

[English]

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the last week or so, we have seen that in Delhi alone, over 8000 'jhuggis' have been burnt down. We have also reports here that the burning of these 'jhuggis' is not accidental, but in fact, could be a sabotage. The people who are the real estate mafias are involved in burning down of these 'jhuggis'. We would like the hon. Minister for Home Affairs to inquire in to this matter and make a statement in this House, since the life and property of the down-trodden are involved in these incidents.

[Translation]

SHRI J. P. AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had risen to speak yesterday also, but you did not allow me. You do not want to listen to me.

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to say? You can make your point... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI J. P. AGARWAL: As stated by Shri Kumaramangalam just now, the fire incidents in the Jhuggis of Delhi have become a matter of daily occurrence. Yesterday, two persons were arrested in this connection. They have admitted that they are Bhartiya Janata Party workers and they had set the Jhuggis on fire... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted you to speak. Please sit down.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Sir, sentiments are involved in this issue... (*Interruptions*)...

13.02 hrs.

[English]

#### ASSENT TO BILLS

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the Code of Criminal Procedure

(Amendment) Bill, 1990 passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current Session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 6th April, 1990.

Sir, I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, of the following two Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 6th April, 1990.

- (1) The Constitution (Sixty-fourth Amendment) Bill, 1990
- (2) The Criminal Law Amendment (Amending) Bill, 1990.

13.03 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have said that the relief money due to them has not been paid.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): This is not so. They have not been given money despite the statement by the Home Minister that relief has been given... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If speaking helps in solving your problem, then it is a different matter... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): They are maligning B. J. P. by setting jhuggis in Delhi on fire themselves... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kalka Das, please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to tell you that there is a provision in the Rules about the course of action you can take in case Government's statement is inaccurate

or is not based on facts. The rules do not indicate what instructions the Presiding officer, who occupies the Chair on behalf of the Speaker, can issue to the Government in this regard. You have the right to take action, as per rules if a statement issued by the Government is incorrect. You can adopt that course. There is no use of telling the Speaker repeatedly to instruct the Government about it, as he is not authorised to do so. It will not serve your purpose. I would suggest you to go through the rules and act accordingly. You would be able to achieve your objective.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, notice for 'Privilege Motion' on this issue was given on Monday...*(Interruptions)*..A notice for raising the matter under Rule 377 has also been given...*(Interruptions)*...

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will be decided by him. I can't say anything because I don't know.

.....*(Interruptions)*.....

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Then, you better expel me. What I am saying is correct. The Home Minister had said that relief has been paid and on that day also I had said that it has not been done. It was said repeatedly.....

MR. SPEAKER; Sit down, please. For your convenience, let me tell you the direction:-

[English]

direction 115 (1) says:-

"A member wishing to point out any mistake or inaccuracy in a statement made by a Minister or any other member shall, before referring to the matter in the House, write to the Speaker pointing out

the particulars of the mistake or the matter in the House."

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Please listen. I have been hankering after this for the last five days, I have met the hon. Speaker as well as the Home Minister. I have also given it in writing....

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): You have gone to the Press also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Khuranaji, you have taken enough time on this issue. You should not feel so helpless. You have got every right, but if you do not know how to exercise that right, it is another thing.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I have already met the Speaker and given him in writing. I met the Home Minister also. I have talked to all but nobody is prepared to do anything. You tell me what else can I do?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member is not so helpless.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Nobody has given me an opportunity to explain my position fully. This gentleman is also trying to interrupt. I have something to say, what I want to say will take just one minute. I want to quote from the press report:-

[English]

It is reported in *The Hindustan Times* dated 21st April 1990:

"Despite Mr. Khurana's protests, the Home Minister asserted that Rs. 500 per family had been given to the refugees."

[Translation]

On 20th of this month, he again said that

every victim of fire incidents in Delhi had been given Rs. 500. Today it is 26th. On that day also I had protested in the House as I knew that what the Home Minister was saying was not correct. Later I confirmed it from Delhi Administration, they too admitted that they had not distributed even a single paisa. Thereafter, I met the Home Minister and the Hon. Speaker and gave it in writing. I had given in writing on Monday and 4 days have since passed. Nobody is prepared to listen. I would like to ask as to where should I go now?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Khurana, I am not going to allow you any more time as you have already taken enough time. I would like to tell you that if you have any objection...

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I have an objection, right from the beginning.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Listen to me first. If you have any objection, there can be a solution to it under the rules. If you have given Privilege Motion, you can talk to Hon. Speaker about it. But if you try to raise it repeatedly like this, it would not help in finding a solution. In a privilege motion, the reply of the concerned Minister is obtained in writing and after thorough consideration, the ruling is given whether consent to the Privilege Motion is to be given or not. Please meet Hon. Speaker in this connection.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I have met them all. The House is going to have a four day's break from tomorrow.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing of what you say further will go on record now....(Interruptions)....\*

[Translation]

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT (East Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the incidents of fire in jhuggis in Delhi have become an every day

affair. The other day, fire incident took place in jhuggis of Jahangirpuri and Seelampur. Daulat Dairy has been the scene of fire twice. I am sure, a political conspiracy is behind all these incidents. There seems to be a calculated plan to drive out or to intimidate the jhuggi dwellers of Delhi. An enquiry should be ordered into it. The relief measures are inadequate and that too just for show off. Just now, my hon. brother, Shri Madan Lal was speaking for whom I have great regard. He gets the bread and milk supplied by the Red Cross distributed in the camps...(Interruptions). in the name of his party, B. J. P.....(Interruptions).....

The allegation Congress is behind all that happened should be enquired into. Why this conspiracy is being hatched, who is hatching it and with what motives...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the position.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has come in the press that these fire incidents are a part of the massive drive of the Delhi Administration to eliminate Jhuggi-jhonpri.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Ar. Agarwal. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions) .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Some hon. Members have alleged that a particular party is behind Ram Janma Bhoomi issue and some have alleged that a particular party has a hand in setting jhuggies on fire. These two points have been raised in the House. These points should be raised in the House or not, that is a different matter. But I on my part would like to say that incidents of fire taking place in Jhuggi-jhonpri clusters in Delhi continuously for 5-6 days is a serious matter. I would like the Government to

\*Not recorded.

please investigate into it, take it seriously and take appropriate action.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

SHRI KALKADAS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other day also I had pleaded that these incidents of fire should be enquired into. I have named a suspect also.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not mention any name.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU (VISAKHAPATNAM): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the threatening anonymous calls and letters that the Editor of 'Nai Duniya' has received. Now, I want to say that in the Indian democracy, this is a complete violation of freedom of the Press. An FIR has been filed in this regard. I would like the Home Minister, who is always silent or not present in the House, to enquire into the matter and see that the Press is allowed to work freely and give their opinion on A or B party freely. They should give them necessary security.

13.20 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF  
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Reported Fall in prices of Virginia Flue Cured tobacco resulting in distress to tobacco growers and steps taken by Government to mitigate their sufferings**

[English]

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (Calcutta South): I call the attention of the Minister of

Commerce to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:-

"Reported fall in the prices of Virginia Flue Cured tobacco resulting in distress to the tobacco growers and the steps taken by the Government to mitigate their sufferings."

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) Sir, Virginia Flue Cured (VFC) tobacco is grown largely in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. To ensure reasonable prices to tobacco growers, the Tobacco Board holds open auctions at various centres. For 1989-90 crop, in Andhra Pradesh auctions commenced on 21.2.90. A quantity of 47.53 Million kgs. had been auctioned till 20.4.1990 at an average price of Rs. 15.11 per kg. as against an average price of Rs. 19.46 per kg. during the corresponding period last year. The prices at the auctions last year were initially high, but they went down subsequently and the average price for the entire season was Rs. 16.59 per kg.

The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for VFC tobacco is fixed by the Government on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), which takes into consideration relevant factors while fixing the MSP. The MSP is fixed every year for the two major grades, namely, F-2 grade, grown on black soils, and L-2 grade, grown on Northern Light Soils. For other grades, MSP is fixed by the Tobacco Board having regard to the MSP fixed for the two major grades and the usual price differential between various grades.

According to the Tobacco Board, the prices obtained at the auctions this year are low as compared to the previous year, but they are well above the MSP levels. Further, after the USSR firm up its orders to the Indian suppliers, prices have started picking up marginally. The Commerce Ministry is holding a meeting with the trade and the manufacturers of tobacco in a bit to secure