

[Sh. Gulab Chand Kataria]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to make an humble request to the hon. Minister, through you, that if such incidents of fire are occurring in Delhi, the capital of our country, and if this trend spreads throughout the country, what will happen to the country. Keeping this thing in mind, stringent action should be taken by the Government in this direction.

SHRI M.S. PAL (Nainital): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so many incidents of fire have taken place in Delhi, thousands of jhuggis, have burnt. Fire has broken out about seven times in the jhuggis, and the incident of fire at Motia Khan was the most tragic in which many children and women were burnt. Besides, we are very much grieved with the incidents of fire that broke out in Vigyan Bhawan, Norman Bhavan and Shastri Bhavan, which is the property of the nation.

Sir, in my opinion, there can be two reasons behind these incidents of fire. One can be some local reasons which might have caused fire and the other can be sabotage by same infiltration. In the first case, there can be a lapse on the part of an employee, faulty wiring or inadequate arrangement of fire fighting equipments in the buildings. This has been pointed out by the Press and some hon. Members have also drawn the attention of House to this aspect. It has been stated that two workers have been caught for being involved in these fire incidents. They can be mischievous elements.

The other reason behind these incidents of fire can be a foreign hand. The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shrimati Bhutto has announced the creation of a Fund to fight with India and Rs. 10 crores, has been sanctioned for it. This has been reported in the newspapers also. The Government of Sindh has announced an amount of Rs. 6 crores for this Fund to start a chain of incidents in India.

Mr. deputy Speaker, Sir, I would not like to go into further detail and would like to

congratulate the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Subodh Kant Sahay for having reached Shastri Bhavan immediately with his staff and officers as soon as he heard this news in the morning. It shows how alert the Government is and also indicate that the Government is functioning with good intentions.

I would request the Government that keeping this incident of fire in mind, a Commission should be set up in Delhi to go into the causes of incidents of fire in detail and all the facts should be brought to light so that the country could know causes of these fire incidents that have been taking place in a very systematic manner.

With these words, I thank the House for giving me time to speak.

17.45 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Review of National Policy on Education

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHAMANBHAI MEHTA): Even after 43 years of independence, a majority of our people continue to remain deprived of minimum needs of food, housing, clothing and education. It is also a matter of grave concern that our people comprise 50 per cent of the world's illiterate, and large sections of children have to go without acceptable level of primary education. Government accords the highest priority to education—both as a human right and as the means for bringing about a transformation towards a more humane and enlightened society. We need to make education an effective instrument for securing a status of equality for women, and persons belonging to the backward classes and minorities. Moreover, it is essential to give a work and employment orien-

tation to education and to exclude from it the elitist aberrations which have become the glaring characteristic of the educational scene. Educational institutions are increasingly being influenced by casteism, communalism and obscurantism and it is necessary to lay special emphasis on struggle against this phenomenon and to move towards a genuinely egalitarian and secular social order. The National Policy on Education 1986 has not presented a framework which would enable the country to move towards this perspective of education.

Government have, therefore, decided to set up NPE Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Acharya Ramamurti. The membership of the Committee will be as follows:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professor CNR Rao
Director
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore 2. Dr. Sukhdev Singh
Formerly Vice-Chancellor
Punjab and MP Agricultural
Universities 3. Dr. M. Santappa
Formerly Vice-Chancellor
Madras University 4. Dr. Obaid Siddiqui, FRS
Tata Institute of Fundamen-
tal Research
Bombay 5. Dr. Bhaskar Roy Chaudhary
Vice-Chancellor
Calcutta University
Calcutta 6. Shri MG Bhativadekar
Formerly Principal
Maharaja College
Jaipur 7. Professor Usha Mehta,
Political Scientist and
Teacher, Bombay | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Professor Sachidanand
Murthy
Head of the Department of
Asian Philosophies and
Cultures & Principal,
University Post
Graduate Centre,
Guntur 9. Dr. Anil Sadagopal
Kishore Bharati
Hoshangabad 10. Father TV Kunnunkal
Chairman
National Open School
New Delhi 11. Professor Mrinal Miri
Professor of Philosophy
North Eastern Hill
University
Shillong 12. Dr. Vidy Niwas Mishra
Vice-Chancellor
Kashi Vidyapeeth
Varanasi 13. Dr. SZ Qassim
Vice-Chancellor
Jamia Millia Islamia
New Delhi 14. Shri Veda Vyasa
Chairman
DAV College Management
Committee
New Delhi 15. Shri Manubhai Pancholi
Lok Bharati, Sanosara
District Bhavnagar 16. Shri S. Gopalan
Member-Secretary
Additional Secretary
Ministry of Human Resource
Development
Department of Education |
|--|---|

The terms of reference of the Commit-

[Sh. Chamanbhai Mehta]

tee will be as follows:

- (a) to review the National Policy on Education, 1986 and its implementation;
- (b) to make recommendations regarding revision of the Policy; and
- (c) to recommend action necessary for implementation of the revised Policy within a timeframe.

The Committee will submit its report as soon as possible, but not later than six months from the date of issue of the order. It may submit interim reports as may be considered appropriate.

17.50 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Recent Fire Incidents in Delhi: *CONTD.*

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the fires at successive dates in April have roused strong suspicion in our minds that attempts are going on to hackle the present Central Government in the eyes of the people. So, the government should take proper steps and care to ensure that such happenings do not occur in future.

Sir, in January two fire incidents took place. In March one fire incidents took place. In April seven fire incidents took place and in May upto this date one fire incident took place in Delhi. As far as the Press Report is concerned, we find that 11300 Jhugi Jhonpri and shops were gutted, 16 people have lost their lives and 45000 people have been rendered roofless. The severe strain and stress these roofless people are going

through should be remembered and should be given proper relief.

While analysing the causes of the fire it is reported that short circuit and stove fire took place. The real causes of same incident have not yet been found out. We think the causes which have not yet been found out are engineered by some conspirators. I say this because of the fact that the fire at Nirman Bhawan was caused though all the buttons of the electric lights were off. So, there is no possibility of short circuit. Definitely there was a conspiracy to engineer fire in the Nirman Bhawan. Only the useful papers have been destroyed there. In Shastri Bhawan also, important papers relating to accounts have been destroyed. These points to the fact that definitely some motivated people are behind these fire incidents. Sir the fire incidents at the prestigious building of Vigyan Bhawan has actually tended us to such a situation that some foreign agents may be there because the high police officials were there and there the Conference was going on. So, I would therefore, request the government to make a thorough search and find out the real culprit.

In a Press Report the other day I found that a man was caught red handed when he was starting to engineer a fire in the slum area. He confessed to the police that some vested interests had engaged him to cause such fire. And when fire would destroy the Jhugi Jhonpris, the people will not be there and some motivated people will grab the land and they will come before the helpless people as their leaders. If that is the case and if really a person has been arrested, then the Government should think of taking proper action against him. If the present law does not suffice, then special laws should be made to punish those culprits, who have rendered great number of people helpless and roofless. Sir, I would suggest in this regard that house building allowances should be given to those people who have lost their everything. The roofs and the floors on which they have built their *jhuggi jhonpris* should be leased to them and their names should be put on record. As soon as their names are