

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE****SPREAD OF POISONOUS GAS IN PATEL
NAGAR AND ADJOINING LOCALITIES
IN DELHI**

Shri Assar (Ratnagiri): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Health to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“Spread of poisonous gas in Patel Nagar and adjoining localities in Delhi.”

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): On the night of 12th February, 1958, at about 8.45 P.M. the Medical Officer of Health, Delhi Municipal Committee, received telephonic information that some kind of gas had spread in Blocks 21 to 26 of West Patel Nagar and in East Patel Nagar, causing suffocation to residents. On receipt of this information, preliminary investigations were carried out immediately by the Medical Officer of Health and his staff, the Assistant Inspector of Explosives, and the Director of Health Services, Delhi, who visited the affected areas in East and West Patel Nagar and the industrial area on Najafgarh Road. They were there till past midnight and made enquiries from the different factories located there. It was understood that the smell of the gas was felt most in the area near the Military Colony of Anand Parbat and that the intensity of the smell was felt for about 15-20 minutes.

Next morning the Sulphur dioxide plant of the Delhi Cloth Mills was inspected by the Medical Officer of Health, along with the Inspector of Industries and Boilers of Delhi Administration. It was found that some repairs had been carried out in the gas pipes of the Plant on the 12th February, 1958. The workers who had carried out the repairs, however, showed complete ignorance about the incident of the 12th night, and no source of gas leakage could be locat-

ed. The matter has also been reported to the police for investigation.

Suitable measures to prevent the recurrence of such accidents will be taken on completion of the investigations by the local police and health authorities. In the mean time, close vigilance is being kept on the working of the factories in the area.

**CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO
STARRED QUESTION NO. 998**

The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): Sir, I beg to make the following statement. In reply to a supplementary question by Shri Dasappa on the 11th December, 1957, arising out of Starred Question No. 998 by Shri Daljit Singh regarding fruit preservers' licence fee, I had stated that “the average licence fee for manufacturers using low power comes to about Rs. 67 and for power up to 15 H.P. it is Rs. 485 and up to 25 H.P. it is Rs. 1,078 with surcharges. This is proposed to be revised. Rs. 67 is proposed to be brought down to Rs. 40 and Rs. 485 to Rs. 80 plus Rs. 80 and Rs. 1,078 to Rs. 230.”

As the figures quoted by me were the average figures per manufacturer and not the existing fees which Shri Dasappa evidently wanted to know, it is necessary to clarify the position.

The rest is not of very great importance. I might lay the rest of the statement on the Table of the House.

*Portion of the Statement laid on the
Table*

The licence fees which were then in force were:—

- (a) Rs. 40 in case of—
- (i) Synthetic beverages, syrups and sharbats,
 - (ii) vinegar, whether brewed or synthetic,
 - (iii) pickles, and
 - (iv) dehydrated fruits and vegetables.

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

(b) Rs. 80 in case of—

- (i) squashes, crushes, cordials, barley water, barreled juice and ready to serve beverages or any other beverages containing fruit juices or fruit pulps,
- (ii) jams, jellies and marmalades; and
- (iii) tomato products, ketchup and sauces;

(c) Rs. 160 in the case of preserves, candied and crystallised fruits and peels;

(d) Rs. 200 in the case of chutneys, and

(e) Rs. 250 in the case of—

- (i) canned and bottled fruits, juices and pulps,
- (ii) canned and bottled vegetables,
- (iii) frozen fruits and vegetables,
- (iv) aerated waters containing fruit juices or pulps, and
- (v) any other unspecified items relating to fruits or vegetables.

A decision has since been taken to revise these fees which will shortly be notified.

श्री सुरेन्द्रन राय (खेरी) : श्रीमान्, मैंने एक विद्यार्थिका का प्रश्न ही पूछा था। मैं जानता हूँ कि उसकी प्रश्नार्थक आज मिलेगी या न।

Mr. Speaker: I must look into the privilege notice. Then, if I give consent, I shall bring it before the House. I shall look into the case. It has just been handed over to me.

MOTION RE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THE LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion on the motion regarding the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the affairs of the Life Insurance Corporation of India. Out of 8 hours allotted to this motion, 5 hours and 41 minutes have already been availed of and 2 hours and 19 minutes now remain.

The list of Substitute Motions/Amendments moved on the 19th February, 1958 has already been circulated to Members on the same day.

I will call upon the Home Minister to reply to the debate. At what time shall I call the Home Minister?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): The final reply will be given by the Prime Minister at about two o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: How much time will the Prime Minister take?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): About half an hour.

Mr. Speaker: What about the Home Minister?

Pandit G. B. Pant: I want half an hour to 45 minutes.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): All the time is consumed by the opening speech of the Prime Minister and the replies by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. So Private Members will not get an opportunity. Will you please extend the time?

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): It may be extended by one hour more.

Mr. Speaker: I have said I will call upon two more hon. Members today. I shall give them fifteen minutes each. Then I will call upon the Home Minister.