

श्री महेश्वर सिंह: इस में पार्टी कहां से आ गयी? मंत्री जी आप के इस कथन पर मुझे आपत्ति है।

श्री सी० एम० इब्राहिम: पार्टी सवाल के मायने है, आप पार्टी में सवाल कर रहे हैं।

श्री महेश्वर सिंह: आप बैठ गए, तभी पूछ रहा हूं।

श्री सी० एम० इब्राहिम: इस में एम्बूल्ड रूट है। इस के लायसेंस की कोई जरूरत नहीं होती है, सिर्फ एअर-ट्राफिक क्लियरेंस की जरूरत होती है। एअर ट्राफिक क्लियरेंस देने के बाद ही जहाज वहां से उड़ा है। यह मेरे पास इनफार्मेशन है। इसलिए मैं आप से कह रहा हूं कि एक ओपन इन्क्वायरी हो रही है और यह तमाम चीजें ओपन इन्क्वायरी के सामने उठायी जा सकती हैं। फिर कोई ऐसी चीज न हो कि हम यहां कुछ बोल दें और इन्क्वायरी पर कोई इफेक्ट हो। तो मैं आप को पूरी तरह से आश्वासन देता हूं कि यह इन्क्वायरी जो होगी, फेयर होगी। आप भी किसी को वहां पर भेज सकते हैं क्योंकि आप उस क्षेत्र से आए हैं। If you are having any other information, you please pass it on to me, and definitely I will take action. ... (Interruptions)...

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Incidents of Death or Pilgrims at Ujjain and Haridwar on 15th July, 1996

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Just a minute. Will you just bear with me for two minutes more?

I have before me the Supplementary List of Business for today. Shri Maqbool Dar is sitting here for the last two hours. He would just like to make a statement on the incidents of death of pilgrims at Ujjain and Haridwar.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (Bihar): Was the Supplementary List of Business circulated?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Yes.

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया: मैडम, मंत्री जी इसे लेकर दें। पढ़ें नहीं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्दे): नहीं। मैं आप, मंत्री जी।

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Madam, it is a long statement. It can be taken up tomorrow.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): Madam,

During the course of discussion in the Lok Sabha on July 16, the Hon'ble Home Minister shared the concern of the Hon'ble Members on the heavy loss of life which took place at Ujjain and Haridwar, and had promised to obtain information from both the State Governments.

The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that on July 15 a large crowd of devotees had gathered at the Mahakaleshwar Temple, situated in Ujjain city, at around 5.30 a.m. There were about 3000 persons in the temple premises and another 6000 to 7000 persons at queue outside the temple. The stampede occurred at the feet of a staircase leading to the temple sanctum where the pilgrims rushed for worship. The immediate cause of stampede seems to have been some persons slipping on the wet marble floor. It was reported that 34 persons were declared dead on arrival at the Ujjain civil hospital. These included 23 males including 1 child and 11 females. 29 persons were admitted to hospital with injuries of whom 7 were reported to be seriously injured. Six of the seriously injured have since been shifted to the medical college hospital at Indore for specialised medical treatment. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has announced a high level administrative inquiry into the causes of this incident which will be conducted by a judicial official. The terms of reference of this inquiry include the causes of the tragedy, the adequacy of arrangements made by the district authorities, the promptness with which medical assistance was provided and steps to be taken in future to prevent recurrence of such incident. The State Government has

announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 1 lakh to the dependents of each person killed in the stampede, Rs. 25,000 to those who were seriously injured and Rs. 10,000 to other injured persons. Their medical expenses will also be met by the State Government. While it is expected that the responsibility for the administrative lapses will be fixed by the high level administrative inquiry, the State Government has, in the meantime, transferred the City Superintendent of Police, Ujjain, the Town Inspector in-charge of the temple area and the Executive Magistrate on duty.

In so far as the incident at Haridwar is concerned, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed that 20 pilgrims died and 6 pilgrims were injured on July 15. It was expected that about 15 lakh pilgrims would gather on the occasion, but, in fact, about 25 lakh pilgrims had collected at Haridwar on the occasion of "Somwati Amavasya". In the past pilgrims were using two bridges at the Harki Pauri, but one of the two bridges was not in use as it had been damaged due to rains in the last year. The stampede occurred when a large number of pilgrims tried to push their way through one bridge at about 6.30 in the morning.

On receipt of the report of the incident, Shri D.K. Arya, Adviser to the Governor, the DG (Police) and the State DG of Health Services immediately rushed to the spot. The State Government had also decided to have a judicial inquiry into the matter. In the meanwhile, the State Government has announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 1 lakh to the dependent of each person killed in the incident and Rs. 25,000 to

those injured. The injured are being treated at Government Hospital. Further, a senior Sub-Inspector of Police and one Naib Tehsildar, who were on duty near the bridge, have been suspended.

As is evident from the reports of the two State Governments, the *prima-facie* reasons for the stampede seem to be inadequate arrangements for crowd control on the occasion of such an important festival. The report of the Government of Uttar Pradesh, for example, states that there were only one Sub-Inspector and one Naib Tehsildar on duty at the bridge. As mentioned by some Members and Home Minister yesterday, there have been mismanagement and lack of proper precautions on the part of the authorities. The detailed reasons for the tragedy will, no doubt, be available as soon as the inquiry reports come in. But we hope that the other State Governments would, in the light of these incidents, issue appropriate directions to their field officers to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I am sure Members would like to seek clarifications on this statement. You can do it tomorrow.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, tomorrow.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Now, I adjourn the House till 11.00 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at sixteen minutes past eight of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 18th July, 1996.