

brought by Shri Rajesh Yadav, Municipal Councilor in active connivance with Smt. Kiran Bedi. The crowd was allowed by the police to indulge in vandalism without any check. There was failure on the part of the police officials in not controlling the crowd in time and not taking action against any one is the crowd and cognizable offences were committed.

Action taken: It has been decided to initiate departmental action against the officials concerned.

Finding: The lawyers who suffered injuries and also those who suffered because of mob violence in the Court premises on 17.2.88 should be compensated.

Action taken: The recommendation of the Committee has wide financial implications and a decision will be taken after examining all aspects of the matter.

Finding: The conduct of a section of lawyers, when secret ballot was in progress to ascertain whether the strike in the Supreme Court should continue, in snatching the ballot boxes and manhandling certain members of the Supreme Court Bar Association who wanted to appear in the Court, was highly reprehensible.

Militancy has no place in the

legal profession committed to the rule of law. The Bar Association is not a trade union and strike by the lawyers should be an anathema. Strike by lawyers amounts to denial of justice to litigants. It is the duty of the lawyers to see that the judicial system which is one of the three pillars of democracy is strengthened and justice reaches all in the shortest possible time. The senior members of the Bar could contribute more in preventing frequent strikes by lawyers.

Action taken: The Delhi Administration has been directed to transmit the observations made by Justice Wadhwa to the concerned Bar Associations and other forums concerned.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed for Import of Telecommunication Equipments

7352. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his predecessor visited some foreign countries since 1 January, 1990; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Memorandum of understanding were signed with any country during such visits;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any equipment/know how connected with modern communication system is proposed to be imported; and

(e) if so, th details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. Shri Unnikrishnan, Minister of Surface Transport and Communication visited Chile and Brazil in March 1990.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e). Not applicable in view of answer to (b) above.

Tamil Refugees from Sri Lanka

7353. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-
CHANDRAN:
SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA
WADIYAR:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPA-
THI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the reasons for Tamil Nadu Government refusing to grant refuge to the Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka; and

(b) what were the circumstances that led to the refugees being housed in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The Government of Tamil Nadu refused to accept the Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka, as they apprehended that their presence will pose a law and order problem for the State Government.

(b) The Government of India, in consultation with the Government of Orissa, decided to house these refugees in Koraput District (Orissa), as necessary infrastructure facilities were available there.

Telephone Connections in Orissa

7354. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications for telephone connections pending in Orissa, district-wise;

(b) the number of connections given year-wise during the last three years;

(c) when the backlog is likely to be cleared; and

(d) the steps taken to improved and modernise the telecommunication system in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). The information is given in the statement below.

(c) Subject to availability of resources, most of the present backlog is likely to be cleared progressively during 1990-91 and the rest in 1991-92.

(d) Improvement and modernisation programme for Orissa includes the following:—

- (i) Automatisation of all local manual exchanges.
- (ii) Replacement of all life expired, worn out and unserviceable equipments.
- (iii) Induction of electronic equipments.
- (iv) Ducting of underground cable system.
- (v) Expansion of the network to