

[Shri Chintamani Panigrahi]

12.35 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: EXPLOSION IN
 FIRE WORKS FACTORY

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): Sir, with your permission I rise to make a statement with regard to an explosion which occurred in a fire works factory in 24 Parganas, West Bengal. The explosion occurred at 11.55 hours on the 6th March in the manufacturing shed of the fire works factory of Messrs. Orient Fire Works Company at Barasat, District 24 Parganas, licensed by the department of explosives for manufacture, possession and sale of 50 lbs. of fire works. The establishment has got a licence in Form I and the renewal application was received in time. Four workers were killed, three on the spot and the other in the hospital, who succumbed on the same day. The manufacturing shed was totally demolished and the brick walls and corrugated iron sheets roof were blown off and splinters were scattered up to a distance of about 50 yards. All the four people were workers and were packing manufactured fire works locally known as *Todmas* in wooden cases when the explosion occurred. The dying men gave no declaration. Information of the explosion was received over the phone from the Additional Superintendent of Police, 24 Parganas at 15 hours on 6th March, 1961. Shri S. N. Poddar, Assistant Inspector of Explosives, visited the spot on the same day at 16.15 hours and made site investigations. Samples have been collected and are being sent to the Office of the Inspector of Explosives for chemical examination by the police. A small iron hammer was found in the manufacturing shed and the police have sealed the magazine and ingredient store and the place is guarded. The owner of Messrs. Orient Fireworks, Shri S. C. Gupta, has got a magazine at 250 yards from that place licensed by the Chief Inspector for 40,000 lbs. of fire-

That goes against the tenets of the Planning Commission and so they naturally objected to it. Some kind of understanding was given to the Planning Commission that they would obey the directions of the Planning Commission and so sanction should be given to them. President's assent was then given to that Bill. Otherwise, it should not have been passed when this Ministry was soon going to collapse. About the *debottor* and endowment lands, the rulers have seen to it in this Bill that they will enjoy their lands freely and that these lands will not go to the State or the peasant or the cultivator.

My submission is that the long chapter of 21 months of misdeeds and corruption has ended. When Congress was alone it was corruption all alone but when they joined together it became co-operative exploitation and combined corruption and it was so difficult for the people of that State. The time has come when the new democratic forces inside the Congress are growing up. There are many young men in the Gantantra Parishad who will not subscribe to the views of these people—their present leaders. I have all respect for these young men in the Parishad; they are very progressive and they want to get rid of the leadership. A time may come when the progressive democratic forces inside the Congress can overthrow the pro-feudal leadership in the Congress. I appeal to the youngmen of the Parishad to throw away their feudal rulers also. Let them come forward and let them see that real Orissa develops. Orissa has got vast potential resources it is the richest province so far as the natural resources are concerned. The present leadership has betrayed the interests of the State for these years. Now let the young people bring together all the progressive and democratic forces in the State. Let us go forward to build a happy Orissa so that it may be the richest province and an ideal State in India.

works and 50 lbs. gunpowder. Magisterial enquiry will be initiated today.

12.37 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: PROCLAMATION
IN RESPECT OF ORISSA—contd.

Shri Asoka Mehta: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, when in any State the constitutional machinery breaks down, I think the Parliament should look deeply into the matter because in our efforts for building up the democratic edifice in our country, these lapses and breakdowns provide us with the opportunity and put upon us the responsibility of trying to find out what has gone wrong and why. My interest this morning in intervening in this debate is to try to understand these things. I do not come from that State nor do I propose to shower any compliments favourably or otherwise on one side or the other. From that point of view, I have felt that the Home Minister, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, gave us an unsatisfactory report. I have gone through the summary of the report that the Governor of Orissa has sent to the Government of India and with your permission, yesterday, I had drawn the attention of the House to the efforts that the Governor made there to see that the interim Budget or the vote on account was put through. Even that could not be done because of the unfortunate attitude of the two main parties.

But on the other points, the report does not throw much light. I would beg of the Home Minister to tell us as to why this had happened and what steps the Government of India propose to take to see that this will not happen. I raise this point for this reason. Certain things have happened, to which attention was drawn and serious comments offered on a previous occasion. When the constitutional machinery broke down in the old State of Andhra—before the reorganisation of States, the present Andhra Pradesh was called as Andhra—I remember that I had tried to draw the

attention of the Prime Minister to certain policies that had been pursued there. I shall return to those comments of mine in a minute.

I find that a similar point has been made by Dr. Mahatab in a press statement or rather in a press interview that he gave in Cuttack on the 8th March which has been reported in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. The report says that Dr. Mahatab "posed another question before the high command." I am not posing it before the high command. I am posing it before the Government of India. The report goes on to say:

"Dr. Mahatab posed another question before the high command whether Congress, as a minority party should form Government on the basis of recruitment or seduction of members from other parties. Strengthening of a minority party like that would create an atmosphere of corruption, as had been experienced in the past and without that coalition with another party should be advised to form stable Government. Otherwise, fresh election was inevitable."

He has mentioned, "on the basis of recruitment or seduction of members from other parties." I had at that time warned against what I had called the politics of piracy, and I had said that the democratic set-up will not prosper in this country if once and for all we do not eschew this method. Yesterday, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri made a passing reference to that. But I think this is a matter which is as important as the other issue that we had raised on an earlier occasion, and that is about the financing of elections. That was a major issue. It is unfortunate that we could not carry Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri with us completely on that question. Here also, Dr. Mahatab has raised some very pertinent questions, but before I turn to them, I would like to know from the Home Minister, representing as he