

MR. SPEAKER: He has already given.

SHRI NATH PAI : May I draw the minister's attention to the fact that it is not his ministry which is principally guilty so far as the present deplorable conditions in Delhi hospitals are concerned? The two major culprits escaping the attention of the House and the public are the Finance Ministry and the CPWD. It is the stinginess of the Ministry of Finance in providing adequate fund to these hospitals which is resulting in out-dated and obsolete equipments being used. I do not know, Mr. Speaker, if you have had the benefit of being admitted (*Interruption*). I once took the risk and hazard, after a heart attack, because I could not have been flown to Bombay. I must say that all human attention was paid—it would be unfair if I do not say that. But I am telling about the needle. Normally the custom in America and Europe is that after a single injection the needle is discarded. When I began to scream with pain, which I normally do not, I was told that the needle was two years old. This is the kind of equipment that we have in our hospitals. May I know, so far as improving the standard of this hospital is concerned, whether the Finance Minister will have a fresh look at it and the Central P.W.D. will refrain from coming in the way so that the hospital is modernised with modern architects and engineers being allowed to have their say?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : May I say that the Finance Ministry has never come in the way of making the hospital properly equipped and it will never come in the way.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : The Central P.W.D. also do not come in the way.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

FIRE IN DELHI

6. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the loss of property and life

caused as a result of a fire on the 17th November, 1967 in Chandni Chowk, Delhi;

(b) whether Government propose to make an inquiry about the cause of the fire;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to rehabilitate the sufferers; and

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to prevent such big fires in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) :

(a) The fire took place on the 18th November, 1967 and not on 17th November, 1967. There was no loss of life, but the estimated loss of property is about Rs. 43 lacs.

(b) No, Sir. According to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, Delhi Municipal Corporation who enquired into the matter, the probable cause of fire is accidental due to "dropped light".

(c) The Delhi Municipal Corporation is considering the question of temporary rehabilitation of the shopkeepers and the residents who have been affected by the fire. Plans are also being drawn up for reconstruction of the Naya Katra area where the fire broke out.

(d) A survey is being undertaken by the Delhi Municipal Corporation to ensure that suitable fire precautions are being observed in the other Katras of Chandni Chowk in particular and the remaining areas in general. It is also being ensured by the Corporation that the terms of licences of various traders as and where applicable are being strictly observed.

श्री प्रकाशबोर शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पूर्व इस के गुप्त जी अपना प्रश्न पूछें में कहना चाहता हूँ कि मूल प्रश्न अगर हिन्दी में हो तो सम्बन्धित मंत्री द्वारा उसका उत्तर भी हिन्दी में दिया जाय

गृह-कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल) : मूल प्रश्न अंग्रेजी में ही था ।

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त : यहां पर करीब डेढ़ करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान हुआ है। मंत्री महोदय ने जो आग से होने वाले नुकसान का अंदाज लगाया है यह गलत है। करीब 25 लाख रुपये का माल तो ऐसी दुकानों का था जो कि इंश्योर्ड नहीं थीं और उस के अलावा करीब 35 लाख का माल ऐसा था जोकि अंडर इंश्योर्ड था बाकी प्रापरटी का नुकसान हुआ। 100 दुकानें करीब करीब जली हैं। क्या सरकार इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि जिन लोगों का नुकसान हुआ है उन को कुछ लॉग टर्म लोन दे रीजने-बुल इंटरैस्ट पर और कुछ सबसिडी दे ताकि वह लोग अपने पैरों पर खड़े हों। मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी और उपप्रधान मंत्री जी का भी धन्यवाद करता हूँ कि उन्होंने जाकर उस को देखो तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उसको देखने के बाद वह क्या कार्यवाही इस सम्बन्ध में कर रहे हैं ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : Sir, I have already told my hon. friend, when he asked me, that unless the Delhi Administration sends some proposal it is not possible for this Government to consider it.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : As far as the amount of loss is concerned the Delhi Corporation authorities got into touch with the traders who were affected by this fire and according to the estimate given by the traders this figure has been arrived at by the Administration. They have said that the actual loss was Rs. 39 lakhs in terms of material that was destroyed and Rs. 4 lakhs for the buildings, fixtures and furnitures that were destroyed in the fire. As far as relief is concerned, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister has already indicated that if a specific proposal is received then that will be given the fullest consideration.

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त : यह जो आग लगी उस का एक मुख्य कारण यह था कि एक तो उस कटरे के अन्दर बहुत ज्यादा कंजेशन था और दूसरे एक ही दरवाजा था अंदर जाने

के लिए जिसकी कि वजह से दिक्कत हुई आय बुझाने वालों को तो इस तरीके से दिल्ली के अन्दर और भी बहुत सारे मार्केट हैं, बाजार हैं, कटरे हैं जहां पर ठीक से निकलने का भी रास्ता नहीं है, बहुत ही संकरा रास्ता है तो क्या मास्टर प्लान के तहत इस तरीके का कोई एक फेज्ड प्रोग्राम सरकार बनायेगी और उसके लिए कुछ पैसा भी काउपोरेशन को देगी जिससे कि यह मार्केट दूसरी जगह नजदीक ले जाया जाय और एक नये तरीके से वह मार्केट बनाया जाय ताकि फिर इस तरह की कोई दुघटना न हो ? क्या सरकार इस तरीके का कोई एक फेज्ड प्रोग्राम बनाने के बारे में सोच रही है ?

श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल : माननीय सदस्य ने ठीक ही कहा कि यह बहुत ही ज्यादा घनी बस्ती है और वहां आने जाने का रास्ता भी चौड़ा नहीं है वह बहुत ही संकरा व छेद है जिसके कारण वहां पर आग से लड़ने में बड़ी असुविधा प्रतीत हुई। अभी इसके बारे में दिल्ली नगर निगम के जो चीफ इंजीनियर हैं वह उसका सर्वे कर रहे हैं और इंजीनियर विचार कर रहे हैं कि कैसे उसे बनाया जाय अथवा कैसे उस का इंतजाम किया जाय ताकि आगे कभी ऐसी दुघटना न होने पाय।

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त : उस के लिए आप पैसा देंगे ?

श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल : सर्वे करने के बाद जब कोई चीज तैयार होगी तब पैसे का सवाल उठेगा।

SHRI UMANATH : Among the sufferers of this fire accident there is a category of about 61 workers who were employed in the shops below which were burnt down. They were residing upstairs. Now their residences and entire belongings have gone and in this winter they are remaining in the open with their children. So, apart from the long-term plan of rehabilitation, may I know whether the Central Government proposes to do anything urgently with regard to such of those families which

are suffering in the streets because they have received no relief from the Delhi Administration ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : After the fire immediate relief was provided to these people. The mid-term or long-term relief is linked up with it.

SHRI UMANATH : What about residence for them ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : It was also provided. First they were provided with tents in Gandhi Maidan. In a few dharmasalas also arrangements were made for putting them up. After that, the shop-keepers under whom they were working, took over the work. I cannot at present say what arrangements were made subsequently but this question of relief in general is being considered.

श्री प्रेमचन्द वर्मा : मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन्हें कोई ऐसी शिकायतें मिली हैं कि पिछले 6 महीने से दिल्ली शहर में गली-गली, कच्चे-कूचे और बाजार-बाजार में दुकानें खोल दी गई हैं और यह दुकानें ऐसी जगह पर खोली गई हैं जहां पर आबादी है और लोग रह रहे हैं और इस सिलसिले में दिल्ली कार-पोरेशन

MR. SPEAKER : This is about fire; not about Himachal Pradesh.

Will he kindly sit down ? Probably he is not aware of the fact that it is not absolutely necessary to ask a supplementary. There is nothing compulsory about it.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : As has been admitted by the hon. Minister the main cause of this fire was the congestion in that area and the fact that almost all the markets are concentrated in a small area where it is very difficult to provide, leave aside the ordinary amenities of life, even tap etc. for preventing fire when it takes place. I would like to know if the government is considering the building up of a new market in an open area where all these small *katras* could be brought so that there will be one big cloth market catering to the needs of the whole of Delhi and surrounding areas.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I have already indicated that the Chief Engineer of the Delhi Corporation is surveying the area which has been affected and other areas also. This is about the first part of the question as to how to prevent this kind of a thing happening again. As far as the question of shifting the entire cloth market to some new area and building a completely new cloth market is concerned, if a proposal of that kind is received we shall definitely give it due consideration.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : दुकानों में जो छोटे कर्मचारी थे क्या उन को प्रधान मंत्री सहायता कोष से भी कोई सहायता दी गई है ? अगर नहीं दी गई तो क्यों नहीं दी गई ?

श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल : अभी तक तो इस तरह की सहायता देने की आवश्यकता इस लिये नहीं पड़ी क्योंकि दिल्ली नगर निगम के द्वारा उन्हें तुरन्त सहायता दी गई थी, और उसके बाद, जैसा मैंने कहा, जिन व्यापारियों के साथ वे काम करते थे, उन्होंने उन की देख भाल करनी शुरू कर दी। इस तरह की कोई जरूरत महसूस होती या दिल्ली प्रशासन या नगर निगम के द्वारा इस तरह की किसी सहायता का सुझाव मिलता तो अवश्य उस पर कुछ न कुछ विचार किया जाता।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्या प्रधान मंत्री के सहायता कोष में से धन देने के लिये किसी सुझाव के आने की जरूरत है ? जिन कर्मचारियों के घर जल गये, जो नौकरियों से हट गये, क्या अपनी ओर से प्रधान मंत्री सहायता कोष से उन को धन नहीं दिया जा सकता ?

प्रधान मंत्री, अणु शक्ति मंत्री, योजना मंत्री तथा बंदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री (श्रीमती इन्चिरा गांधी) : जब मैं वहां उन को देखने गई थी तो उन्होंने हम से कहा था कि हम आप को बतलायेंगे कि क्या आवश्यकता है और किस हिसाब से सहायता देनी है ?

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त : क्या आप के पास कुछ लिख कर नहीं आया ?

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी : जहां तक मुझे मालूम है, नहीं आया। जबानी भी मुझे नहीं बतलाया गया।

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA : Will the Government consider a scheme of having compulsory insurance in such congested areas where such inflammable articles, like nylon and others, are there? Will Government think of having compulsory insurance of these shops?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : It is a suggestion for action for the Delhi Corporation.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

UNIFORM ELECTRICITY RATES FOR RURAL AREAS

*368. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the further steps taken for uniform electricity rates for rural areas in the country;

(b) whether this question has been discussed with the State Government; and

(c) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1801/67].

L.I.C. ADVANCES TO BUSINESS HOUSES

*369. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the bulk of the loans advanced by the Life Insurance Corporation to Industries in 1966-67 has gone to the business groups mentioned in the report of the Monopolies Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount of loans advanced to these business groups;

(d) whether any principles have been laid down by Government to guide the

investment and loan policy of the L.I.C.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (c). The loans sanctioned and disbursed during the years 1966-67 to the business houses mentioned in the Monopolies Inquiry commission Report amounted to Rs. 8.50 crores and Rs. 2.01 crores respectively, out of Rs. 12.15 crores and Rs. 4.86 crores of total loans sanctioned and disbursed to all parties during the same year. Loans are given by the L.I.C. on the merits of the applications irrespective of the fact whether these are made by the big industrialists of the smaller ones.

(d) and (e). The investments and loans of the L.I.C. are governed by the provisions of Section 27(A) of the Insurance Act 1938 as applied to the Corporation and further by the criteria mentioned in the statement made by the Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on the 25th August, 1958.

INDRAPRASTHA POWER HOUSE

*370. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :**
SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :
SHRI P. RAMAMURTI :
SHRI NAMBIAR :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the first extension unit of the Indraprastha power station inaugurated by the Deputy Minister in November, 1967 went out of commission the same day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to enquire into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) to (c). The first extension unit was inaugurated on the 3rd November, 1967. The machine tripped on the morning of the 4th November, 1967, on account of over-loading of the inter-connection with the U.P. Power system. Since then, the inter-connection has been changed to take isolated loads. The machine has again been in service