

explosion followed by a fire took place in 2 Field Ordnance Depot (FOD), Srinagar, in a separate enclosure housing arms and equipment captured from the terrorists in the Kashmir Valley. At the time of the explosion, the captured items were being shown to a group of officers. Due to the prompt action by the Army, the fire was brought under control before it could spread and damage other items stored in the FOD. As a result of the accident, eight officers including a Maj.General three JCOs, two Other Ranks and one civilian were killed and ten persons injured.

The FOD is located at Badami Bagh, the Cantonment area of Srinagar. The staff of the FOD consists of both Army persons and civilians. The FOD is well protected with a fully co-ordinate three tier security arrangement being provided by the BSF, the Defence Security Corps and the Army. At or around the time of the accident no militant activity, including firing of any kind was observed. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered. A team of experts has also been despatched to Srinagar to assist the inquiry.

18.29 hrs. _____

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that on 18th March, 1994, a notice has been received from the Assistant Reg-

istrar of the Supreme Court of India (Civil Original Jurisdiction) requiring to show cause in connection with Case no. 6 of 1994, arising out of Writ petition No. 860/94 filed before the Jodhpurbench of Rajasthan High Court and withdrawn to the Supreme Court, seeking to challenge the method of transfer of judges of High Courts and appointments of judge of the Supreme Court and High Court.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know why it was sent to me.

As per well established practice and convention of the House, I have decided not to respond to the notice. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs is being requested to take such action as he may deem fit to apprise the Supreme Court of India of the correct constitutional position and the well established conventions of the House.

And that the Speaker is not responsible for the transfer of judges! I Thank you, very much.

18.30 hrs.

(The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, April 18, 1994/Chaitra 28, 1916. (saka)