

7.6 There is an agreement to initiate steps for a Convention on Desertification.

7.7 There is general acceptance of the role of major groups in society viz. the NGOs, business, women and youth - in decision making related to environment issues and for steps to be taken to enable them to contribute too environmental well-being.

7.8 A Commission on Sustainable Development has been set up under the United Nations General Assembly which will receive reports, as well as assess and review the implementation of Agenda 21, including transfer of financial resources and technology.

8. The specific outputs of the Rio Conference include the following:

8.1 The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development which gives the elements of sustainable development, in the form of a declaration of rights and obligations of governments and individuals.

8.2 Adoption of Agenda -21, which is a set of comprehensive programmes of action for protecting the environment and reconciling it with development.

8.3 The agreement on a non-legally binding authoritative Statement of Principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

8.4 Signing of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Conservation of Biodiversity.

9. Copies of these important documents have been placed in the Parliament library, except Agenda -21 which will be placed no sooner the full edited version thereof is received from the UNCED Secretariat.

10. The Indian delegation to UNCED played an active role not only in the detailed negotiations on Agenda-21 but also in mobilising opinion, both among countries of the Group of 77 and others, on various

important issues, particularly in regard to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Statement on Forests, leading to a broad consensus of views.

11. The proposed follow up action planned by the Government includes dissemination of the decisions taken at the Conference for general awareness and fostering better understanding of the relevant issues, holding consultations to secure agreement of priorities and coordinate action in regard to programmes of action outlined at the Conference.

(II) Incidents of Police Firing in Bhilal on 1st July, 1992

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIM.M. JACOB): Sir, I rise to inform the House of the incident of police firing on agitating workers in Bhilal, Madhya Pradesh on the 1st of July, 1992.

2. According to information received from the State Government about 3,000 men and 300 to 400 women workers owing allegiance to Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha staged a *dharma* on the railway track near Power House railway station in Bhilal about 9.15 AM on 1st July, 1992.

3. The Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha has been leading a workers' movement in Bhilal area for acceptance of a nine point charter of demands including abolition of contractorship, issues related to wages, bonus, service conditions etc and reinstatement of retrenched workers. With the exception of the demand for reinstatement of retrenched workers, agreement on the other demands had been reached in a series of meetings held in the month of June, 1992. Further discussions on the demand for reinstatement were scheduled to be held on 1st July, 1992 with the officers of the labour department when the workers staged this *dharma* and indicated that it would continue till their demands were met.

4. Because of the *dharnaby* the workers, the rail traffic on this route remained suspended for about eight hours. The railway authorities made repeated requests to the administration to help restore the traffic. Efforts by the Districts Administration to persuade the workers to end the *dharna* did not succeed. The workers insisted on the fulfilment of their demands before clearing the rail track. There were stray incidents of pelting of stones during the day. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 Cr. P.C. were promulgated in the affected areas from 2 PM.

5. In view of the stone pelting, the Additional District Magistrate present on the spot issued a warning at about 4.45 PM to the workers to disperse. When the warning had no effect, the police force advanced to remove the workers from the track. The women workers started leaving the track but the men started stoning and some of them also attacked the police with sticks. The Sub-Inspector of Police Shri T.K. Singh was fatally injured in this attack. Many other officers including the Supdt. of Police Addl. District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police (City) and Additional Superintendent of Police were hurt. Lathi charge and bursting of tear gas shells by the police failed to control the situation. In view of the gravity of the situation, firing was ordered after due warning. In the firing, 15 workers were killed.

6. As soon as the situation was brought under control, action was taken to remove the injured from the railway track and admit them to the hospital. Thereafter, dead bodies were also removed immediately to the hospital.

7. After the removal of injured to the hospital, District Magistrate issued orders for detailed inquiry into the incident. Orders were also issued to pay financial assistance of Rs. 2,000/- each to the next of kin of the killed persons and Rs. 1,000/- each to the injured.

8. Indefinite curfew was imposed in Cantonment, Jamool, industrial area of old Bhilai and part of Supela police station areas

to maintain peace. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 Cr. P.C. were promulgated in Bhilai, Bhatti, Bhilai city and old Bhilai areas. 13 of the killed have been identified. Last rites of the killed were performed on 3.7. '92. Immediately after the incident 89 persons arrested under Section 151 of Cr.P.C. and remanded to police custody. 115 agitators were injured in the lathi-charge stone-pelting and police firing. 63 injured were admitted to Durg Hospital and 9 injured were admitted to Bhilai hospital. The injured include 6 women. 65 persons belonging to the State administration were injured of whom 9 were admitted to the hospital.

9. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have informed that in addition to the financial assistance ordered by the District Administration, assistance at the rate of Rs. 10,000/- each to the next of kin of those killed and Rs. 1000/- each to the injured has been ordered from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Relief of Rs. 10,000/- each to the next of kin of those killed and Rs. 5,000 each to the injured has also been announced from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The State Government has also decided to hold a judicial inquiry into the incident.

13.30 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEES

(I) Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for
Medical Science and Technology,
Trivandrum

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF
ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI
RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): I
beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Section
5 (i) read with Section 6 (2) of the