. I know about that I can say emphatically that it was congress activist who set fire to jhuggis... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, now they have lost their senses..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, they set on fire jhuggis in my constituency

and ruined the people of my area (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would further like to know as to whether any tents were pitched there so as to provide temporary shelter to the people? I know that till 2 O'clock no tent had been pitched there. Besides, I would like to know whether any water tanker was sent there. Fourthly, I would like to know whether time has not come when people should be paid an assistance of more than Rs. 500. They can say that earlier payment was made at this rate, and therefore, this time also the same amount is being given. As you are aware, people lost their lives in the incident and shops were gutted. Therefore, payment should be made in terms of the losses suffered. Will you not do a thing only because we had not done the same earlier? You have made more promises to the people and made them more hopeful. I, therefore, request you to provide them roofs made of concrete at Government cost. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, have you got anything more to say? I do not compel you to say. If you have got anything to say, you can say it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this incident relates to lives of poor people. In view of this, we should not try to take political advantage of this discussion. with due regard to the sentiments of hon. Members, I would like to say that if any laxity is observed anywhere, immediate action will be taken against the defaulters and we will not make any compromise in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormogao): I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the point of order?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, I have given an amendment to the report of the Business Advisory Committee and the Chair has not called me.... (*Interruptions*)....It is in the agenda before the Demands.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, I have not seen it... (*Interruptions*)...It has not yet been taken up so far.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was the first person to give a written notice about the fire incident at 10.00 O'clock. I have sought only two clarifications-firstly, what are the reasons of giving two types of compensations in respect of the deceased persons. While Rs. 10,000 were paid in respect of one case, in the other case the amount paid was Rs. 20,000. There should be no discrimination between the deceased persons. I feel that Rs. 20,000/- should be paid in respect of deceased persons. Secondly, 11 people died in the fire. An enquiry by a magistrate or any other agency must be held into the incident as to how the fire broke out.. (*Interruptions*) ...

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Special cases are now becoming precedents. In some other case also, of course, it was once permitted. That is why I also permitted as a special case. Now, it has turned into a full-fledged discussion. Another Member from Delhi is also standing. How can we create a bad precedent? The Rule is very specific that no question or discussion will be permitted after the statement of the hon. Minister.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Has the report been passed or postponed?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am told- I was not in the Chair-that the Report has not been presented. That is all,

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga): Somebody has to tell us as to whether or not it will be taken up. How can it be not taken?.. *(Interruptions)*....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I hope that it will be taken. But it was not taken up so far.

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS: It should be stated whether or not a judicial inquiry will take place?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: My dear friend, that is right. I have permitted you to ask a clarification only and I can give you time only for that. But I cannot allow you to proceed like this to deliver a speech.

[Translation]

SHRI KALKADAS: The fire which broke act in my constituency was of result of a deliberate mischief. will a judicial inquiry be ordered or not? It should be stated after getting done information in this regard.

15.41 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1990-91

Ministry of Home Affairs—*CONTD.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the House will continue discussion on demands for Grants No. 42 to 46 and 90 to 95 of the Ministry of Home Affairs, moved on 19th April, 1990. Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav may speak.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV (Sitamarhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to

support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs I would like to refer to a rural saying, which is as follows:

"Man harshit to gawe geet aur ghar kharcha to sute nishchint."

15.42 hrs.

[SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE in the Chair]

If the people are happy they sing and if there is enough at home, they are able to sleep peacefully. Similarly, if everything is all right with the Ministry of Home Affairs, internal peace and amity will be maintained and development will take place rapidly. Till there are internal tensions, violence, terrorism and anarchical conditions prevailing in the country, the economy will be utilising its entire resources in containing them and our systematic development of the country will suffer. If there is peace and amity in the country, all round development will take place faster and if it is other wise, development will receive a set back. Therefore, first of all, it is essential to deal with that matter. Besides, regarding the internal situation prevailing in the country, it is difficult to say whether the Government is responsible for it or there are other factors at work as well. I cannot say whether this Government is responsible for it or that Government is responsible. My question is whether the Government alone is responsible or other people are also responsible along with it. Mahatma Gandhi led the national movement for the independence of the country. Mahatma Gandhi was a great personality on whom every section of the people relied. Gandhiji wanted the Britishers to be ousted from the country. Independence means paying maximum attention to the downtrodden. if a penny is spent out of the Notional Exchequer and if it is spent for the welfare of the downtrodden, it will be considered to be worthwhile expenditure. If the funds are spent on the upper classes, it will not be considered to be proper. Gandhiji paid maximum attention to the lowest strata of society. He emphasised that they should be uplifted. Secondly, leaders of all section,