

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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### LOK SABHA

Wednesday, May 12, 1976/Vaishka 22,  
1898 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Fire near Dharampuri in Tamil Nadu  
due to Explosives

\*771. SARDAR SWARAN SINGH  
SOKHI: Will the Minister of HOME  
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fire took place in a  
house in Tamil Nadu on the 17th  
April 1976, about 8 km. from Dharam-  
puri, resulting in the death of eight  
persons and serious injuries to fifteen  
others;

(b) whether the fire was due to the  
explosives illegally stored in the  
house; and

(c) the persons involved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) A fire  
caused by an explosive accident took  
place on 16-4-76 in a Cycleshop cum  
house in Kadathaur Village in Dharam-  
puri District in Tamil Nadu, result-  
ing in the death of 9 persons and  
injuries to 14 persons.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) K. R. Ramanathan alias Ramudu,  
the owner of the house, has been ar-  
rested on a charge of unauthorised sto-  
rage of explosives and negligent con-  
duct resulting in death and injuries.  
The accused is also one of the injured.  
4 men, 2 women, 2 girls and one boy  
died and they include the wife and  
daughter of the accused. The injured

825 LS-1.

include 8 men, 1 woman, 2 boys and  
3 girls.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI:  
May I know from the hon. Minister  
what was the type of that explosive?  
I also want to know whether it was  
dynamite or any other type and from  
where these explosives came into the  
possession of the owner of the house,  
Mr. K. R. Ramanathan alias Ramudu?  
I also want to know whether he be-  
longs to DMK Party or any other ban-  
ned organisations?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: DMK  
Party is not banned.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI:  
Any other banned organisations.

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: According to  
the information that is available, Ra-  
mudu was storing these explosives un-  
authorisedly which were meant for  
agriculture purpose—perhaps it was  
meant for agriculture purposes for  
digging wells and tanks—and some  
of them were used for digging wells  
and other purposes also. In view of  
these facts that we have received from  
the Tamil Nadu Government, it does  
not seem that there is any political  
motivation. The information was re-  
ceived at 10.30 A.M.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI:  
I want to know under what circum-  
stances this accident took place and  
why did not the Intelligence Depart-  
ment detect it earlier?

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: That is the  
purpose why the Station House Officer  
has been kept under suspension. Pre-  
viously also this man was indulging in  
unauthorised storage of explosives. He  
was once convicted also. For lack of  
vigilance on the part of the Station  
House Officer, he has also been kept  
under suspension and investigation is  
going on.