

a Commission of Enquiry under the Commission of Enquiry Act, 1952 presided over by Shri Justice B. N. Srikrishna. The Commission will enquire into the riots which occurred in the Bombay Police Commissionerate in December, 1992 and January, 1993. The Commission, according to its terms of reference is required to enquire into the adequacy or otherwise of the precautionary and preventive measures taken; the adequacy of the steps taken by the police to control the riots including the justification of Police firing; and the responsibility or otherwise of any individuals or any organisation for the events. It is further required to suggest the long and short term measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents and to secure communal harmony. The Commission has to submit its report to the State Government within a period of six months from the date of publication of the Notification in the Official Gazette.

(d) According to the information furnished by the State Government, 757 persons were killed in Bombay during the riots in December, 1992 and January, 1993. Information regarding the losses suffered by the people during the riots in Bombay is not available.

(e) According to the information available, the State Government have disbursed Rs. 1225 lakhs to the riot victims in Maharashtra so far which includes the amount disbursed in Bombay.

The State Government have taken a number of measures for the rehabilitation of the victims like providing financial and other assistance through local area committees constituted for the purpose.

Security to press people

2787. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MBEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Press People have to go to vulnerable points for proper coverage of the events;

(b) whether Government have issued separate precise and detailed instructions to the Civil, administrative and para-military authorities to provide facilities to the Press People;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to avoid the repetition of happenings to the Press People after the Ayodhya experience; and

(d) what measures have been taken to compensate the injured people and loss of their equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) Since 'public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to ensure that Press persons do not suffer any threat of bodily harm while discharging their duties. However, the Central Government have issued guidelines from time to time to the State Governments regarding providing necessary protection and security to journalists wherever the situation so demands so that they may discharge their professional duties effectively and in an independent manner. The Ministry of Labour have informed that they have requested all State Governments/UTs in August, 1991 to add the category of 'Newspaper employees on outdoor duties' to the list of hazardous occupation specified in Schedule-II of the work men's Compensation Act. This would make newspaper employees eligible for compensation under the Act. With regard to incident in Ayodhya, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh have decided to give compensation of Rs. 10,000/- to the seriously injured and Rs. 5,000/- as compensation to those who are sustained minor injury.

(Transferred to 26th March, 1993)

Temples destroyed in Kerala in December, 1992

2789. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that temples were destroyed in Kerala State in De-

ember, 1992; if so, what is the number of temples that were desecrated;

(b) how many deaths reported during the recent communal riots in Kerala; and

(c) what amount has been sanctioned/paid to the family members of the victims of the communal frenzy, the details be provided-

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid down on the table of the House.

(b) 17 deaths were reported in Kerala during the recent communal riots.

(c) According to the information available so far, a sum of Rs. 7.2 lakhs has been disbursed to the riot victims. Of this, Rs. 6.75 lakhs have been given to the next of kin of those killed in riots.

Regularising the services of contract labour at L.P.G. Bottling Plant

2790. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to regularise the jobs of contract labourers who are engaged in the filling shed at the L.P.G. Bottling Plant of Indian Oil Corporation, Suchipind, Jalandhar, Punjab, for the last ten years; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The contract labourers are employees of registered contractors, for specific periods and for specific jobs. As they are not employees of ICC, the question of their regularisation does not arise.

Violations of safety procedures at LPG Bottling Plant, Jalandhar

2791. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contract labourers of L.P.G. Bottling Plant of the Indian Oil Corporation at Suchipind, Jalandhar are engaged in work which contravenes the clause 4.6.7 of the Report of Committee set up to review safety and operating procedures in L.P.G. filling, transportation and distribution dated 21st November, 1983;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the contractors employing labour in the said plants also violated the recommendation made by Ministry of Petroleum in the same report under clause 4.6.9 to provide safety gear; and

(d) what steps have been taken to implement the recommendations of the Committee so far;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) According to M/s. Indian Oil Corporation, in line with the cited clause of the report, the contract labourers engaged for handling cylinder loading/unloading and the truck crew are confined to areas earmarked for such operations. Since the haulage contract labour is not carrying out any activity connected with filling, testing, evacuation and cold repair of cylinders, no safety gear is prescribed.

Subsidy on LPG and Kerosene

@2792. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state what subsidy is given to LPG per cylinder as well as to kerosene oil per litre?

@Previously unstarred question 1648, transferred from 9th March 1993