

1	2		3
25.	Social and Women's Welfare and Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes	3,12,16,000	—
26.	Technical Education and industrial training	68,79,000	—
28.	Transport	69,00,000	1,24,00,000
29.	Vigilance	3,37,000	—

[English]

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : Sir, during the zero Hour, I had raised a very important and urgent matter; and the hon. Speaker had assured me that he would convey my feelings to the hon. Defence Minister, and request him to make a statement in the House on the situation arising at Jabalpur because of a very serious explosion in the Ammunition Sub-Depot of C. O. D., Jabalpur.

Since the hon. Defence Minister is here, I will be very thankful to you if you ask him to make a statement or if he likes to say something on the issue he can do so so that the matter gets the due attention and we do get the knowledge as to what is the response of the government, so far as this particular thing is concerned.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : If you ask me to respond, I am ready to do it. In response to what has been raised on the Floor of this House by the hon. Member, I would like to read the statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes.

14.31 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : FIRE AT AMMUNITION SUB-DEPOT OF CENTRAL ORDNANCE DEPOT, JABALPUR ON 23-3-1988

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : I wish to inform the House that at about 4.10 PM on the afternoon of Wednesday, 23rd March 1988, a fire broke out at the Ammunition Sub Depot of the Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur.

The Ammunition Sub Depot stores a variety of tank, artillery and infantry ammunition for the Indian Army in 30 magazines.

The fire started near Magazine No. 20 which stores 105 mm IFG (Indian Field Gun), 106 mm RCL (Recoilless Gun) and other ammunition.

The Commandant of the Central Ordnance Depot assisted by the Commandant of the College of Material Management organised and supervised immediate measures for limiting the spread of the fire and to combat the fire which had

broken out. All available fire-fighting resources were mobilised. 20 fire tenders and about 2000 persons are involved in the operation. In order to confine the spread of the fire, action has been taken to remove combustible explosive material in the vicinity of the fire. The area was also flooded.

As a result of these measures, the incident was confined successfully to Magazine No. 20 upto about 3 AM on the morning of 24th March.

However, despite best efforts, the fire spread to Magazine No. 19. It has so far been prevented from spreading any further. As a result of efforts made to isolate these fires, and the flooding of the area, the assessment of the Commandant is that the fire is now under control, although it is still smouldering in these two magazines, and sporadic explosions of ammunition contained in these magazines is continuing.

There has been no report of loss of life and only two minor injuries to Depot employees have been reported.

The civilian administration have provided all required cooperation in the steps being taken to deal with the incident.

There is no danger reported to the civilian population of Jabalpur town. However, as a measure of abundant precaution, two villages in the immediate neighbourhood of the Ammunition Sub Depot have been evacuated. For similar reasons, flights in and out of Jabalpur Airport have been suspended as a precautionary measure.

The cause of the fire is not known as yet. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to identify the reasons and assess the precise extent of the damage.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Tulsiram.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : I want to thank him. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No discussion.
(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will not go on record.

(*Interruptions*)**

14.33 hrs.

PUNJAB BUDGET, 1988-89—GENERAL DISCUSSION, DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (PUNJAB), 1988-89 SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (PUNJAB) 1987-88—Contd.

[*Translation*]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM (Nagarkurnool) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Punjab Budget for 1988-89 presented by the hon. Minister of Finance.

I would like to pay homage on behalf of my Party, Telugu Desam and on my personal behalf to the innocent persons being killed in Punjab, whether they be men, women, Hindus, Sikhs or persons belonging to any other community. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are well aware of the fact that two different types of Budgets have been presented in the August House for Punjab and Tamil Nadu because the ruling Party has got different interests at stake in these two States. The ruling party has presented glossy Budget for Tamil Nadu in the hope of riding to power with the improvement in atmosphere by the time elections are held there. But I would like to say that the people of Tamil Nadu cannot be misguided by such gimmicks and they will never fall in the trap being laid by the ruling party (*Interruptions*) I am saying so only to expose the motives of the ruling party. I am only telling the hon. Minister as to what is the strategy of ruling party. As I said just now, no amount has been earmarked in the Budget for paying compensation to the families of innocent people of Punjab who had been killed and whose property worth several

**Not recorded.