

श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री . मंत्री
जो ने क्या कहा अध्यक्ष जी, कुछ समय में
नहीं आया। कोई कार्यवाही करेंगे ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कार्यवाही करेंगे।

श्री भोष्म नारायण सिंह : मैंने यह
कहा है कि जो सवाल है उससे यह प्रश्न नहीं
उठता। अगर अनग से सूचना देंगे तो
देख लेंगे।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Fire in Supreme Court Building

*105. SHRI LAKSHMAN MAL-
LIK:

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND
HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee was set
up to investigate the causes of fire in
Supreme Court building on 30 June,
1981 and to suggest measures for its
prevention; and

(b) if so, the findings of the Com-
mittee and action taken by the Gov-
ernment thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND
HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN
SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of the evidence
available, the Committee could not
come to any definite conclusion as to
the cause of the fire. However, the
Committee have stated that the possi-
bility of some moisture entering the
electrical wiring system and giving
rise to an accidental spark at some
point and initiating the fire could not
be altogether ruled out.

The Committee have also suggested
certain preventive measures, *inter-*
alia, systematizing the fire fighting

arrangements in the Supreme Court
building; use of non-combustible/ flame
retardant material for air-conditioning
duets; false ceiling etc., preventive
maintenance and periodical inspec-
tions of electrical, mechanical and air-
conditioning installations. These sug-
gestions are being examined by Gov-
ernment in consultation with the Chief
Justice of India.

Abolition of Octroi

*106. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHAR-
MA: Will the Minister of WORKS
AND HOUSING be pleased to refer to
the reply given to Starred Question
No. 957 on 27 April, 1981 regarding
Octroi in Municipalities and state:

(a) whether Government have since
examined the recommendation made
by the National Council of Applied
Economics Research regarding aboli-
tion of Octroi in smaller towns; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND
HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN
SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Levy of Octroi
is a State subject. Recommendations
made by the National Council of Ap-
plied Economic Research in its Study
Report have been sent to all the State
Governments/Union Territories for
their views. The views of the State
Governments/Union Territories are
still awaited. They are being request-
ed to expedite the same.

(b) Does not arise.

Asiad Projects

*109. SHRI DAULAT RAM SA-
RAN: Will the Minister of WORKS
AND HOUSING be pleased to lay
a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that some
of the Asiad Projects under his Minis-
try have run into trouble and their
completion is likely to be delayed;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the names of the projects and the period by which these projects are likely to be delayed;

(c) the estimated rise in the cost of these projects as a result thereof and overall increase in the expenditure on Asiad; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to remove bottlenecks to ensure their completion according to schedule?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND
HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN
SINGH): (a) None of the Asiad Pro-
jects under by Ministry has run into
trouble.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Tornado in Keonjher (Orissa)

112. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will
the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages
from Keonjher district of Orissa that
suffered a great loss due to the tor-
nado swept over there in April, 1981;

(b) whether Government have as-
certained the reasons of the tornado;

(c) whether it is a fact that a Cen-
tral team has visited the tornado hit
villages;

(d) if so, what is their assessment
about loss in Keonjher;

(e) what relief measures have been
sanctioned by the Centre; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICUL-
TURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUC-
TION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL
SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH
(a) to (f). A statement is laid on the
Table of the House.

Statement

(a) According to the Memorandum
received from the Government of
Orissa, tornado struck 12 villages in
Saharpada and Patna blocks of Keon-
jher district on the 17th April, 1981 and
9 villages in Baripada sub-division
of Mayurbhanj district were struck by
whirlwind on the 18th April, 1981.

(b) According to the India Meteorological Department, tornadoes are generally classified as intense atmospheric vortex which are confined to a very small area. A distinctive feature of tornado is that it seems to build up from above. Vertex seems to develop in the atmosphere and then to propagate downwards to the earth surface. The cause of such vertex is not yet known, but certain meteorological features which are favourable for a tornado formation are known. On the basis of these features, warning for thunder storm and squall are issued by the India Meteorological Department.

The India Meteorological Department reported that a scheme entitled "Severe Storm Studies" has been included in the Sixth Five Year Plan of the India Meteorological Department. The object of the scheme is to establish a Research Centre for a study of past storms and to explore the possibility of evolving a technique for forecasting severe storms of short duration.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The tornado struck Keonjhar district over a narrow belt 1 km wide and 25 km long and on account of this, 5733 persons were affected. Thirty seven human beings and 269 cattle heads perished, 4,000 fowls were lost and 721 persons were injured. The number of houses damaged fully or partially was 699. Some public properties like school buildings, grain-golas, gram panchayat ghars, electrical-installations, etc. also sustained extensive damages.