

**Burning alive of Research Scholar in fire in the Laboratory of Medical College of B.H.U.**

\*812. SHRI RAM SWARUP  
VIDYARTHI:

SHRI J. K. CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a promising research scholar, Dr. Kumari Surjit Pandha, was burnt alive in the fire caused by explosion in the Laboratory of Medical College of Banaras Hindu University;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to conduct a judicial inquiry to find out whether the said accident was the result of carelessness or conspiracy; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to check such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) Yes, Sir, Dr. Kumari Surjit Kaur Pandha, a Junior Research Officer of the Surgical Research Laboratory of the College of Medical Sciences was burnt to death in a fire in the Zoology Department of the University on May 12, 1969.

(b) No, Sir, because the matter has already been enquired into by a Committee of the University and by the Police.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*Statement*

The following measures are proposed to be adopted by the University:—

(1) No one should be allowed to work alone inside the room or laboratory after dusk. At least two persons should be there.

(2) Girl students should not be allowed to stay in the Department after sunset unless the Head of the Department permits them for specific work.

(3) Electrical wiring and installation should be checked every two years.

(4) Taps of the fuel pipe lines should be checked from time to time.

(5) All Departments should be provided with cylinders filled with carbon dioxide mounted on trolleys, which should be placed at several strategic points in the Department buildings.

(6) Steel buckets full of water and sand should be located at several convenient points in the buildings.

(7) Stores housing inflammable and combustible solvents etc. should also be provided with fire extinguishers and water hose for emergency.

(8) The Departments should follow Government laws regarding the storage (quantity and structure of the store house) of solvents.

(9) All buildings should be provided with several hydrants on all sides of the department buildings.

**श्री राम स्वरूप विद्यार्थी :** महोदय एक प्रतिभाशाली रिसर्च स्कालर डा० कुमारी सूरजीत कौर पंडा का इस प्रकार दुखद देहान्त सरकार की लापरवाही का नतीजा है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिस वक्त रिसर्च स्कालर वहाँ थे तो उस वक्त यूनिवर्सिटी के और कर्मचारी भी उस कमरे में मौजूद थे या नहीं ? क्या वहाँ पर और कोई काम हो रहा था ? क्या आग बिजली के डिफेक्ट के कारण लगी या वहाँ कोई ऐसी चीज रखी गई थी किसी व्यक्ति ने कोई एक्सप्लोसिव सामान रख दिया था जिससे आग लग गई और वह लड़की मर गई ?

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO: I really regret the untimely and unfortunate death of the talented young lady who, I understand, was a very devoted and dedicated scholar.

As far as the questions asked by the hon. Member are concerned, Dr.

Pandha was in the first floor in room No. 37. There were two other research scholars who were working in the ground floor and as soon as the fire came, the two people below rushed out and contacted the fire brigade, and the fire brigade came there within 20 minutes.

The circumstances under which Dr. Pandha died are rather strange. There was an inquiry conducted by the University authorities. The Police also conducted an inquiry and it was found that it was either an accident or it should be a matter of suicide. I have gone through the findings and I myself suggest not only due to the respectful memory of the young lady but also from the point of feelings of the family, that there is no point in going in detail into the incident. I don't think it will help anybody, it will only aggravate the feelings of the family who have already suffered a serious loss on account of the death of their daughter.

श्री रामस्वरूप विद्यार्थी : मैं मंत्री मोंदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन्होंने कोई ऐसी डायरेक्शन यूनिवर्सिटी को दे रखी कि जत्र भी कोई एक्सपेरिमेंट करे तो अकले न रहे कमरे के अन्दर क्यों कि इस घटना में हमको यह पता नहीं लगा कि यह दुर्घटना किसी एक्सप्लोसिव के कारण हुई या उन्होंने सूसाइड किया ? तो इसकी व्यवस्था क्यों नहीं की गई? कौन इसके लिए जिम्मेदार है ? बनारस हिन्दू यूनिवर्सिटी में हमने ऐसा ही किया है । जो अन्य यूनिवर्सिटियां हैं हिन्दूस्तान की क्या उनमें भी इसी प्रकार की हिदायते आप भेजेंगे ताकि वहां ऐसी दुर्घटनाएं न हों ?

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO: I shall be glad to accept the suggestion of the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question, No. 814.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY: Sir, let questions 814 and 817 be taken up together.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I will reply to both the questions.

#### Anti-National Activities of Naxalities

\*814. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA:  
SHRI D. R. PARMAR:  
SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether numerous people were mercilessly killed, injured, or otherwise, harassed by the increased lawless activities of the Naxalites in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, total number of people killed and the extend of property destroyed by the Naxalites during the last six months; and

(c) the action, if any, taken by Government of India with a view to strengthening the hands of the State Governments to deal with this menace of anti-national and anti-social force?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) and (b). According to information received from the State Governments, during the last six months 27 persons were killed and property worth Rs. 5,28,361/- was looted or destroyed by the extremists in Andhra Pradesh. In Bihar the extremists were responsible for two decoities and an incident of rioting, in which 4 persons were killed and property worth about Rs. 10,000/- was looted or destroyed. In Punjab injuries were caused by extremists to two persons. Investigation in respect of incident which took place in June, 1969 in district Hoshiarpur resulting in the death of three persons, is in progress. In Uttar Pradesh, the extremists were responsible for two cases of robbery, burglary in which they looted one rifle, two guns and a revolver, besides other property worth Rs. 815/-. They also caused injuries to some persons. In West Bengal 1 person