

## **Regarding alleged demolition drive in various parts of Delh**

**SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR):** Madam, I rise today, not as a Member of this House, but as a colleague of those thousands of families in Delhi which have been rendered homeless overnight. Let us be clear that those were not just structures of brick and tin that were demolished, and so were the memories, livelihoods and children's dreams. Today, those children who had books in their hands, have instead been holding bricks, standing in the rubble of what once was their shelter.

Madam, law is not optional. The Delhi Slum Rehabilitation Policy of 2015, the DUSIB Act of 2010 and the Delhi High Court's judgement in Ajay Maken vs. Union of India clearly state that there should be no eviction without rehabilitation, no demolition without dignity. Yet, bulldozers moved in with no notices. Families were thrown out, with no alternative housing. Even their court stays exist in Jailorwala Bagh and Madrasi camp, homes were still destroyed in open violation of judicial orders. No water, no power, no shelter; just silencing and suffering.

Amidst this silence, one voice did rise. The Leader of the Opposition in this House, Shri Rahul Gandhi visited the demolition sites. He walked through the broken lanes and met mothers sitting in the drains with infants in their arms, and listened truly to their pain. He came with compassion and clarity and asked one question we all also must ask today. If we can send bulldozers so quickly, why can we not send help with the same urgency? Before elections, the ruling party friends spent nights in the same basti, made promises 'जहां झुग्गी, वहां मकान'। But now after the elections, it has become 'जहां झुग्गी, वहां बुलडोज़र'। This is not governance; this is abandonment. It is time for this House to take notice. How we keep the poorest amongst us, is not the issue, but it is the very soul of this democracy.