

present pace and perspective plan; and

(b) what is being done to expedite the completion of this road?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A second road between Jammu and Srinagar, if ever constructed, would be a State road. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir are, therefore, primarily concerned in the matter. It is understood from the State authorities concerned that a survey of a route (via Rajori and Shupian) was carried out some time ago. No further progress in the matter has, however, been made.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO UN-STARRED QUESTION No. 1896, DATED 13-9-1963

The Minister of Law and Social Security (Shri A. K. Sen): In reply to part (a) of the Unstarred Question No. 1896 regarding wool and khadi production in Rajasthan, answered by the then Minister of Industry in the House on the 13th September, 1963, it was stated that the total amount given by the Central Government for production of wool and khadi in Bikaner District of Rajasthan from 1960 to 1963 so far was Rs. 15.48 lakhs. On re-examination the Khadi and Village Industries Commission has found and intimated to the Government of India that the amount given was Rs. 15.86 lakhs. In view of this, the following correction to answer to part (a) of the question may be made:

“(a) Rs. 15.86 lakhs.”

12.06 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

OUTBREAK OF FIRE IN DIVISIONAL OFFICE OF L.I.C.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah (Adoni): I call the attention of the Minister of

Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

“The outbreak of fire in the Divisional Office of the LIC in Delhi on the 26th September, 1964.”

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri L. N. Mishra): The Life Insurance Corporation—Divisional Office building near the Delhi Gate is a modern six storeyed building. On the 26th September, 1964, a message of outbreak of fire in the building was received over the telephone at 18.26 hours at the Headquarter Control of the Delhi Fire Service. Within a minute i.e. at 18.27 hours three fire units from the Connaught Circus and Rakabganj fire stations rushed to the spot covering a distance of about two miles within three minutes. The officer in charge found the fire extensive and serious and summoned additional assistance at 18.32 hours. Between 18.40 hours to 18.50 hours 14 additional fire units arrived on the scene from different fire stations. The Chief Fire Officer personally supervised the control operations with the help of 150 persons and officers of the Fire Service. Six members of the staff received minor injuries and four were overcome by smoke. They were attended to in the Irwin hospital as out-patients. There was no loss of life.

There was no difficulty in the water supply for fire fighting. The fire was brought under control by about 20.55 hours and completely extinguished by 21.20 hours.

The officers of the Police Station Daryaganj had also noticed thick smoke coming out of the building area by about 18.25 hours. A constable was at once sent to the spot, and on receiving his report the Superintendent of Police Central, Deputy Superintendent of Police Daryaganj and all available police force in the police station rushed to the spot and cordoned off the building.

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained definitely. A case under Section 436 I. P. C. has been registered investigation is progressing. The Crime Inspection Team along with photographers have inspected the site. The Superintending Engineer and the Executive Engineer of Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking have inspected the building and its electric installations. The Inspector of Explosives from Agra has also carried out a preliminary investigation.

The full extent of loss is still to be assessed. The damage is mostly in third and fourth floors; it was largely confined to wooden partition, furniture, racks containing stationery and files. The policy holders records were in another building and are not affected. The building is fully insured, but not the furniture.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: May I know whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to a news item that some of the employees of the LIC, of this particular Division, were the root cause for the outbreak of fire in this building? If so, is Government prepared to hold an enquiry, as demanded by the employees' association.

Shri L. N. Mishra: I have seen certain news items. At this stage, it is difficult to say anything either way until the investigations are completed.

श्री बागड़ी (हिसार): क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि जिस दफ्तर में आग लगी है उस दफ्तर में वित्त मंत्री महोदय या किसी एक सेठ का ऐसा रिकार्ड था जिस की कि नकल कहीं नहीं थी और वह इन दफ्तर में ही रखा था, तो वह किस किस का रखा था और क्या क्या रखा था ?

श्री ल० न० मिश्र: मुझ इस बात की कोई सूचना नहीं है।

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): May I know whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to the press statement given by the General Secretary of the Northern Zone Life Insurance Employees' Association asking for a thorough probe into this matter; if so, what steps have been taken?

Shri L. N. Mishra: I have seen this news. As regards the steps, we are having a full investigation and on receipt of the report we can say anything definite.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question has not been answered. There was a question asked by Shri Venkatasubbaiah that the employees were responsible for it. I want to know whether the Association itself has demanded a thorough probe into it.

Mr. Speaker: He says that he has seen this news.

श्री हुता चन्द्र कछराय (देवास): क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि एल० आई० सी० के दफ्तर में यह दूसरी बार आग लगी है? मंत्री जी ने बतलाया है कि इस की जांच की जायेगी तो उस की जांच रिपोर्ट कब तक मिल जायेगी और उस के पीछे किसी का हाथ है क्या ऐसा भी सरकार को कुछ मालूम पड़ा है ?

श्री ल० न० मिश्र: यह बात सही है एल० आई० सी० में यह दूसरी आग है। अगस्त के महीने में पालियामेंट स्ट्रीट वाले दफ्तर में आग लगी थी और आसफअली रोड वाली आग यह दूसरी आग है। इस के पीछे किन लोगों का हाथ है या नहीं है यह अभी कहना युक्तिकल है।

श्री हुता चन्द्र कछराय: कब तक जांच रिपोर्ट मिल जायेगी ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अभी तहकीकात चल रही है।

श्री यु० वि० चौधरी (मन्दागढ़) : जैसा कि सरकार ने अभी माना कि इस बिल्डिंग के अन्दर इस स्थान पर यह दूसरी आग है तो क्या सरकार चार, पांच दिन के बाद अपने आफिसर्स से रिपोर्ट लेने के बाद इस स्थिति के अन्दर है कि वह यह बतला सके कि यह जो आग लगी है उस का कोई सामान्य कारण क्या था ? कोई ऐसा कारण जो बहुत लम्बी चौड़ी इन्क्वायरी में तो आने वाला नहीं है कि उस के अन्दर सेवोटैज है, लेकिन कोई सामान्य कारण जैसे कि बिजली की फिटिंग में कोई कमी है या और कोई इसी तरह का कारण आग लगने का है, इस चार, पांच दिन में आप के इंस्पेक्टरों और आप के स्टाफ के नोटिस में आया होगा और वह उन्होंने आप को बतलाया होगा वह कारण तो क्या आप उसे बतला सकते हैं ?

श्री ल० ना० मिश्र : इस बिल्डिंग में दो आग नहीं लगी हैं। पहली वह तो एल० आई० सी० के पार्लियामेंट स्ट्रीट वाले दफ्तर में लगी थी...

श्री यु० वि० चौधरी : जी हां, वह दूसरी जगह लगी थी लेकिन एल० आई० सी० के दफ्तर में तब भी लगी थी।

श्री ल० ना० मिश्र : पार्लियामेंट स्ट्रीट और आसफ़ अली रोड का बहुत दूर का फासला है। जहां तक आग के कारणों का सवाल है अभी सरकार की तरफ से कोई बात नहीं कही जा सकती है हालांकि तरह तरह की बातें आग के सम्बन्ध में कही जा रही हैं।

Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur) : May I know whether at any time there was a complaint or representation to the Government that there was reason to suspect foul play; if so,

what was the nature of this complaint and, secondly, what steps have been taken to reward the wonderful work done by the firemen for rescue operations?

Shri L. N. Mishra : I require notice. I am not aware of this complaint.

श्री बागड़ी अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। जो भी सवाल किये गये उन के बारे में मंत्री महोदय ने जवाब दे दिया कि उन्हें पता नहीं है ? अगर ऐसी बात है तो इस कौलिंग अटेंशन नोटिस लेने की मंशा ही क्या है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने जवाब दे तो दिया कि जो यह वाक्या हुआ उस की तहकीकात हो रही है। अब तहकीकात की रिपोर्ट मिलने से पहले ही अगर मंत्री महोदय कह दें कि उस का कारण यह है तो फिर तहकीकात किस वास्ते कराई जानी है ?

श्री बागड़ी : अब जैसे कि मैंने रेकार्ड के बारे में पूछा कि वहां पर किस किस के रेकार्ड थे और क्या क्या थे तो इस का भी जवाब नहीं दिया गया और कह दिया गया कि इसका पता नहीं है...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब इस मोके पर कोई सवाल हो नहीं सकता वह तो तहकीकात के बाद ही कुछ कहा जा सकता है। इस वक्त क्या कहा जा सकता है ?

Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana) : I want to ask whether in the light of basic postulates of what is called socialist legality which regards all wilful damage to public property as at par with man-slaughter, do our Government propose to prescribe effectively deterrent penalties for such crimes?

Shri L. N. Mishra : This is only a suggestion for action.

श्री यज्ञपाल सिंह (कैराना) : क्या सरकार के ध्यान में यह बात आई है कि बिजली

[श्री यशपाल सिंह]

की फिटिंग का सामान आजकल बाजार इतना चीप क्वालिटी का आता है कि हर वक्त आग लग जाने का खतरा बना रहता है; तो सरकार ने क्या बिजली के सामान की फिटिंग का कोई एक स्टैंडर्ड कायम किया है या किसी खास कम्पनी या ठेकेदार द्वारा यह फिटिंग कराने की उस ने व्यवस्था की है?

श्री ल० ना० मिश्र : य० तो घर बनाने वाले जानें। हर लोग अपनी अपनी पसन्द की चीजे लगाते हैं बाकी अच्छी चीजे लगानी चाहिए यह कहने के अलावा और मैं क्या कर सकता हूँ ?

श्री यशपाल सिंह : आखिर यह सरकारी दफ्तर है तो क्या सरकार ने इस के लिए कोई एक स्टैंडर्ड कायम किया है ?

श्री नवल प्रभाकर (दिल्ली—करोलबाग) : यह जांच का काम कब तक पूरा हो जायेगा ? जांच के लिए क्या कोई समिति बनाई गई है, यदि हां, तो उस में कौन कौन व्यक्ति हैं ?

श्री ल० ना० मिश्र : कोई समिति नहीं बनाई गई है बल्कि अफसरान लोग यह जांच कर रहे हैं और उनका जांच कार्य जल्दी पूरा हो जायेगा।

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): In view of the fact that there are very strong suspicions in the City that this fire might be the handiwork of some saboteurs, may I know whether Government proposes to institute any judicial enquiry in the place of a departmental enquiry or police enquiry which the Government are visualising now?

Shri L. N. Mishra: Not at the moment.

श्री हेडा (निजामाबाद) : यह जो तहकीकात हो रही है, क्या उस में इस दृष्टिकोण को भी विचार में रखा गया है, जो कि देश में

एक मजबूत होता जा रहा है, कि ये जो अनरल स्ट्राइक्स या अनेक प्रकार के "बन्द" बन्दों के आन्दोलन हो रहे हैं, उन में वे लोग अपनी ताकत को परख रहे हैं कि क्या वे किसी भी समय देश के सारे काम को ठप्प कर पायेंगे या नहीं ?

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): This ought to be expunged. It is almost a slander against the entire class of employees.

Mr. Speaker: I am glad that Mr. Nath Pai is for expunction.

Shri Nath Pai: It is slanderous.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): In view of the fact that Delhi has become a kind of all in centre for fires, explosions and murders, will the Government appoint some committee to go into the overall question including this question?

Shri L. N. Mishra: As regards the first part of the question it is a general statement which I do not accept. As regards the second part of it, my answer is 'No'.

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Calcutta South West): Has the Minister's attention been drawn to the report that the reason for the fire spreading very rapidly from the ground floor to the third and fourth floors was because of the way the air-conditioning channels had been constructed in the buildings and, if so, will this investigation cover this question in the designing of buildings so that other buildings may be spared of this kind of trouble?

Shri L. N. Mishra: As a matter of fact, our report is that it started from the third or fourth floor.

Shri Joachim Alva (Kanara): The Minister is probably aware that there are two sides of the matter when this type of fire occurs. There are the

people who are in-charge of the buildings and who have neglected their duties. Those persons are also responsible for the occurrence of fire. I want to know whether they take serious action against those who neglected their duties and also whether the Government has got effective fire fighting measures against fires for public sector buildings which cost over Rs. 3 crores.

Shri L. N. Mishra: So far as the fire fighting measures are concerned, they have done a wonderful job and they have done very well. So far as the question of apportioning of responsibilities is concerned, we are awaiting the report and the needful will be done.

Mr. Speaker: Papers to be laid.

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12.22 hrs.

ALLEGED ILL-TREATMENT OF A MEMBER

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir—I did not want to raise it since you directed me not to raise it—may I at least make one request that the Minister may make a statement regarding the ill-treatment of Mr. Priya Gupta before the House rises? I was awaiting some information since last week. You said I should not raise it ...

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, he has raised it.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): We are getting telegrams; we are getting telephone calls.

Mr. Speaker: I told Mr. Nath Pai that he should not raise it and, therefore, he has raised it.

Shri Nath Pai: No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: What is it then? I put it to him, What does it amount to? He

has always claimed that he has cooperated with me.

Shri Nath Pai: I try my very best. Sometimes I may not be successful; sometimes I may be failing. . . .

Mr. Speaker: Sometimes he is too rebellious in that respect, I hope he will be more cooperative in future. I am taking those steps that he wants me to take.

Shri Nath Pai: Before the House rises in this session.

Mr. Speaker: The Home Ministry's representative is here.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri L. N. Mishra): About what?

Mr. Speaker: There was a complaint that Mr. Priya Gupta was ill-treated inside the jail.

Shri Hem Barua: Outside also.

Mr. Speaker: There was a complaint that he had been ill-treated—I thought probably inside the jail—inside the jail and now outside also. Wherever he was, the Member of Parliament was ill-treated. I had asked the Home Ministry to find out the facts and give them here. The answer that I received was that the Home Ministry was getting in touch with the State and that as soon as the information is received, that will be given here. I want to know whether they have received any information and if they have not received it, they should try to get it telegraphically before we close here.

Shri L. N. Mishra: I have received some information from the District Magistrate, Purnea. I may read it out.

It reads thus:

“Shri Priya Gupta. . . .

Mr. Speaker: That might be sent to me first, and then I shall see whether that has to be read out in the House.