

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER DELHI SIKH GURDWARAS ACT, 1971 AND A STATEMENT

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications under sub-section (4) of section 39 of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1971:—

- (i) The Delhi Sikh Gurdwaras (Second Amendment) Rules, 1974, published in Notification No. F.18/47/74-Judl. in Delhi Gazette dated the 7th November, 1974.
- (ii) The Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (Election of Members) (Amendment) Rules, 1974, published in Notification No. F.18(19)/73-Judl. in Delhi Gazette dated 19th November, 1974.
- (iii) The Delhi Sikh Gurdwaras Management Committee (Registration of Electors) (Second Amendment) Rules, 1974, published in Notification No. F.18(19)/73-Judl. in Delhi Gazette dated the 19th December, 1974.

- (2) A statement explaining the reasons for not laying the Hindi version of the above Notifications simultaneously.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3586/74.]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED ARSON AND SETTING ON FIRE OF LABOURERS' JHUGGIS AT JAUNPUR VILLAGE IN MEHRAULI (DELHI)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): Sir, I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“Reported arson and setting on fire of labourers' jhuggis at Jaunpur village in Mehrauli (Delhi) resulting in the death of two infants.”

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BRAHMANNANDA REDDY): Sir, according to the information furnished by the Delhi Administration, on 25th November, 1974, at 8.30 A.M. a report was lodged by one Bassu at Mehrauli Police Station that 25 Jhuggis and three chhapars of a labour camp at Jonapur Pahari, about 10 Kms. south of Mehrauli were burnt at about midnight between 24th-25th November, 1974. A total of 26 families, consisting of 106 persons in all were affected by this disaster. Two infants, a six months old boy and a one year old girl were burnt to death. It was alleged by the victims that on 24th November, 1974, at about 8 P.M. one Kalu Ram, Contractor had asked them that they should desert Bir Chand, another Contractor and work with him instead. This offer was rejected by the labourers as Bir Chand paid them better wages. On this Kalu Ram threatened them with dire consequences and left. It is alleged that at about midnight he returned with about 10 persons armed with lathies and set fire to the jhuggis. The complainant Bassu was reportedly hit with a lathi while trying to

rescue his son aged six months. In the process the latter fell near the door of the jhuggi. Bassu was thus prevented from rescuing the child, who was burnt to death. A one year old daughter of another labourer was burnt as she was left inside the flaming jhuggi through a misunderstanding between her parents about her whereabouts. The culprits while retreating are also alleged to have removed silver ornaments from the person of some of the women folk.

On receipt of this report the police immediately registered a case FIR No. 349 dated 25th November, 1974, under sections 436/302/147/148/149 IPC at Police Station Mehrauli and rushed to the spot. Section 395 IPC was also added later on. The dead bodies were removed for post-mortem and the crime team and the experts from Central Forensic Science Laboratory were summoned to the spot. Superintendent of Police, South District, and Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Hauz Khas, also visited the place to supervise the investigations. Five persons, including the elder brother of Contractor Kalu Ram have since been arrested and vigorous efforts are being made to apprehend Kalu Ram and the remaining accused persons. Action under sections 82/83 Cr.P.C. for declaring the remaining accused as proclaimed offenders has been taken and their moveable property has been attached. Addl. District Magistrate (South) also visited the spot and relief measures were organised. A sum of Rs. 50 was disbursed to each of the 26 families who were also given rations for three days. Alternative temporary accommodation was arranged for the victims and they were also given some advance payment by contractor Bir Chand. Additional relief measures are under consideration of the Delhi Administration. It is a matter of great regret that such a gruesome tragedy has taken place. Police is making vigorous efforts to apprehend the remaining culprits.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: As the hon. Home Minister said this is a very regrettable incident which happened just under our very nose. We cannot say that the Government is lacking in their attitude. The Government has acted very promptly and arrested five people. It is good. But meantime it has raised some relevant points which I would like to place before the Government.

These people who are living in jhuggies and jhopries are workers and poor labourers. They are shunted from one corner to another. There is no job security for them. There is no proper wage system. These contractors treat them as slaves and say 'Either you come with me or I will kill you'. They threaten them, 'I will put fire to your jhuggies if you do not obey my orders'. That is the condition of these people. It must have drawn the attention of the Government. But what is the attitude they are going to take towards these poor people with regard to job security, payment of proper wages and proper living conditions? The term 'living conditions' is a wide term. But they work for 10 or 12 hours a day and what is the wage they get? What is the job security? These contractors treat them very miserably. The contractors have become a new class in this country and since independence they have become a moneyed people with all their black money. With their money power they think they can intimidate and use all their force on these poor people. They think whatever happens, they can escape with their money power. It is a social problem. I am very glad my colleague, Shri H. K. L. Bhagat, took up this matter and he demanded three things from the Lt. Governor. One is the arrest of the culprits which the Government have already done. The other is about relief. The Rs. 50 given is inadequate and I am sure the Home Minister will agree. I am glad that he is taking further measures. It is said that they were

[Shri Vayalar Ravi]

given three days' ration. It is all not adequate. Adequate relief should be given to these people. About hundred families are affected. The Minister said that some more measures are being taken. I request the Home Minister should spell out what are the specific relief measures they are taking. Some measures have already been suggested by Mr. Bhagat. The other thing is the security. They have no security of job. Then, their lives are in danger. I want full security should be ensured for these poor workers and their families. The Home Minister said that Police patrolling has been intensified. It is not enough. The confidence of the people has been shaken and the Government must take immediate measures to restore that confidence so that they can live in peace.

Then this kind of contract system, hired labour and contract labour and the slavery system has to be stopped. I want to know what specific measures are being taken in this regard. What are the steps being taken by the Government to apprehend the remaining culprits?

SHRI DARBARA SINGH (Hoshiarpur): The permit of the contractors should be cancelled.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: The hon. Member has raised some wider questions like housing to the poor, proper wages and all that. It is difficult to cover wider points in this short discussion. But I would like to inform the honourable House that very effective action is being taken to apprehend the rest of the accused. The fact that some of the contractors are rich does not matter. However rich they may be, however powerful they may be, so far as this matter is concerned, very effective steps are being taken by the police to apprehend the rest of the accused, to bring them before a court of law as quickly as possible. So far as relief is concerned I hope that the Delhi Administration would take some other steps to give further re-

lief to these victims. As I said, very effective and quick steps will be taken out only to apprehend the rest of the accused but also to bring them before a court of law. You would have seen from my statement that property worth about Rs. 80,000 or 1 lakh has already been attached.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the licences be confiscated? He is a licenced contractor.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: I have to find out what the legal implications are, what the contract is about, etc.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी (शाजापुर) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, राजधानी दिल्ली में ऐसी घटनायें घटे, यह केवल शर्मनाक और लज्जा की ही बात नहीं है, किन्तु इस से कई सवाल खड़े होते हैं, जिन की धोर में माननीय गृह मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। श्री बलायुर रवि जी ने भी इस बात की धोर सकेत किया है कि एक ऐसे बर्ग का उदय हुआ है जिन के पास पैसा है और वे लोग छोटे बर्ग को गुलाम जैसा समझते हैं। किन्तु सवाल यह है कि ऐसे छोटे बर्ग पर लगातार भ्रष्टाचार क्यों होते हैं। माननीय गृह मंत्री महोदय जरा धनस्तम्ब हो कर इस के बारे में सोचें। राजा कालस्य कारणम यदि अपनी जिम्मेदारी को धाप टालना चाहेंगे तो इस सवाल का हल नहीं होगा, इस जिम्मेदारी को धाप को स्वीकार करना पड़ेगा कि राजधानी दिल्ली में कुछ ऐसे वादा

वर्ग खड़े हो गये हैं जिन को कुछ भी करने में शिक्षक और शर्म महसूस नहीं होती है। इस का कारण यह है कि ये दादा वर्ग चुनाव के दिनों में अधिकार रूढ़ दल के काम करते हैं, इस लिये इस तरह की बातें करने में उन को किसी तरह का डर या भय नहीं होता है।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why drag this party or that party? Why bring in this party or that party?

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सिक्योरिटी की बात उन्होंने कही है— मैं इस बात को जानता हूँ। लेकिन यह वर्ग पैदा क्यों हो गया है? मैं एक बात का उल्लेख करना चाहता हूँ—

The victims who were terrified by these sudden attacks could not muster courage to report the incident to the police at night.

यानी वे 26 परिवार और 106 लोग होते हुए भी बाद में उन्होंने जा कर पुलिसवालों को सूचना दी। पहले ही उन के अन्दर ऐसी हिम्मत क्यों नहीं थी—इस के बारे में गहराई में जा कर जांच करनी होगी। इतना सब कुछ होने के बाद भी पुलिस को सूचना देने तक का साहस उन के अन्दर न हो—इस का क्या मतलब है— यह हम जानना चाहते हैं?

पुलिस वालों ने कहा है—पेट्रोल को इन्स्टैंसफुई कर दिया जायगा। इस का मतलब है कि किसी न किसी रूप में पेट्रोल वहाँ पर पहले से था, यदि था तो इतनी बड़ी घटना का पता क्यों नहीं लगा? इतनी घूसम देविदा हो गई, जिस में एक लड़का और एक

लड़की मरे। उनका सर्वस्व खत्म हो गया, घर जल गया ऐसी घटना दिल्ली की राजधानी में हो जाय और यह दादागिरी चलती है इस के मूल में जाना पड़ेगा।

अभी अभी जो स्टेटमेंट आया है, उस के अन्सार जो कालू राम, चीफ ऐक्ज्यूज्ड है, वह भी अभी तक सरकार को नहीं मिला है। यानी वह कौन है, क्या है, उस के व्हेयर अबाउण्ट्स का जरूर पता होगा क्योंकि वह ठेकेदार है। ऐसी स्थिति में यदि राजधानी की पुलिस उस को नहीं पकड़ सकती तो यह पुलिस विभाग के लिये कोई अच्छी बात नहीं है। कल रात घटना हो गई, सुबह पता चला। सब कुछ होने के बाद गृह मंत्री महोदय को बताना चाहिये था कि उस व्यक्ति को पकड़ लिया गया। लेकिन उस कालू राम को न पकड़ कर उस के बड़े भाई को पकड़ा है। मैं चाहूँगा कि उस को जल्दी पकड़ा जाय और पकड़ने पर ऐसी कड़ी सजा उस को मिले जिस से आगे चल कर ऐसी घटना न हो सके। इतना सरकार का रोब होना चाहिये, जो कि आजकल कम हो गया है। मैं मानता हूँ कि हर जगह सरकार नहीं जा सकती, लेकिन जो सरकार का रोब होता है, वही खत्म हो गया है। न समगलर सरकार से डरते हैं और न दादा लोग डरते हैं।
Government is Government after all.
किस दल की सरकार है इस का सवाल नहीं है। लेकिन धीरे धीरे दादागिरी करने वालों के मन में सरकार का भय खत्म होना यह चिन्ता की बात है।

[श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी]

जो राहुल की है वह भी बिल्कुल मजाक है—50 रु० और तीन दिन का राशन।
Additional relief measures are under consideration

श्री तब अन्डर कंसिडरेशन है।
That further relief measures are on the way ऐसा कुछ होता तो मैं समझता।
The most inactive Government considers actively and does not arrive at a solution. वह चलता ही रहता है।
इसलिये कल से कम शमी गृह मंत्री जी आश्वासन दें कि

Adequate measures will be undertaken immediately within 24 hours.

तब जा कर हम को संतोष होगा।

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: Just now I have received information that one more person had been arrested. This is now the sixth man who has been arrested. Five had already been arrested.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: What about Kalu Ram, the Chief accused person?

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: He will be arrested. There is no question of his not being arrested. As I have already stated, vigorous steps are being taken in this regard. You may also see the sections quoted in my statement—436—mischief by burning the dwelling house, 392 is a case of murder and unlawful assembly, 147, 148 and in addition 395 as some property was stolen away at that time, 395 is for dacoity. These are most serious sections under the Penal Code and there is no softness about it.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: Sections are not important but the persons have been let off.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: So far as police investigation is concerned, there were proper witnesses and therefore case was put up in the court of law with all the relevant material and Sections.

My submission is that area under this police station is about 56 kilometres and several villages are within the jurisdiction of this police station. In fact there is patrolling every day but they cannot go to one village everyday. In fact, I have known that on 21st and 22nd there was patrolling even in this area. Unfortunately when patrolling is in other areas, these things happen. I agree with you that this high-handed behaviour of new rich or old rich does not seem to be good to us and we have to put it down.

Therefore, it is the endeavour of the police to see that they apprehend the culprits and lodge a chargesheet.

So far as relief is concerned, the relief which was rushed to them is Rs. 50 and some other relief in the form of rice, meat etc. was also rushed to them. This was the immediate step taken. What further relief and how much of it should be given will be done by the Delhi Administration. I would also like to give my advice to the Delhi Administration.

श्री भागीरथ अन्डर (शाबुधा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रायः दिन इस प्रकार की घटनाएँ देश में होती रहती हैं। जिन की रिपोर्ट हम को समय समय पर मिलती रहती हैं। यह जो दिल्ली में घटना हुई है? खास कर के शरीर, जिन की नमजदूरी और मकान का डिकोना है, ऐसे लोगों की झुली झोंपड़ियाँ जलती रहती हैं।

श्रीर शासन इस सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत ही उदा-
सीन है। इस घटना के बारे में, जैसा कि
श्रीर साक्ष्यीय सबलों ने कहा पराबों के लिये
न मजदूरों और न काम का कोई ठिकाना है,
शासन की ओर से जो नारे दिये जाते हैं मजदूरों
के लिये, जमीन के लिये, उन की मजदूरी के
लिये अगर उन बातों की व्यवस्था हो जाय,
तो बड़े से बड़े ठेकेदार भी इन लोगों की हत्यायें
रुकी कर सकते। लेकिन गरीब मजदूर का
शोषण करने के लिये इस तरह की घटनायें
देश में अनेक स्थानों पर होयी रहती हैं। मैं
निश्चित रूप से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा
कि क्या इस घटना के पूर्व इन मजदूरों ने
या इन मजदूरों के हमदर्द ठेकेदार वीर चन्द
ने कोई रिपोर्ट की थी? यदि हाँ तो पुलिस
ने इस सम्बन्ध में अभी तक कोई शर्यकाही की
कि नहीं? और यदि नहीं तो क्यों नहीं की?

ठेकेदारों के लिये भी लाइसेंस होता है
काम करने के लिए, ए, बी, सी, क्लास का
और उन को भी नियमों का पालन करना पड़ता
है। अगर इस सम्बन्ध में कोई कानून नहीं
हो तो ठेकेदारों के लिये भी ऐसा कानून
शासन बनायेगा जिस में किसी भी मजदूर को
परेशान करने या उस की मजदूरी काट लेने या
दूसरे ठेकेदार के मजदूरों को प्रभावित कर के
ले घाना और फिर उन को परेशान करना,
इस तरह की हरकतों को रोका जा सके?
क्या शासन ऐसे कोई नियम बनायेगा?

तीसरी बात में यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि
मजदूर के लिये उन के अस्थायी तौर से रहने की
व्यवस्था की है। लेकिन वह मजदूर इतने
गरीब हैं कि न लकड़ी इकट्ठी कर सकते हैं
और न छप्पर के लिये कोई साधन इकट्ठा
कर सकते हैं? तो स्थाई रूप से उन के रहने की
कोई व्यवस्था हो इस की शासन कोई व्यवस्था
करेगा? यदि हाँ, तो किस रूप में, यह
मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

यह जो घटना हुई है इस के बारे में क्या
शासन कोई इन्कवायरी कमेटी या कोई ऐसी
समिति का गठन करेगा जो इस की जांच करे
कि आखिर इस तरह की घटनाओं के पीछे
किन का हाथ रहता है? क्यों कि हो सकता है
कि कुछ गुन्हे इस में शामिल हों जो दिल्ली में
पनप रहे हैं? तो इस की कोई जांच हीनी चाहिये।
श्रीर गुन्हागर्दी को सहीमान में रोकना चाहिये।
क्योंकि अगर गुन्हे बढ़ते गये तो गरीबों का रहना
मुश्किल हो जायेगा। ऐसी हरकतों को खत्म
करने के लिये सरकार को कोई सबल कदम
उठाना चाहिये।

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA
REDDY: Sir, this area—particularly,
this place—I say, there is no reason
to apprehend, that it is a troubled
one. In fact, it was at about 8-30 p.m.
that Shri Kalu Ram had come and
threatened them. This thing had
happened during midnight. As Mr.
Joshi mentioned, this thing happened
between 12 and 1 during midnight and
the police station is 10 k.m. away
from this place as I have already
submitted in my statement. The fir-
ing took place here and their belong-
ings were lost and they were all in
a sort of a confused situation. The
police station is too far away from
there and so they could not go there.
Now, shelter was also arranged for
them in the adjoining houses of pri-
vate parties. As I have already sub-
mitted, property worth about Rs. 8,000
was also seized. Now, my submis-
sion is this. I have already inform-
ed the House and I would like to
assure them again that action will be
taken irrespective of the fact whether
Kalu Ram is a rich man or a poor
man—it does not matter to us—be-
cause this is a high handed action
where poor people have been affected.
It is also said that in the colony most
of them are Harijans and there are
some Rajputs as well. Even among
the accused, it seems that there are
some Harijans, who are in the pay
roll of Kalu Ram. Whatever that be,
I would like to assure the House

[Shri K. Brahmananda Reddy]
through you, Sir, that whatever action Government is capable of taking, will be taken; vigorous, effective and quick action will be taken.

श्री भागीरथ शंकर : घटना के पहले भी क्या यह सही है कि बहुत दिनों से झगड़ा चला आ रहा था और पहले भी पुलिस में रिपोर्ट दर्ज करवाई गई थी —

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: I have already submitted that as far as this jhuggi colony is concerned, it has not come into public notice in regard to any trouble. No trouble had arisen there before. This Kalu Ram seems to have brought those labourers from a certain place and placed them under his service. When Bir Chand gave them better wages, naturally, they went to him. Probably, Kalu Ram got enraged and did all this. Probably, being a contractor, he is a rich man. I do not know. But the fact of his being a rich man does not affect us. The point is, these atrocities which have been committed will certainly be dealt with in a proper way.

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA (Gurdaspur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, quite a lot of ground has been covered by my hon. friends. But Sir, if it were an isolated phenomenon, I would not have wasted the time of the House or sought to move a Call Attention Motion. This is the outcome of a way of thinking which has persisted in a very large section of the society that they can get away with anything that they can indulge in murder or loot or rape. This is not the only incident of its kind. Every day, in the newspapers, we read that so many Harijans have been murdered, that so many jhuggis and so many villages have been set on fire etc. This incident gained some publicity because this had happened within the precincts of the Capital. There are thousands and thousands of such incidents happening every day in our country. But, no notice is taken by the Government because the poor

people cannot afford to go to Pressmen. Policemen are also in league with such people and actually policemen are in the pay roll of such goondas. Otherwise, nobody would dare to take law into their own hands as they did here. It was more than twenty years ago that we gave upto ourselves a Constitution and before it, all persons, whether they are paupers or princes and whether they live in palaces or jhuggis, are equal. But, could there be a greater joke than to give Rs. 50 to these people who have suffered in this incident? If such an incident had taken place in some palatial building, thousands of rupees would have been given by way of relief, grant and what not. It would have been much better if they had not given relief to these people than to pay them a paltry sum of Rs. 50. This is an insult and joke perpetrated on these people. So, I would like to know what has the Government done to remove the kind of thinking among the privileged people. After freedom, a poor man has as much rights as a rich man. The kind of impression that is there among the rich people should be removed. I very much regret to say that the Government, except shedding crocodile tears whenever such incidents happen, have not done anything to remove that impression or that feeling among the privileged people. India is now free and in free India, the poor are as much human being as the rich. I would only like to know from the hon. Home Minister whether any systematic effort is being made by the Government publicity department or the propaganda department to remove such feelings among the people who before Independence used to do whatever they liked.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: None of us here, including Government, is shedding any crocodile tears. We are shedding real tears. It is not proper generalise and say that all police are in the pay of goondas. That will not be correct. In fact, you will

be discouraging the efficient action that may be taken by the police officers. When they are taking effective and speedy action, it is for us to encourage them to do it and to book the culprits as quickly as possible.

Secondly, I do agree that the relief afforded just now is not adequate. I also submitted that the relief given was immediately given on the spot almost and therefore further relief, in what way, how and how much and all that will have to be considered by the Delhi administration. I have already made my submission regarding that.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): The plight of those who live in jhuggis and jhompris is sad. The hon. Minister must realise that all of us who have been elected to this House or to the Metropolitan Council and so on were elected not with the help of the Bungalow-walas but with the help of the jhuggi-walas.

In this particular case, some people from that area came to me this morning and I was told that Kalu Ram the contractor had been threatening them since the last seven days that unless they changed their loyalty and came over to him, they would face serious consequences.

I would like to know whether any report verbal or in writing, was lodged in this regard by Bassu or any other person in Mehrauli PS. If so, why no action, no preventive action, was taken? The hon. Minister should know that no labour law is applicable in the case of those labourers who are working under the contractors in construction work. This is most unfortunate. Whether it is the Wages Act, Industrial Disputes Act, Factories Act or even the Compensation Act none is applicable in their case. They have to live entirely at the mercy of these contractors who really bleed them to death sometimes after 15 or 18 hours work a day from them.

My first question whether this incident, this ghastly murder of two in-

fants and burning of so many houses will open the eyes of the Government and they will see that the labour laws are implemented in the case of construction workers also. They come from far-away places like Rajasthan, Haryana and other places. They are more than 2-3 lakh in number in Delhi and as I said, they live at the mercy of these contractors.

I am told this particular contractor Kalu Ram engaged one of the retired government officers to influence various government departments to give contracts to him. I would request the hon. Minister to find out if Kalu Ram who is the villain in this case was engaged on any contract, directly or indirectly or even remotely, concerned with government work. He should be blacklisted because he has done such a heinous crime. After all he must have been a father and how could he burn a six month old baby and one year old baby? When Bosu was trying to rescue the child he was also beaten. The Home Minister should kindly visit this area and console the workers, not by giving 50 or 60. You may raise it to 500. Workers believe in their worth and they can earn; that is not the thing. When he goes naturally the police officers will go along with them and they will feel encouraged and secure—the workers. Let him address the workers and tell them that they will not suffer because Kalu Ram is a contractor and he has money and he has engaged a retired government officer. I want to know whether any enquiry would be instituted into the horrible conditions of those who live in jhuggis, especially construction workers. If you visit those areas, they create horror than pity. Those jhuggis are sold for 500 or 1000. I am told that sixty per cent of these jhuggis are controlled not by those who stay there but by big contractors who own them and who use them for illicit liquor distillation and also rent them out at fabulous rents and the poor workers have to fall a prey to their designs. They can never go back to

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

Rajasthan because their salary is so small and they are in debt.

Delhi is a class I city and the minimum wages Act is there and the wage that one gets is 4.30, it is much less than Rs. 5. So my questions are: will the hon. Minister kindly visit this area, not at some distant date but early, say tomorrow or the day after, and restore confidence among them; whether an investigation will be made into the horrible conditions of jhuggis, whether 60 per cent of the jhuggis are owned by big contractors and whether the labour laws are not applicable to them. In that case Kalu Ram or no Kalu Ram they would have been protected. That is why (Kalu Ram could threaten them and set fire to the jhuggis and burn two children. He may consult the Labour Minister and say whether the labour laws are implemented.

It should go on record that immediate action was taken by the Lieut. Governor. I am so happy. It is for the first time that it had happened. I also congratulate Mr. Bhagat, not because his constituency was involved but because of his vigilance. He took active steps; a wonderful job was done. He has been able to arrest this. They must assure the workers that proper justice would be done.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: It is unfortunate; if as mentioned by Shri Banerjee this Kaluram was threatening, the residents of jhuggis, nobody had complained. If some complaint had been made that so and so had been threatening them with dire consequences, if some report had been made to the local police station, probably the police would have been on the alert. However, it is unfortunate that this tragedy should have occurred. I am, just now, not aware whether any labour law is applicable or not. I want to submit that so far as the improvement of these jhuggis, etc. is concerned, I am told, a scheme exists and that is with the Ministry of Works and Housing.

I would certainly like to go and visit the area before this Sunday and see for myself and speak to the people residing there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion for Election to Committee. Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, just one minute. A very important development has taken place. Please permit me to raise a very important matter. I have given you a formal notice. I have requested you to give me only one minute.

Today, a number of women are staging *dharna*, a demonstration, in front of the Prime Minister's residence. These ladies staged a demonstration against rise in prices under the auspices of the Anti-Price Rise Women Samiti in Delhi and when the demonstration was taken to a meeting at Red Fort on 1st November, without knowing who the demonstrators were, the Prime Minister commented in a public meeting from the mike, saying, "I know that these women who are demonstrating against the rise in prices are the women coming from the families who are responsible for hoarding and black-marketing." That is what she said. (*Interruptions*). A letter was written to the Prime Minister, giving the names of the demonstrators. They are working women. To protest against the irresponsible statement of the Prime Minister, they are staging a *dharna* in front of the Prime Minister's house today. The police have prevented them from going to the Prime Minister's house. About a mile away from the Prime Minister's house, the police has stopped them... (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER. Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh.