

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, November 25, 1964/Agrahayana 4, 1886 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Fire in L.I.C. Building in Delhi

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 Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Shri Jagdev Singh Siddhanti:
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
 Shri Yashpal Singh:
 Shri Daljit Singh:
 Shri Bishwanath Roy:
 Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:
 Shri Kajrolkar:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
 Shri Gulshan:
 Shri Karni Singhji:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enquiry instituted to probe into the causes of the recent fire in the L.I.C. building on Asaf Ali Road, Delhi has been completed; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) Yes, the police enquiry has been completed.

(b) The fire appears to have been caused by human negligence presumably by dropped cigarette or bidi ends

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: There is an apprehension in the minds of the public that in addition to some damage to furniture and stationery, etc., some very important files and records have also been damaged by this fire. May we know if this enquiry has revealed or thrown some light on this aspect of the matter?

Shri L. N. Mishra: Except the damage to stationery, etc. referred to by the hon. Member, no important document has been destroyed.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Some-time before this incident, there was another fire in the LIC buildings in Parliament Street the details of which are known to the Government. May we know if there is any similarity between these two cases or the circumstances under which these two fires started?

Shri L. N. Mishra: I do not think so.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May we know what precautions have been taken to see that such occurrences are not repeated again, because this is the second time that a fire has occurred in the LIC?

Mr. Speaker: She may suggest to the Minister to preach against smoking!

Shri Basumatari: May I know if there is any indication of sabotage in this incident?

Mr. Speaker: The answer has been given; where do we get sabotage?

श्री गुलशन: क्या सरकार यह विचार कर रही है कि दफ्तरों में सिगरेट पीने की मनाही कर दी जाये क्योंकि इस के कारण इतने बड़े बड़े पक्के दफ्तरों में आग लग जाती है ?

श्री ल० ना० मिश्र : : यह मुश्किल बात है ।

श्री गुलशन : जो आग लग जाती है वह मुश्किल नहीं है ?

Shri Kapur Singh: It is a very important question that my hon. friend has asked. Let us have a serious answer to that, Sir.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह कहते हैं कि गवर्नमेंट के लिए यह करना मुश्किल है ।

Shri Kapur Singh: What is the difficulty about it?

Mr. Speaker: I cannot argue with him. The answer has been given. I cannot go further. I suggested to Shrimati Savitri Nigam also that they may preach against smoking!

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार बतलाने की कृपा करेगी कि क्या इस अग्निकांड में देश द्रोहियों का भी हाथ है ?

श्री ल० ना० मिश्र : जी नहीं ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो आग लगी थी और जो इस से पहले आग लगी थी इन दोनों की तुलना में किस में ज्यादा नुकसान हुआ ? और आग की जांच के अनुसार कौन दोषी पाया गया ?

श्री ल० ना० मिश्र : एनक्वायरी भी दोनों में हुई और दोषी भी दोनों में पाए गए, लेकिन क्या नुकसान हुआ इस की सूचना मेरे पास नहीं है ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : कितने दोषी पाए गए ?

श्री ल० ना० मिश्र : इस आग के बारे में चौकीदार पर शंका है कि वह बीड़ी या सिगरेट पीते हुए उसे छोड़ आया । पहली आग के बारे में इत्तला मेरे पास नहीं है ।

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो कर्मचारी इस कमरे में था क्या उस के कोई पाकिस्तानी भी रिश्तेदार हैं इस की जांच की गयी ?

श्री ल० ना० मिश्र : मेरा तो खयाल है कि ऐसी बात नहीं है ।

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा : आप ने जांच ही नहीं की, तो फिर खयाल क्या हो सकता है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जब तक किसी माननीय सदस्य के पास कोई खान्ना सबूत न हो तब तक इस तरह की बात कहना दुस्त नहीं है ।

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether any files involving enquiries about the conduct of certain high officials were burnt out in this fire?

Shri L. N. Mishra: I do not think so, Sir.

Shri Jaipal Singh: In the earlier answer, the Minister said that it was caused by a cigarette. Later on in reply to a supplementary he said it was a biri. I submit there is a very big difference between the two.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: Is the Minister aware that the fire has been caused by an electric short-circuit?

Shri L. N. Mishra: No, Sir.

Shri Kapur Singh: May I know what is the precise nature of the difficulty or difficulties which the Government have in mind when they say that prohibition of smoking in public buildings to protect costly public properties is difficult or impossible?

Shri L. N. Mishra: I never said it is impossible. I said, it is difficult. It is a suggestion for action.

Shri Kapur Singh: What is the precise nature of the difficulties? Are they psychological? Are you a smoker yourself?

Shri L. N. Mishra: I am not a smoker.

Mr. Speaker: This would imply whether the Speaker is a smoker himself.

Shri Kapur Singh: No, Sir; I was addressing the Minister direct.

Mr. Speaker: What would the record show? After three years at least we should develop this attitude that we should address the Chair. The Minister should be addressed in the third person.

Shri Kapur Singh: A direction may be given to scribes to indicate that I was addressing the Minister direct.

Shri Oza: If a biri or cigarette can set fire to the LIC building, then the whole Secretariat in these 17 years would have been on fire at sometime or other. Therefore, is he considering having a further probe into the matter?

Shri L. N. Mishra: There is ample proof that this fire was caused by a biri or cigarette end.

Migration from East Pakistan

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Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri K. N. Tiwary:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri Jagdev Singh

Siddhanti:

Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Gulshan:
Shri Yashpal Singh:

*167. Dr. Ranen Sen:
Dr. Saradish Roy:
Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:
Shri Umanath:
Shri M. N. Swamy:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Sivamurthi Swamy:
Shri Gokulananda Mohanty:
Shri Rama Chandra Mallick:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri E. S. Pandey:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of East Pakistan refugees who have migrated to

India since January this year;

(b) how many of them have so far been rehabilitated and in which States or Union territories;

(c) how many of them are still in the camps awaiting rehabilitation and how they are encamped in various States; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check their influx into India?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Rehabilitation (Dr. M. M. Das):
(a) 7,94,312 persons as reported upto 21st November, 1964.

(b) The information is being collected from the various State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) 2,79,886 persons. There is provision generally for tents and/or basha type of hutment accommodation.

(d) It is proposed to take up with the Pakistan Government, at the next conference of the Home Ministers' of the two countries, the question of the continuing influx and to stress on them the need for taking immediate and effective steps to create conditions which will put an end to this continuing influx.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : पुनर्वासि मंत्री जी बार बार बयान देते रहते हैं कि ईस्ट पाकिस्तान से बराबर लोग आते रहते हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि होम मिनिस्टर्स कानफरेंस के अलावा सरकार ने कोई और सक्रिय कदम उठाया है कि पाकिस्तान से लोगों का इधर आना रुके ?

Dr. M. M. Das: We have taken steps in other directions also. Now the Government of India has decided that no migrant who comes to this country without a migration certificate will be entitled to rehabilitation benefits. In this connection, discretion is given to the Chief Ministers of West Bengal, Tripura and Assam, in hard cases to make them entitled to rehabilitation benefits.