

to improve productivity in all ports including New Mangalore Port and I would once again request the hon. Member and his friends who are well-known and recognised leaders of the area to join us in our effort to increase productivity. It is true that Madras Port has higher rate of productivity compared even to Bombay Port and even in relation to Mangalore, I would particularly appeal to the hon. Member and his Party to join us in finding a solution for some other specific problems relating to it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: We can set up a Dock Labour Board there.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: We shall consider this suggestion

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: May I know from the hon. Minister what is the loss of earnings due to this strike and whether the Government is going to fix the norms for this speed money if it is a legal one?

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Well, there can be no norms as far as speed money is concerned, and it is an illegal demand and we cannot accept this, nor can it be quantified. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: What is the loss of earnings of the port due to this strike?

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: The Port has lost more than Rs. 50 lakhs as a result of the strike according to the information available.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Mr. Speaker, I am the one who is very much affected by this strike. For your information, almost my one unit was closed for want of this movement of traffic. Will the Minister please examine the suggestion that instead

of sending this scrap to the Mangalore Port from the MMTC, which is canalising agency, is it not advisable to send the entire scrap to Madras Port? Not only the labourers are on strike, but every time it is very difficult to transport this scrap from Mangalore due to continuous rains. Even the lorries also are not in a position to move this scrap to various places. In view of these difficulties faced by the industrial transporters, will you please advise the MMTC to send the entire scrap or imported scrap to Madras Port instead of to this Mangalore Port until it is improved?

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Obviously there seems to be some kind of a conflict of interests between the distinguished Member of Parliament and an industrialist. As a Member of Parliament I should have thought that the hon. Member would want the Mangalore Port to prosper and help other leaders in finding a solution for that problem. I am unable to accept the suggestion, but I shall certainly, if she feels strongly about it, in terms of her personal interest, look into it. (*Interruptions*)

Communal Riots

*65 SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of communal riots which took place in different parts of the country during the last six months, State-wise;

(b) the loss of life and property in those riots; and

(c) the steps to contain these riots?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Particulars of Major Communal Riots that Took Place in the Country During the Last Six months.

1 Name of the State, Place and date	2 No. of persons killed	3 Loss of property
BIHAR:		
Hazaribagh (16-22.8.89)	15	42 houses/shops etc. damaged/footed.
Sasaram (17-22.8.89) (Distt. Rohtas)	10	N.A
Sasaram (Distt. Rohtas) (16-17.11.89)	5	N.A
Satbarwa (Distt. Palamu) (2.9.89)	5	6 shops looted
Sitamarhi (22.10.89 to 15.11.89)	16	400 houses burnt.
Bhagalpur (26.10.89 to 30.11.89)	404	250 houses burnt/footed.
Munger (25.10.89 to 30.11.89)	27	
GUJARAT:		
Godhara (Distt. Panchmahal) (22.10.89)	4	
MADHYA PRADESH:		
Khargone (30.9.89)	5	50 houses/shops damaged/burnt.

Name of the State, Place and date	No. of persons killed	Loss of property
1	2	3
Indore (14.10.89)	22	Rs.1.00 crore
RAJASTHAN:		
Jawal (Distt. Sirohi) (1.6.89)	2	Rs.06 lakh
Kota (14-17.9.89)	15	40 shops/cabins burnt and several vehicles damaged.
Jaipur (27.11.89 to 3.12.89)	5	150 shops looted/burnt.
UTTAR PRADESH:		
Badaun (28-30.9.89)	30	Rs. 75.00 lakhs
Varanasi (11-16.11.89)	7	3 Shops, one wooden stall and some vehicles damaged/burnt.

(c) In addition to the guidelines already issued to the various State Governments/ U.T. Administrations for prevention of communal violence and for promotion of communal harmony, material support in terms of para-military forces and equipments is provided to the State Governments as and when requested subject to their availability to assist them in effectively managing and controlling the riot situation on ground. Central Government also shares its intelligence with the concerned State Governments for prevention of communal violence. With a view to evolving national consensus on issues affecting emotional unity and communal harmony in the country, the National Integration Council is being re-constituted

It is the resolve of the Government that no efforts would be spared to guarantee full protection to the minorities and for promoting all round communal harmony in the country.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH. Sir, there is a serious problem in our country. We inherited this problem of communal riots from the British and during the last 43 years it extended to the whole of the country and to all the communities. Earlier, it was between the Hindus and the Muslims. Now, it is successfully extended to all the communities. This is the plight of the country. We think it is a crime against humanity, crime against society and a crime against national integrity.

The reply is very shocking. We agree that anybody can create it. But if some criminal people can instigate a communal riot, how can it continue for months? Our experience in West Bengal is, it can be put down in a few hours. But in Bhagalpur, it went on for 35 days, according to the reply. In Sitamarhi, it went for 23 days; in Munger it went on for 36 days. At other places, it went on at least for one week.

If the Government does not want communal riots to continue, it can put them down. (*Interruptions*) This is our experience

in West Bengal. In the light of this experience, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether in the recent riots in Bhagalpur the figure supplied was too meagre as compared to the actual happening, as much more people had been killed there. The Prime Minister had said that the State Government was responsible. We think the Prime Minister is a responsible person and he is uttering something which is of a value. I would like to know whether any importance has been attached to his statement and any action has been taken against those criminals including the criminal State Government?

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: I agree with the hon. Member that where the State Government has been firm in dealing with the communal situation, that has been controlled in no time. There is a shining example of West Bengal Government. Since the last 12 years, there has hardly been any incident. Unfortunately, it is only on Congress-I ruled States. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: In Karnataka, it had happened. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: As a Minister, you have to give a statement. You are the Home Minister. You should not mislead the House. (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER: I have called upon the Home Minister to answer. You please sit down. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: As far as Bihar is concerned, about the communal riots in Bhagalpur, I think, after 1947, it is the first incident where such a loss of life, such genocide, such atrocities have been committed and this situation has staggered for more than a month and there was complete collapse of law and order situation and our information is, as far as the number of persons killed is concerned, it is 404.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: It is much more than that. Correct the figures. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: The number of cases registered is 190. The number of cases of arson is 210 and loot 35. *(Interruptions)* With me are the figures submitted by the State Government. There, people have apprehension that many more casualties may be there. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Central Government also shares its intelligence with the concerned State Governments. May I know whether in this case in Bhagalpur, the Central Government shared the intelligence with the State Government giving prior information that this can happen and to take proper care and, secondly, whether a special team has been sent to Bhagalpur to investigate and, if so, what is the report, whether such a team was sent to find out the details of that event.

What steps have you taken to stop the inflammatory literature which instigates communal riots and whether this Ministry transferred officials and if it is dismissed some officials, how many...dismissed.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: The State Government's Deputy Commissioner and other districts authorities were found to be negligent in dealing with the situation and then the Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Satyendra Narain Sinha had ordered the transfer of those concerned officials. But on the pressure of some people at Bhagalpur I am told, the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi visited Bagalpur and the transfer of the Deputy Commissioner and the S.P. was stayed. It is a question of accountability as to who were responsible for this carnage. But I must say, the transfer of officials was stayed.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: From the reply, it is found that communal riots had taken place in several States during the last six months namely, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. So far as the number of persons killed is concerned, the official figure is 542 and there has not been accurate estimate of the property lost or houses burnt etc., etc. Therefore, it is a very great shame on the part of our country that

such a large-scale communal riots took place during the last six months.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether he agrees with me that these communal riots are generally preceded by build-up of communal tensions and, in this case, during the last six months what were the reasons for build-up of communal tension and what has been the role of the previous Government to defuse that communal tension.

May I also know from the hon. Minister to what extent the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute played its part in building up the communal tension? Was it not a fact that the previous Government played the communal card to building up the communal tension in these parts of the country? Lastly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the Bihar Military Police allowed a large number of minorities who were under the custody of the Military to be massacred and the Bihar Military Police did not take adequate steps for the protection of minorities. Rather, they were instrumental in the massacre. What steps the Government proposes to take against those guilty who caused the massacre in Bhagalpur?

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: Sir, I agree that since this Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue crept up, there has been steady increase in the communal riots in the country since 1986. If we see the graph, the increase has been there. But I must say that in some of the States, for instance, in West Bengal, in Andhra Pradesh, in Karnataka, in Haryana and I may say even in Uttar Pradesh where there is Ayodhya, except Badaun, there were no communal riots. Therefore, if the State administration, if the State Government is alert, if the State Government is committed to the principle of secularism, if the State Government makes the district authorities accountable, then I do not think the communal situation will arise. There are elements who are trying to create such a situation. But it is only where the State Governments are not alert, the communal

situation gets deteriorated. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHITTA BASU: One of my questions was about the action the Government proposes to take against the Bihar Military Police. Has the Government taken up the matter with the Bihar Government? What has been the reaction of the Bihar Government in regard to that particular massacre? What has been the reason for the building up of communal tension in the country?

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: It is a fact that there have always been some complaints, some allegations against the Police Force who have been partisan in dealing with the situation. There was a proposal with the previous Government and that proposal is with the current Government also that when such situation arises, there should be a composite anti-riot force to deal with such a situation. As far as the hon. Member's question whether we have enquired from the State Government and how far the Bihar Police was involved in this massacre, we have written to the Chief Minister of Bihar. I am happy that he has taken certain measures for the rehabilitation of the riot victims in Bhagalpur, Sasaram and Munger. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called upon Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. Please take your seats. I am coming to you

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I had the good opportunity of working as a Minister of State in the Home Ministry. The hon. Minister was also a Minister at that time. With all respect to him I would like to say with all humbleness at my command, that he has misled the House. Either his home-work is very poor or he has been misinformed by the officials in his Ministry. The question is not of the last six months; but the question which was asked during the course of the first supplementary is whether during the course of the last one year there was any communal riot in Karnataka which was ruled by an opposition party. I myself went and visited the area with Shri Bommai, the then Chief

Minister of Karnataka. I went there when there was a fight between the Punjabi and Kannada speaking people. In Assam, in Nowgong District in the AGP rule Quorum was burnt inside a Masjid. In Gohpur of Tezpur and Kokrajhar districts also there were communal riots. (*Interruptions*) The CPM Members must not behave like this. Let me speak, I have got the right to speak, don't try to muzzle me.

I don't take a stand that here was no communal riot during the Congress regime or there were no lapses on the part of the Congress Government. Now, I agree there were serious lapses on the part of the Congress Government. I would like to know whether there is a rule in the Election Commission—you have mentioned about the ex-Prime Minister of the country who stopped transfers and postings—to stop the transfers. There is a rule by the Election Commission that when the election process starts no official must be transferred. The Home Minister, I am sure, knows that during the election process no official can be transferred. I would request him to clarify this and correct the statement. If necessary, in future if such riots happen, there should be a guideline from the Election Commission.

Are you going to take it up with the Election Commission that during the process of elections if any officer—whether he is in Bhagalpur or in UP or Rajasthan—is found guilty, he should be suspended and transferred?

As rightly pointed out by Shri Shri Chitta Basu, we must go into the deep-root as to why these communal riots happen? I will request—as you announced today—that let there be an enquiry by a Supreme Court Judge to find out whether BJP and others are involved in this or not. That should be enquired... (*Interruptions*)

AN. HON. MEMBER: On a point of order, Sir. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No point of order. Please take your seats.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED:

Sir, what I said in my previous reply was that in Bihar State, especially in Bhagalpur, Monghyr and Sitamarhi, the communal situation got deteriorated and got staggered.

By the account of the people there, I am told, the District administration was squarely responsible for mishandling the situation and then the Chief Minister of Bihar ordered the transfer of the Deputy Commissioner and the SSP. After the visit of the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the transfer of district officers was stayed. *(Interruptions)* But, I say, there have been communal incidents; may be in Karnataka there was a communal incident. But, if the State Government was firm to deal with that situation, they could have controlled it and they could have controlled it in no time. *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALOO PRASAD: In reply to the main question, the hon. Minister has admitted that during the last six months riots took place in Congress ruled States also. I had the opportunity of being the leader of opposition in Bihar. In Bihar alone, which is also a Congress ruled State, riots took place at more than 50 places. Riots took place in Palamau, Sasaram, Sitamarhi, Giridih, Gopalganj and the riots that rocked Bhagalpur were the most tragic and the tension in the area still prevails. There were direct accusations that Shri Girish Narayan, a Congressman had a hand in the riots that took place in Bihar. He has since been made a Minister in Bihar Government. Now Dr. Jagannath Mishra who was the State President of Congress Party which had direct hand in the riots has been made the Chief Minister of Bihar and entrusted with the task of nursing the wounds of riot victims. When communal riots broke out in Hazaribagh, the then Minister of Home Affairs had gone there. I also went there in my capacity as leader of the opposition to investigate the causes of the riots. The people belonging to minority community had direct accusations that he S.P. had a hand in the riots. At that time Shri

Satyendra Narayan Sinha used to be the Chief Minister of the State. Shri S.K. Srivastava, the then, Member of Board of Revenue was appointed to hold an enquiry into the Hazaribagh riots. Mr. Srivastava, with all its fairness, reported that the District Collector and the S.P. had a hand in the riots. I would like to know whether the Central Government proposes to dismiss the Congress Government in the State as specific charges of engineering riots have been levelled against it.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED:

Sir, as I said just now, the communal riots that took place in Bihar, whether in Bhagalpur or in Sasaram or in Manghyr or in Sitamarhi, these were unique in character and... *(Interruptions)* The Government of the State failed to control these riots. Why do you hold the poor Government officials, whether he is an S.P. or a policeman, or for that matter any other officer, responsible for the riots? The Chief Minister was not able to control the riots even in a month's time. In Bhagalpur, humanity was being slaughtered and Indian blood was being shed by Indians themselves. That scenario prevailed there for a month. A woman, who is also a daughter of this country and who was brought to Patna has lost one of his legs. Children were massacred. The Chief Minister remained a silent spectator to the happenings.... *(Interruptions)* **

MR. SPEAKER: All of you, please sit down. Nothing will go on record.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED:

He could not control it. I am of the view that some one must have been responsible for it and he should be held guilty. We are holding an enquiry to find out as to which officer, which police officer and which Deputy Commissioner is responsible for this and whose negligence it was. The person responsible for this should be punished and he will be punished.

MR. SPEAKER: I call upon all of you that tomorrow there will be a special debate

on communal situation and a debate will also be held on the motion of thanks on the President's Address. Now I have called Mr. Sulaiman. Thereafter, I shall take up the next question.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted Mr Sulaiman Sait.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am coming to you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

I request the Members to resume their seats. (Interruptions) I have now permitted Mr. Sulaiman Sait. Then, I will permit Mr. Madam Lal Khurana.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI IBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT: A large-scale killing of the Muslim minority during riots cannot be taken as a law and order problem and the matter cannot be left to the State administration. (Interruptions) The Centre cannot run away from its responsibility.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put the question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI IBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT: The Centre should define what its policy is with regard to controlling such large-scale communal killings. (Interruptions) Generally, the State forces, like BMP in Bihar, PAC in Uttar Pradesh fail and normalcy is restored only by deploying the Central forces, like CRP, BSF and the Military. (Interruptions) Therefore, I would like to know from the Central Government what concrete steps are they going to take for ensuring complete peace and protection of the minorities in the country. (Interruptions)

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: The Central Government cannot absolve itself of its responsibility to deal with a com-

munal situation. But it is only the State Government which has to deal with the law and order situation. (Interruptions) The role of the Central forces, especially the BSF, the CRP and even the Army had been commendable in Bhagalpur. They were responsible for saving the precious lives. The Government is thinking of long-term and short-term measures to tackle this communal situation and we are also issuing guidelines in this regard. I assure the hon. Member that in future we will not allow such a situation to arise. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs said that riots took place in Congress ruled States only. Had there been any effect of the Ram Janmabhoomi issue, riots would also have taken place in Delhi and other places. But nothing of that sort happened. It means that Ram Janambhoomi issue had nothing to do with the riots. These riots were election manifested riots. Why did the riots break out after the elections and what were the reasons that riots took place in the Congress ruled States only? The hon. Minister of Home Affairs said that law and order had collapsed in Bihar. If it is so, it becomes the duty of the Central Government to take suitable action in this regard. I want to say, as you have said that a discussion on the communal situation will be held tomorrow, that communal riots also took place in Kashmir. Temples, Gurudwaras... (Interruptions)... I would like to emphasise that whether it was blood shedding of a Muslim or a Hindu, blood of both the communities is alike. As such I want to say that while a discussion on communal riots would be held, the Governments of Jammu and Kashmir and Bihar should be dismissed.... (Interruptions)

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has expressed his concern that communal riots, wherever they might take place, are not good for the country. It is true that there was perfect secularism in Kashmir, but some forces are raising their ugly heads there also, as a result of which an environment of hatred has been created. While we deal with the riot situation, whether it is Bhagalpur in Bihar or in Rajasthan, we will also deal with it in Kashmir.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.

(Interruptions)