

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) Mr Speaker, Sir, Shri Sharad ji has raised the issue to recently held elections in Uttar Pradesh in which major political parties participated. It is there that it deserves a serious discussion. The Members who were supposed to be here, are not present. They will be appraised of view. I feel this is a matter which should be considered by all parties.

SHRI LAL K ADVANI Mr Speaker, Sir, the reply of the hon Minister has confirmed the stand of the Government. I would like to submit that before the end of the current Session, the Government should place its views on electoral reforms as well as on the recommendations of the Dinesh Goswami Committee before the House. If it cannot do so it should at least, make a statement on it.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD Mr Speaker, Sir, as many leaders have raised this question, about the elections it is really a matter of concern. Today itself meeting of the Cabinet is being held. I shall place your views before the Cabinet and I am in full agreement with your views. If present election practice continues in future, an ordinary and honest man will find it impossible to contest in elections. I shall place the views before the Cabinet. (*Interruptions*) The Cabinet will take a decision collectively. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAXMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI Please direct the Government to make a statement. (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER It has been very good discussion and Government's representatives have agreed that the issue should be considered. We all will sit together and see how this can be done.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN Mr Speaker, Sir, as you have just said, why do not you take initiative by calling a meeting?

MR SPEAKER I shall keep all these points in view. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH Mr Speaker, Sir, I had raised the question of pollution in river Ram Ganga.

MR SPEAKER A statement has been received in this regard. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say about 30,000 children. Their schools have been closed. (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER You spoke nicely on Charar e Sharif and I have asked the Government to make a statement on it. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR SPEAKER The government is ready with the

statement. I would expect the Minister to make the statement.

13 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Relief and Reconstruction in Charar-e-Sharief

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) As the Hon'ble House is aware, the Prime Minister had informed the House on 15th May, 1995, about the events and circumstances leading to the destruction of over a thousand houses and other buildings in the township of Charar e Sharief on 11th May, 1995 and the tragic burning of the holy shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani by militants and foreign mercenaries. A multi party delegation of Parliament has also visited Charar e-Sharief on 20th May, 1995, and there have since been further discussions in this House in the matter. We fully share the concerns expressed and the demand made for immediate action for providing relief to the affected people, and for reconstruction of damaged property to enable resumption of normal life and activity.

By way of immediate relief, one month's free rations have already been distributed to all the affected families. In addition a sum of Rs 10,000/ is being given to each family. An amount of Rs 75 lakh has already been distributed and a further amount of Rs 50 lakh will be disbursed within the next few days. In addition, 6000 blankets and relief supplies in the form of emergency rations, palm oil, cloth and utensils through the Indian Red Cross Society have been provided.

Water supply has been fully restored, partial electricity supply has been resumed and availability of drugs has been ensured and arrangements for medical aid have been made.

For families wanting to stay in the town during reconstruction, around 500 tents have been made available for being provided as and when asked for. For reconstruction of damaged houses and shops ex gratia relief of upto Rs 1 lakh is being given by the State Government. A further ex gratia relief of like amount is being provided from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, and a cheque for Rs 15 crore from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund has been sent to the State Government for this purpose. For urgent disposal of insurance claims, representatives of the concerned Insurance Companies have already visited the area and completed preliminary surveys. The Central Government

and the State Government are taking all measures to ensure that the reconstruction money not only reaches the affected people, but is also properly and effectively utilised, without any delay. Directions have been issued that there should be no delay in assessment of the damage for the purpose of determining the amount of ex-gratia payable. Arrangements are also being made to ensure easy availability of construction materials like timber, GI, and tin sheets, cement etc. so that construction work can start immediately. The State Government will be providing timber at concessional rates and a depot has already been opened in the town by the State Forest Department. Arrangements for GI sheets through SAIL are being made and supplies have already been despatched.

An Empowered Committee has been set up by the State Government under the Financial Commissioner to supervise and monitor relief and rehabilitation measures. The State Government has also arranged for the senior officials in charge of various activities pertaining to rehabilitation including reconstruction, water supply, electricity etc. to be posted in the town itself.

Through this august House, I would like to again convey to all those who have been affected by this dastardly act, that the people of the country share their grief and anguish, and we will do all that is necessary to ameliorate their sufferings. I would also like to appeal through this House that we must all beware of elements who are trying, even at this juncture, to spread disinformation and are indulging in activities which can only aggravate the situation. I am sure that all sections of the people would act unitedly and purposefully.

13.30 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 12 of 1995)—(Commercial)—Air India Ltd.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 12 of 1995)—(Commercial)—Air India Limited under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library See No. LT/7769/95]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of National Building Construction Corporation Ltd., New Delhi for 1993-94.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL

DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): On behalf of Shrimati Sheila Kaul, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.
- (2) Annual Report of the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7770/95]

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government—(No. 10 of 1995)—(Commercial)—Central Coal Fields Ltd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): On behalf of Shri Ajit Panja, I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government—(No. 10 of 1995)—(Commercial)—Central Coal Fields Limited, under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library See No. L.T. 7771/95]

Notifications under Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) Under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:-
 - (i) G.S.R. 759(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 1994 approving the Kandla Port Trust Employees (Classification Control and Appeal) Amendment Regulations, 1994.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 135(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th March, 1995 approving the Cochin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1995.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 136(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th March, 1995 approving the New Mangalore Port Employees (Acceptance of