

बिकोगे, बेभाव गिरोगे और बिकोगे। वे तो अपने आप चले गये मगर जैसे और माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा, कल्पनाथ जी कह रहे थे कि रिजर्वेशन खत्म कराने की बात सोच रहे थे तब जब जनता पार्टी का राज था। फिर इंदिरा जी को बधाई दिये वगैरह मैं नहीं रह सकता कि दुबारा 10 साल के लिए हरिजनों तथा जनजातियों के रिजर्वेशन का संशोधन लेकर मदन से पास कराया। ये सब ऐसी बातें हैं जिन पर हमें ध्यान करना चाहिए। यह राष्ट्रीय प्रश्न है और राजनीति से ऊपर उठा हुआ सवाल है मैं डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया को याद किये वगैरह नहीं रह सकता हूँ। 67 में जब उत्तर भारत में हमारी कांग्रेस पार्टी नहीं रही, एस०वी०डी० की गवर्नमेंट बनी तो लोहिया जी मात्र ऐसे लीडर थे जिन्होंने सारे राज्यों में 60 फीसदी राजनीतिक सत्ता हरिजन, बैंकवर्ड क्लासेज के लोगों को दिलवाई। लीडर और भी थे। उसके बाद इन पार्टियों का जिस तरह से बंटवारा हुआ आपको उसकी बहुत जानकारी है लेकिन सारे राज्यों में विशेषकर उत्तर भारत में, 60 फीसदी-डा० लोहिया जी की बदौलत राजनीतिक सत्ता में हरिजन और बैंकवर्ड लोगों की माझेदारी दी गयी। यह सत्ता ऐसी चीज है कि इसमें जाने से स्वतः ही उस समाज के लोगों में गौरव बढ़ता है और सरकार में काम अपने आप होने लगते हैं। यह जरूर होना चाहिए। हमारे जो कमीशन बनते हैं चुनाव के, उनमें भी हरिजन और इन लोगों को टाप पर चुनाव आदि का चैयरमैन बना दीजिए तब यह समस्या अपने आप हल हो जायेगी और अगर हल न हो तो फिर वे लोग जिम्मेदार होंगे हमने तुम्हारा चैयरमैन बना दिया, तुम नहीं अमल कर पा रहे हो तो हम क्या करें। ऐसा नहीं हो पा रहा है, जरूरी है कि अगर हम रिजर्वेशन का सही फायदा इन जातियों को देना चाहते हैं जो बहुत काल से आर्थिक, सामाजिक सब तरह की यातनाओं के शिकार रहे हैं तो हम चुनाव बोर्डों में, चुनाव के चैयरमैन या राजनीतिक सत्ता में जहाँ से लोगों पर असर होता है

वहाँ इन लोगों को ले तभी हम समझते हैं कि सच्चाई से इन गरीबों को मदद करेंगे।

रिजर्वेशन के सवाल पर उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, कुछ अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ताकतें हमारे देश में किस तरह से काम कर रही हैं मुझसे ज्यादा ज्ञान शायद आपको होगा। चाहे गुजरात में रिजर्वेशन का सवाल हो या उस पर आन्दोलन कराया जा रहा हो चाहे कहीं और जगह से कराया जा रहा हो यह सब बहारी ताकतों का षडयंत्र है। फिर भी हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी ने अनेक बार कहा है कि रिजर्वेशन के सवाल को हटाने का हमारा कोई इरादा नहीं है, कई बार उनके बयान आये हैं और प्रधान मंत्री श्री राजीव जी हमारे गरीबों के बीच में जाकर जनजातियों के बीच में जाकरके जिस तरह से चेतना पैदा कर रहे हैं, सरकारी सर्विसेज में या उन लोगों में जो ऐसी दी हुई सहायताओं को पहुँचाना नहीं चाहते हैं...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष कुमार साहु): आप कल बोलेंगे या आज ही...

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : ठीक है, कल बोलूंगा।

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Gas Leakage at Shriram Foods and Fertilisers Industries Plant in Delhi

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SAN TOSH KUMAR SAHU) : Now, I ask Mr Sangma to make his statement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : Sir, I deeply regret to inform the House that today morning at about 10.30 A.M. a leakage of gas occurred from the precincts of the factory of Messrs Shriram Foods & Fertilisers Industries Plant located at Shivaji Marg, Delhi. The leakage of liquid oleum resulted from a damage to the outlet pipeline of the oleum storage tank, arising out of the collapse of the supporting structure of the tank. The plant personnel made attempts to neutralise the leakage with the help of lime and copious quantities of water. Some of the liquid reacted with the water and formed thick fumes containing steam and possibly gaseous sulphur trioxide which moved in easterly direction. The plant personnel

were assisted by the members of the fire brigade which reached there promptly. The Lt. Governor and other officials from the Delhi Administration and Government of India also reached the site promptly.

The fumes caused coughing and irritations to the throat and the eyes and breathlessness of the persons exposed thereto. As per available information, the details of persons who reported to hospitals is as follows :—

S.No. Name of Hospital

1.	Jai Prakash Narain Hospital	70 examined/12 admitted
2.	Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.	31 examined/23 admitted
3.	All India Institute of Medical Sciences	43 examined/6 serious admitted
4.	Safdarjang Hospital	25 admitted
5.	Hindu Rao Hospital	31 admitted/3 serious
6.	Ashok Vihar Hospital	3 admitted
7.	Javodhya Hospital	3 admitted
8.	Balak Ram Hospital	2 examined/2 admitted

None of the persons working in the Sulphuric Acid/Oleum plant has been effected. The sulphuric acid/oleum plant is closed. The work on neutralisation of oleum is continuing. One General Manager, Plant Manager and Plant Engineer of the company have been arrested. The Lt. Governor, Delhi has taken a decision to order an enquiry into the accident.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU) : There are many names. I am asking the Members one by one for asking clarifications. Shri Sukomal Sen.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal) : Sir, perhaps this is a b-fitting commentary. When the country is mourning the Bhopal victims and Bhopal is observing the second year of its tragedy, this has happened. This issue of industrial pollution and its alarming effects were discussed many times in this House. After the Bhopal gas tragedy, it was discussed at length in the House and the Minister assured the House that they will take serious action against the offenders and deterrent punishment will be given to them. They will see to it that this tragedy does not recur in future. Only a few days back, we discussed in this House another incident of gas leakage near NOIDA where one man died and several others were seriously affected and taken to hospital. On 2nd December, the country observed the first anniversary of the dark tragedy at Bhopal. Today is the 4th December and we hear from the Minister that a serious incident has taken place in Delhi itself through gas leakage. According to the Minister's figures. I do not know how far it is correct—217 persons have been affected. Either they have been examined or admitted in the hospital or found in serious condition. So, it is a very serious thing...

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU) : Please ask only clarifications.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : In spite of the tragedy in Bhopal and in spite of the repeated assurance by the Minister on the floor of the House, these things are continuing to occur in this country and in the city of Delhi. After what happened at Bhopal and after repeated assurances given by the Minister in the House several times, I want to know what deterrent actions have been taken to see to it that these things do not recur in future. The Government machinery has gone into it and investigated the Bhopal gas tragedy and the subsequent tragedies of industrial pollution that have taken place in the country in several places, in NOIDA a few days back and before that in Bombay. What is the result of the enquiry ? Who are the offenders ? In regard to the Bhopal tragedy, I regret to say that even the report of the Vardharajan Committee has not been tabled on the Table of the House and we are in the dark about what actually happened there, what type of gas emitted and what type of injuries were suffered by the people. No body knows all these things as yet. There are so many surmises. It has appeared in the newspapers that even cyanide gas was emitted in Bhopal.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU) : Please ask only clarifications.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : I want to know what action the Government has taken particularly against the offenders of the industrial pollution in this country which occurred Bombay and in NOIDA and elsewhere after the Bhopal gas tragedy. What is the type of inspection that they have carried out inside the factories which produce these toxic gases and other harmful gases ? What is the mechanism of investigation ?

Then, Sir, what is the Government doing about this particular incident that has occurred today in Delhi ? What type of inspection are

they going to carry out in this matter ? And they have arrested one officer or some other officers. What sort of compensation are they going to provide to the victims ? And what special arrangements they are making to have them properly medically treated ? We know that the victims are sent to various hospitals. And they are left at the mercy of the hospitals and they are not getting proper treatment. What is the Government doing in that respect ?

श्री जे.जे.जे. (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, का भोगल में हुई दुर्घटना का वर्ष पूरा हुआ और सारा देश उस काण्ड को याद कर रहा था और आज यह एक ऐसी दुर्घटना हिन्दुस्तान की राजधानी दिल्ली में हुई है, जिसका असर देश में ही नहीं बल्कि विदेशों में भी इसकी चर्चा होगी कि इतने बड़े देश की राजधानी में इस तरह का काण्ड हो सकता है। तो वहाँ के नागरिक और जनता में यह चर्चा होगी। यह जो देश की राजधानी है, देश को चलाने वाले अफसर और नेता यहाँ बैठे हैं, यह एक बहुत गम्भीर समस्या है कि किस तरह से हमारे देश के साथ कोई भी व्यक्ति खिलवाड़ कर सकता है। मुझे याद है इसी सदन में जब एक चर्चा हो रही थी तो गत वर्ष मैंने इसी श्रीराम केमिक्ल्स के बारे में अपने भाषण में यह कहा था कि शहर के बीचों-बीच इस कारखाने का बना रहना बहुत खतरनाक साबित हो सकता है। यह रिकार्ड का बात मैं कह रहा हूँ। लेकिन लगता है कि इस कारखाने के मालिक का कुछ स्तर पर प्रभाव है और कौन इसके मालिक है, इसको जानकारी तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से लेना चाहूँगा कि इसके मालिक कौन हैं और जो यहाँ की प्रोसीडिंग होती है, जो हमारे माननीय सदस्य अपने यहाँ पर विचार रखते हैं, तो क्या उस प्रोसीडिंग को सिफ लाइब्रेरी के अन्दर या फाइल के अन्दर ही रख दिया जाता है या हमारे अधिकारीगण उसका विश्लेषण करके उसपर अपनी राय देते हैं और यदि राय दी जाती है, तो क्या कार्यवाही की जाती है ? सदस्यों की जो भावना होती है जो उनके उदगार होते हैं, जो अपने वक्तव्य करते हैं, उसके ऊपर अधिकारियों और

मंत्रालय ने क्या कदम उठाए। मैं एक प्रश्न यह मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ।

दूसरी बात कौन इस कंपनी के मालिक हैं ? जवरल मैनेजर को गिरफ्तार किया गया ? ठीक है। लेकिन जिन लोगों के स्वार्थ इसके अन्दर निहित हैं, उन व्यक्तियों के खिलाफ मंत्री महोदय ने कार्यवाही क्यों नहीं की ? इसका उत्तर हिन्दुस्तान के नागरिक चाहते हैं, सिर्फ मैं ही नहीं, इस जगह काण्ड के होने से हिन्दुस्तान का एक-एक नागरिक आपसे इस बात की अपेक्षा करता है कि आप इसका उत्तर दें कि आपने इस कंपनी के मालिकों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही करने में हिचकिचाहट क्यों की है ? एक कर्मचारी, जिसको दो-तीन हजार रुपये मिलते हैं, उसको तो आपने गिरफ्तार किया। ठीक है, उसी जिम्मेदारों होगी। लेकिन मालिकों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही क्यों नहीं हुई ? कृपया यह बताएं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, 15 किलोमीटर तक इस गैस का प्रभाव हुआ। साढ़े दस बजे यह गैस सारी जगह फैली और अब छह बजे हैं। क्या यह गैस स्वतः अपने आप आसमान में उड़कर चली गयी ? दिल्ली के नागरिक परेशान हैं। वह यह जानना चाहते हैं कि सरकार ने इस गैस के सम्बन्ध में क्या उपाय किए हैं ? क्या अपने आप उड़कर आसमान में चली गयी या इसको समाप्त करने के लिये सरकार ने कोई उपाय किये हैं ?

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, साढ़े दस बजे यह काण्ड हुआ। दिल्ली के बाजार नी, साढ़े नौ बजे खुल जाते हैं, दूध की दुकानें मुबह से खुल जाती हैं और बहुत सा खाने-पीने का सामान दुकानों के ऊपर खुला रहता है। क्या इस गैस का प्रभाव वहाँ दुकानों में रखी खाने-पीने की चीजों पर पड़ा या नहीं ? अगर प्रभाव पड़ा है, तो क्या उस सामान को नष्ट कराने के लिये सरकार ने कोई उपाय किए हैं ? अब यदि उन दुकानदारों का सामान नष्ट कराया जाता है, तो क्या उनको

श्री जे. के. जैन]

कंपनसेशन देने के बारे में सरकार ने कुछ उपाय निकाले हैं या नहीं ?

इन बातों को सारे सदन में आप बतायें क्योंकि हम लोग और सारे देश के लोग सरकार से इसकी अपेक्षा करते हैं कि इन सारी चीजों का निवारण सरकार तुरन्त करे।

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, we are shocked to hear this news. Our hearts go with the people who have suffered and are taking treatment in the hospitals. I wish them all recovery. Sir, Bhopal was turned into a gas chamber. Thousands were killed. Even among those who survived hundreds and thousands are suffering the tortures of hell even today.

Sir, from the statement given by the Minister I would like to point out that it has been mentioned there that the leakage of liquidolium resulted from a damage to the outlet pip line of the oleum storage tank, arising out of the collapse of the supporting structure of the tank. That means that the supporting structure of the tank was already in a damaged condition. All of a sudden the collapse could not take place. In that case what was the factory management doing? Anticipating the collapse of the structure they could have taken precautionary measures.

Sir, the statement further says that the plant personnel made attempts to neutralise the leakage with the help of lime and copious quantities of water, that some of the liquid reacted with the water and formed this fumes containing steam and possibly gaseous sulphur trioxide which moved in the eastern direction. Sir, the poisonous gas was produced by the idiocy and foolish attempts of those persons in the factory who tried to neutralise the leakage with the help of lime and water. So the liquid reacted with the water. I want to know from the Minister whether the management employed technical experts in that factory. In that case what were that technical experts doing?

Sir, these factory owners are minting money. They are playing with the lives of the people. A serious accident was about to happen. At that time the factory personnel themselves have produced this poisonous gas. It is a shame to witness such a crime under the very nose of the Central Government in the capital city. (Tins bell-rings) Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether any warning was given to the people immediately through loud-speakers in the streets to take precautionary measures because already the poisonous gas was afloat in the air, it is a very serious

matter. The people may be affected by this poisonous gas today or tomorrow or day after. The people who are responsible for running the factory must be booked. They must be prosecuted. Severe action should be taken against them. Otherwise, I am afraid, one day poisonous fumes will come to Parliament also.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय: (उत्तर प्रदेश):

6.00 PM आदरणीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय मैं गृह मंत्री से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इस प्रकार का कोई नतिगत निर्णय लेती कि इस प्रकार की किसी केमिकल इंडस्ट्री का कोई प्लांट इस देश की राजधानी में या किसी राज्य की राजधानी में नहीं लगेगा ?

दूसरी बात यह है कि इन केमिकल इंडस्ट्रीज में सरकारी इन्स्पेक्टर होते हैं जो कि इन टैंक्स की जांच करते हैं कि वे ठीक हैं या नहीं ठीक हैं ? क्या उन का प्रेशर है ? आदि चीजों की जांच के लिये इन्स्पेक्टर होते हैं। उनको अब तक बर्खास्त किया गया या नहीं ? उनके खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाई हुई या नहीं ? दूसरी बात यह कि जो इस फैक्टरी के मालिक हैं चरत राम भरत राम वह गिरफ्तार किए गए या नहीं ? मैं आपसे मांग करता हूँ कि इनको गिरफ्तार किया जाए और इनके ऊपर मर्डर का मुकदमा चलाया जाए, कत्ल का मुकदमा चलाया जाए। जब तक ये खूंखार भेड़िये खून पीने वाले अपराधियों के खिलाफ सख्त कार्यवाई नहीं होगी तब तक ये मानेंगे नहीं। आप गृह मंत्री हैं तो उस इलाके के पुलिस स्टेशन हैं जिसके अन्तर्गत यह घटना घटी है वह भी जिम्मेदार है। वहां का एस०पी०, डी०एस०पी० या जो फैक्टरी में घूमता रहाता है, गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया इंडस्ट्री डिपार्टमेंट का अधिकारी वे सब इसके लिये जिम्मेदार हैं। भोपाल में हजारों लोग मारे गये, इसी तरह बम्बई में भी गैस लोग हुई नोएडा में भी गैस लांक हुई और अब यहाँ दिल्ली में हुई है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह को कितने घटनाएं अब तक घट चुकी हैं। जब तक सरकार इन पूंजपतियों के खिलाफ, इंडस्ट्री लगाने वालों के खिलाफ सख्त के साथ कार्यवाई नहीं करेगी इस तरह का घटना का

पुनरावृत्ति होतः रहेंगी, गरीब इंसान मरते रहेंगे, धनी पशु हमारा खून पीते रहेंगे। मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि जब कई लोग एडमिट हुए, सीरियस कंडिशन है तो कुछ लोग मरे भी होंगे। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस वक्त तक कितने लोग मर गये हैं। अगर सीरियस हैं तो कुछ भी मरे होंगे।

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL (Maharashtra) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, again, we are becoming a witness to a tragedy, right in the capital of this country. Only a year back we witnessed a tragedy in Bhopal, which is a State Capital, which shook the whole world. Later on, there were tragedies of similar type in Bombay, another State Capital, and also in Delhi. Sir, sometimes, we feel, is industrialisation going to be a boon or a curse on humanity? The pollutants and hazards which are the result of this industrialisation are not merely spoiling the environment, but are also engulfing human beings. The loss is colossal both in the form of life of human beings as well as in the economic terms, apart from the hardships and inconveniences which are caused to thousands of people.

I would like to know in this context—may I have the attention of the hon. Minister please—whether any survey has been made in the city of Delhi, after the Bhopal tragedy, regarding the plants where leakages are likely to take place. If such a survey has been made, what has been the result and what action has been taken by the department concerned? I would also like to know whether the measures, legal measures, under the present law, are enough, more stringent measures are called for so as to deal with such situations. I would also like to know whether the staff concerned with inspection and prosecution of the defaulters have been functioning properly, or, are on the payroll of the company concerned, as it appears to be the normal thing in the case of these chemical factories. Sir, the statement says :

“The leakage of liquid oleum resulted from a damage to the outlet pipeline of the oleum storage tank, arising out of the collapse of the supporting structure of the tank. The plant personnel made attempts to neutralise the leakage with the help of lime and copious quantities of water.”

This raises certain basic issues whether this particular sort of support was proper, whether the tank was of proper materials so that it can withstand the type of collapse which was likely to occur any time in future due to one reason or another, whether these people concerned were sufficiently trained in meeting emergencies whenever they arise. Over 200 persons have been admitted to the hospital. The arrests have been made. May I know

whether the Chairman and Managing Director—whether they are Rams or Ravana we are not concerned—are arrested, or whether Government is contemplating arresting them even right now?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is both tragic and ironic that just last evening at about the same time the Government came forward with a statement on the tragic anniversary of Bhopal tragedy and all that that statement contained, one year after Bhopal tragedy had taken place was what the Government now intends to do.

I had participated in asking clarification on that statement also and I had then expressed my deep resentment, my anger, my total dissatisfaction that one year after Bhopal all that the Government could then do yesterday, in a public relations exercise kind of statement was to come forward and say “we are now considering what measures need to be taken”. I had occasion yesterday to point this out to the hon. Minister that that was an insult to all those who had died in Bhopal, it is an insult to all those who are crippled and are made to live a life which is sub-human. I am very unhappy that what I had to say in this House yesterday at about the same time has found sustenance and has now found support in a tragedy of this kind in the capital city.

The present is not an occasion for me to elaborate at length on the criminal negligence of authorities in any such industrial tragedy that takes place. I am informed by the hon. Minister that an enquiry has been ordered. I do not think Government has done a very great deed in coming to the House and informing us that an enquiry has been ordered. The enquiry will take place. The Bhopal enquiry is still to be completed. We had made a demand about the Vardarajan Committee Report. That Committee's report has yet to emerge. What good does it do if an enquiry is ordered? I will ask three or four specific questions because it is a totally distressing event.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : It is criminal negligence of Charat Ram.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Of authorities and management both.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU) : Please ask questions.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Now I will ask the questions that I have to ask. Firstly, the question of preventive measures and prior knowledge. There has been a reference made to it by some other speakers. Had the Government of India, the Delhi Administration, whichever authorities are concerned, including the owners of this plant which is in the heart of a thickly populated part of Delhi and not just the officials who manage

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the plant, ever emphasised, was it over emphasised on these owners that there is need for special care in the functioning of this plant, because it is in the heart of a populated area leave alone my observation about what the Government has failed to do so far one year after Bhopal. What is then totally distressing is the performance of the fire fighting department. The hon. Minister says that the plant personnel made attempts to neutralise the leakage—and then goes on to describe—"with the help of lime and copious quantities of water". And two or three lines later inadvertently perhaps but so tellingly, the Minister has this to say : "The plant personnel were assisted by the members of the fire brigade which reached there promptly". Were they assisted ? Did the fire brigade assist in committing this criminality ? Did the fire brigade have no knowledge that if they had to contend with a chemical accident in the heart of the capital, it is not merely by treating it with water and lime that they will be able to cope with it ? One year after Bhopal the Delhi Fire Brigade is assisting the plant personnel by spreading water over it. You assist the plant personnel, but there is not a word in the Minister's statement about what the fire fighting unit was doing and you are telling us that they assisted in the commitment of this criminality. I am amazed at the sheer puerile, childish, ill-educated statements with which the Government comes forward in the face of the grimmest of the grim human tragedies. This is an astounding performance for a Government which says, "We work faster." Do you work faster to kill human beings ? Do you work faster to kill Indian citizens ?

I have many questions to ask, but it is futile to ask them from this Government.

सूरज प्रसाद (बिहार) : महोदय, गैस लीकेज की घटना देश में आम बात हो गई है। कुछ समय के बाद इस तरह की बातें हमेशा हम लोगों को सुनने को मिलती हैं जिसमें कुछ लोग मारे जाते हैं और कुछ लोग घायल होते हैं। इस तरह की जो घटनाएँ घट रही हैं वह किसी साधारण कारखाने में नहीं हो रही हैं बल्कि ये घटनाएँ या तो मल्टीनेशनल कारखाने हैं वहाँ हो रही हैं या तो एम०आर०टी०पी० के कारखाने हैं वहाँ हो रही हैं। इस तरह से जो देश के बड़े-बड़े पूँजीपति हैं विश्व के बड़े-बड़े पूँजीपति हैं, उनके द्वारा जो स्थापित कारखाने हैं उन्हीं कारखानों में इस तरह की घटनाएँ देखने को मिलती हैं।

श्रीमन्, मैं सरकार से यह जानना

चाहता हूँ कि जो एम०आर०टी०पी० या मल्टीनेशनल कंपनियों के जो कारखाने हैं और जो इस तरह से शहरों के बीच स्थापित हैं तो इन कारखानों द्वारा होने वाली इस तरह की दुर्घटनाओं से वहाँ के लोगों की रक्षा के लिये सरकार ने क्या कोई दीर्घकालीन योजना बनाई है ?

दूसरी बात, कि यह जो समाचार है कि गैस लीकेज के कारण यूनिवर्सिटी चांदनी चौक और तीस हजारी के लोग प्रभावित हैं तो जो खतरनाक गैस इन इलाकों में फैली है इससे वहाँ के लोगों की रक्षा के लिये सरकार ने क्या-क्या कदम उठाये हैं ?

तीसरी बात, मैं सरकार से जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या सरकार ने उस कारखाने की जांच पहले कराई थी कि यह जो पाइप लाइन है इसकी अवस्था कैसी है ? क्या सरकार ने, जो लोग घायल हुए हैं—मरे हैं कि नहीं यह सूचना नहीं है—लेकिन जो घायल हुए हैं तो सरकार ने उनको मुआवजा देने के लिये क्या क्या कदम उठाये हैं ? क्या सरकार यह बतायेगी कि इस घटना में कोई व्यक्ति मरा है या नहीं ?

अंत में मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहूँगा कि सरकार ने इस कारखाने के मालिक के खिलाफ क्या कदम उठाया है ?

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have questions to seek assurances from the Minister.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): You ask clarifications. He can clarify.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Little did I realise that I would have to stand once again within hardly 24 hours to ask questions on a tragedy which is similar to the one which happened about a year ago.

Having stated this, I would like to ask the Minister, in view of the fact that the supporting structure has fallen down, leading to the particular leakage of gas, whether he will assure the House that he will bring forward appropriate changes in the Factories Act so that there is inbuilt mechanism of inspection and monitoring of the existence

of the factories and the processes. This is the first one.

Secondly, his statement has also brought out the woeful state of affairs with regard to meeting of such calamitous situations. I would like to ask and get an assurance from the Minister that in future the Minister will see to it that all the factories have the capacity to meet a situation of this nature and neutralize the possibility of leakage of any gas or anything in those factories. Therefore, will the Minister assure the House that not merely will efforts be made to incorporate neutralizing machinery within the factories but that necessary training will also be imparted to the personnel who have to be there, and further that such personnel will not fail in their duty leading to such calamitous situations as the ones which are happening.

Thirdly, I am glad that the I. t. Governor who happened to be our colleague till very recently, has ordered an enquiry.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra) : That is not correct. He has taken a decision to order an enquiry.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Anyway, I stand corrected. What is more important is that whether the Minister would assure us that an appropriate enquiry will be constituted? Whether a time-limit will be kept on the part of the enquiry to submit a report? Then only we will be knowing exactly what are the factors that have given rise to this alarming situation. Otherwise the whole concept of enquiry will become an eye-wash as it has been in the case of Bhopal gas tragedy.

Finally, I would like to have an assurance from the Minister that the fire fighting machinery will be equipped not merely for fighting fire in the normal conventional sense, but also in such situations as the ones which have been happening. It is not merely using hydrant and pouring water. The fire fighting personnel should also know the rudiments for meeting any such situations.

Therefore, I would like to seek an assurance from the Minister that these efforts will be made in future. Thank you.

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : पहली शिकायत मुझे चैयर से है मतलब जो भी यहाँ बैठते हैं आप से मतलब नहीं है मेरा। मैंने नोयडा के कांड को अखबारों में पढ़ा स्पेशल मेशन दिया सोमवार की उस में लिखा हुआ था कि जहाँ नोयडा में एक आदमी मारा गया और 85 आदमी बेहोश हुए यह घटना दिल्ली पर भी आ सकती है। मैंने यह आशंका व्यक्त की थी कि दिल्ली में भी

ऐसी घटना हो सकती है, गवर्नमेंट इसके बारे में क्या कर रही है। मेरा स्पेशल मेशन रिजक्ट कर दिया। क्या मैं रोज इसी लड़ाई को लड़ूँ कि मेरी बात मानी जाय या सुनी जाय। लेकिन रिजक्ट कर दिया गया। हम भी अखबार पढ़ते हैं। मैं सरकार से कहना चाहता हूँ अगर हमारे सरकारी अधिकारियों के नोटिस में नहीं आती है कोई बातें जो देश के लिए दुखद घटना बन जाती हैं तो माननीय सदस्य जो इस हाउस में बोलते हैं उनके विचारों को हर विभाग से लेकर मंत्रियों तक पहुंचाना चाहिए। आखिर यह सदस्य नुमाइंदे हैं व जनता के बीच में रहते हैं वहाँ की भावनाओं को लाते हैं अखबार मंत्रियों से ज्यादा पढ़ते हैं। सरकारी अफसरों से ज्यादा अखबार पढ़ते हैं, इनको जो जानकारी होती है इनकी बातों को हर विभाग द्वारा और मंत्रि परिषद् द्वारा नोट किया जाना चाहिए, उनके नोटिस में सारी बातें आनी चाहिए।

दूसरी मेरी शिकायत यह है कि इस स्टेटमेंट का हिन्दी अनुवाद नहीं मिला। मैंने अनुवाद लाने के लिए कहा। जब किसी सवाल की हिन्दी में मांगते हैं तो कहते हैं कि हिन्दी के सवाल खत्म हो गए। इसके मायने यह है कि हिन्दी की उपेक्षा है इस सदन में भारी उपेक्षा है। मुझे रोज झगड़ा करना पड़ता है अब घर से एजेंडा में लाता नहीं हूँ।

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह उद्योग दिल्ली में रहे या नहीं रहे इस मामले को मैं पहले से उठाता रहा हूँ। वायु दूषण को आप रोकना चाहते हैं और वायु दूषण के लिए फैक्टरी भी लगवाते जा रहे हैं। यह डबल नीति बहुत घातक नीति है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि दिल्ली से ऐसे उद्योगों की जिनसे ऐसी गैस या बीमारी फैल सकती है। दिल्ली से सी डेढ़ सी मील की दूरी पर पहुंचवा दें। यह सारे सदन की राय है। फैक्टरी मैनेजर को तो जेल भेज दिया परन्तु मालिकों के बारे में आप क्या सोचने जा रहे हैं?

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : चरत राम को अरेस्ट किया जाए। (गवधान)

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ मैं मंत्री जी का वक्तव्य सुन रहा था जिस में उन्होंने कहा कि फला फला अस्पताल में इतने मरेंगे पटुव गए हैं। उनकी हलत के बारे में अगर कुछ जानकारी है वह मृत प्रायः तो नहीं हैं बहुत बड़ी खतरनाक हालत में तो नहीं हैं। उनको किस कैटगरी में रखेंगे। आखिर इन लोगों की क्या दशा है। जैसे कि नोयडा के बारे में समाचार पत्रों में आया कि दो की मृत्यु हो गयी और 85 बेहोश हो गए दिल्ली में जो यह गैस निकली है मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसका प्रभाव दिल्ली में कितनी दूरी पर हुआ है? किस गति से गैस का प्रभाव हुआ? उसकी गति सीमा क्या रही? क्या उसको फौरन रोक दिया गया है या उसका प्रसार अभी जारी है? ये ऐसे ज्वलंत सवाल हैं जिनका जबाब हमें गृह मंत्री जी दें।

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh):
Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this is a very sad incident that should have been allowed to take place in Delhi the seat of the Central Government. Now, the Government appears to have drawn no lesson from the Bhopal disaster. The issue is, whether any instructions have been issued in various parts of the country after the Bhopal disaster that such units which can cause gas leakage should be closed down or due precautions are taken? The question is why such a incident took place or was allowed to take place in Delhi? Why were precaution not taken and why factories should not have been removed far away from Delhi? This portion is pertinent because of the NOIDA incident where two persons died and 85 persons were affected and a Delhi newspaper published today, forecast today that such a gas leakage is going to take place in Delhi, then why were the precautions not taken? My colleague tells me that he himself read it in the *Hindustan*, Delhi newspaper.

Then the question is; was this gas leakage dangerous or not? Was it like Bhopal gas or not and the Government should also find out whether there was any sabotage by any subversive element because if there was any sabotage, it is very dangerous because the Govt. of India is located here. I want these answers.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO; (Jammu and Kashmir): Sir, I would like to ask a few questions from the Minister. The fumes caused coughing and irritation to the throat and the eyes and breathlessness of the persons exposed thereto. I would like

to know, on the basis of the advice froms his Scientific Advisor, whether this gas a kin to the MIC gas leakage in Bhopal or this gas is as poisonous as MIC gas was? My second question is : he had not said in his statement the areas in Delhi affected by this gas. He may tell us which areas have been affected by this gas leakage in Delhi?

ठाकुर जगत पाल सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश) : आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं आज की गैस में खुद घिर गया था। उस समय मैं तीस-हजारी कोर्ट में था चूंकि रिटर्निंग आफिसर के यहां चुनाव के संबंध में मीटिंग बुलाई गयी थी। जिस वक्त मैं कोर्ट में था, वहां से बाहर निकला तो क्लाउड की तरह स पूरे तीस हजारी के अंदर गैस भर गयी। चूंकि भोपाल में देखा था कि क्या करना होगा फौरन ही रूमाल पानी से भिगोकर हम लोगों ने बाहर भागने की कोशिश की। मेरे साथ एक लर्नेड वकील भी थे बमुश्किल तमाम भीड़ में बाहर निकलकर आये। त्राहि त्राहि मची हुई थी, किसी तरह का डाइ-रेक्शन नहीं था, अनाउसमेंट नहीं था और वहां से कार से जब हम भागे तो कारों का तांता लगा हुआ था, पंडित नेहरू जी की समाधि तक गैस ही गैस दिखाई दे रही थी कोई किसी को दिखाई नहीं पड़ रहा था। मैं आदरणीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जिस वक्त वहां से लीकेज हुई क्या आपने अस्पतालों को यह इस्ट्रक्शन दिया कि यह पता लगायें यह कौन सा गैस है। मुझे अब भी पेन हो रहा है, खांसी हो रही थी उस समय दम घुटने लगा था और मैं नाम नहीं लेना चाहता अभी कहीं डाक्टर के पास गया तो उन्होंने कहा हमें यह मालूम नहीं है कि वह यह कौन सी गैस है और क्या उसका इलाज है इसलिए आप पानी पीते रहिए। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या अभी तक डाइरेक्ट्रेट ने अस्पतालों को यह बताया है कि यह कौन सी गैस है। मैं आपसे नर्म निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान के चारों तरफ खतरनाक शक्तियां इस देश को मिटाना चाहती हैं। जो कारखाने शहर के अंदर हैं हमें तुरंत एक पालिसी मैटर बनाना होगा कि ऐसे कारखानों को शहर से बाहर निकाला जाये नहीं तो कभी भी कोई भी खतरा इस मुल्क को हो सकता है और उसके अंदर हमारी सरकार खतरे में पड़ सकती है।

दूसरी बात मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिन अधिकारियों ने उस का इन्स्पेक्शन किया, उसमें इन्स्पेक्टर होते हैं, इन्स्पेक्टर से ऊपर और आफिसर्स होते हैं उन को फौरन अरेस्ट किया जाये और उन अधिकारियों को तुरंत सस्पेंड किया जाये। सुपरवाइजरी स्टाफ के क्योंकि उनके सामने यह बात आ चुकी थी। आज सुबह मेरे मित्र ने कहा और मैंने भी पढ़ा कि दिल्ली में गैस रिसन होने वाली है। वे ज्योतिषी थे क्या या कोई जो उनको जानकारी थी तो इसकी इन्क्वायरी कराना जरूरी है। न्यूजपेपर्स में भी यदि उन्होंने लिखा था तो उसका कोई न कोई आधार होगा और आज यही हुआ। इसके अंदर आपने यह भी नहीं बताया कि जो मरीज अस्पतालों में दाखिल हुए हैं उनके लिए सरकार ने क्या मदद की है। जो सीरियस है, उनके लिए क्या कंपेंसेशन दिया जा रहा है? तो मैं इस बात पर ज्यादा बोलना नहीं चाहता हूँ क्योंकि मेरी तबीयत ज्यादा ठीक नहीं है। लेकिन मैं केवल इतना कह सकता हूँ कि आप अपने सभी होस्पिटलों को इन्स्ट्रक्शन दें, क्योंकि लोग भाग रहे थे, 10-10, 20-20, 30-30, 40-40, मील वे लोग बाहर तक गए हैं, इसलिए हर होस्पिटल को आप इन्स्ट्रक्शन दे दें कि वहां जो लोग पहुंच उनका सही इलाज हो और उसका यह ईलाज है यह उन्हें पता होना चाहिए। क्योंकि भोपाल में भी यही हुआ था। लोग बाहर भाग-भाग कर डर के मारे चले गए लेकिन अस्पतालों में पहुंचे तो वहां उन्हें यह भी मालूम नहीं था कि कौन सी गैस थी और उसका क्या इलाज है। इसलिए सरकार को तुरन्त ही प्रीकाशन लेनी चाहिए। दूसरे जो भगदड़ मच उठी उसमें काफी लोगों को चोटें भी लग सकती हैं। उसका भी सर्वे कराना चाहिए। चाहिए। मैं मंत्री महोदय से चाहूंगा कि वह इस ओर ध्यान दें और इसकी छान-बीन कराएं कि यह कहीं कोई सेवोटेज तो नहीं है, कहीं कोई षडयंत्र तो नहीं है। क्योंकि एक माल हुआ है भोपाल की ट्रेजरी को और आग अभी ठंडी भी नहीं हुई थी कि एक और ट्रेजरी हो गई। इसमें कोई न कोई रहस्य है। मैं आपका धन्यवादी हूँ कि आपने मुझे समय दिया।

SHRI JAGESH DESAI : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask only two questions. When was this factory inspected

by the Factory Inspector? Was the Factory Inspector who was sent there a person qualified in chemical engineering and one who knew the hazards of chemicals? Thirdly, I would like to know whether he has given any report or he only got his periodical instalment and went away. Lastly, the last sentence of the statement says: "The Lt. Governor, Delhi has taken a decision to order an enquiry into the accident." I would like to know whether he has already ordered it or not and who is the person who is heading the enquiry. These are my questions.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): The Minister.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : पूरे सदन की मांग है कि चरत राम को अरेस्ट किया जाए।

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, I fully share the concern of the House regarding the incident that has taken place and it is really very unfortunate—and, in fact, I myself feel very bad about it—that within a few days I had to come before the House twice to make a statement on the same matter. I also feel very sorry about that. Whatever information I have furnished to the House, I have furnished on the basis of what was available. Most of the queries that hon. Members have raised are very much technical in nature and I am afraid I am not a competent authority to answer all those questions. But as some of the hon. Members have already pointed out, this House had an opportunity to discuss about this particular matter on a number of occasions, and specially on the Bhopal tragedy. Whatever queries have been raised today had been raised earlier and the concerned Ministry and the Department had already given those answers. Even I had given a little bit of it last time. I would not like to repeat....

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Never a sati factory answer.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I am admitting it. I won't be able to give a satisfactory answer. I happened to give information because Delhi Administration is supposed to be under our Ministry. But as the nature of the incident of the incident or the nature of the industry does not fall under my administrative control technically, I am unable to answer all the questions. And I would not like to give any answer which I am not myself clear about. That is why I am saying this. But as far as the enquiry is concerned, Professor Lakshmana asked whether any appropriate enquiry will be conducted. It is precisely because we want to conduct an appropriate enquiry that we have not been able to announce the enquiry committee today, because in my own personal feeling, this enquiry should be conducted or

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headed by a technical persons because it is a technical subject. So there is no point in just announcing a committee of enquiry. Therefore, the Lt. Governor has sought the assistance of the Chemicals Ministry to suggest an expert who can really go into the whole matter. But I can only assure the House

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal) : Will he be a non-official or an official expert ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : We will put an expert on it.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : A non-official expert or an official expert like Varadarajan ?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I Will not be able to commit

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : Would you suggest that a non-official expert should be inducted ?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : It will be a technical expert. I would not know whether it would be official or non-official. But I will convey to the Lt. Governor that this is what you feel. But it will be a technical expert and beyond that I would not be able to say....
(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Has any study been made as to whether the gas that has leaked is poisonous or not and how it can be removed from the atmosphere ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Experts are going into that. I would not be able to say more. This much we all know it is a very dangerous gas....

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : If you would kindly yield, Mr. Minister, it is not my intent to be alarmist about an event that has already taken place. One would expect of the Government, certainly of the Home Ministry, and the statement itself says that the gas is travelling eastward, and honourable Members have already inquired whether you have neutralised that gas, whether there is a residual gas still floating in the area travelling eastward, out of Delhi towards the villages. What are you doing to warn those villagers ? What have you done to neutralise the gas ? These are legitimate questions. I am sure if the Minister had come forward on his own to make a statement, it would have provided us some satisfaction. I am not asking about the technical aspects of it.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA (Himachal Pradesh) : Is the honourable Minister contemplating to get it projected through different media like Doordarshan and Radio to warn the people of what they have to do in this case ? Every half an hour it

should be broadcast and people should be told, the villagers should be warned and told what to do and what not to do.

श्री राम चन्द्र बिकल : मैं मंत्री जी से चाहता हूँ, उनका पूरा उत्तर नहीं आया टेकनीकल बात कहकर और यह कहकर कि दिल्ली प्रशासन पर मेरा अधिकार नहीं है। दिल्ली प्रशासन तो होम-मिनिस्ट्री के तहत है। यह आप कैसे कहते हैं ?

एक माननीय सदस्य : क्या रेडियो पर अब तक कोई एनाउन्समेंट हुआ है कि हमको क्या प्रीकाशस्त लेनी है ?

SHRI J. K. JAIN : I fully endorse the concern of our honourable Mrs. Usha Malhotra—that there should be announcements on Radio, and TV. The Minister said he is not a technical man, not a technical expert. All right I fully appreciate the Minister is not a technical expert. But he can arrange some sort of announcement on the TV and Radio with special bulletins every half an hour.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU) : What precautionary measures are to be taken should be told to the people. That is what they are asking.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : The honourable lady Member and Mr. Jain have made a very good suggestion. I shall certainly take up this matter with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. What I want to emphasise is that our people around the place are working. They are combing the area to see whether they are any more people who are affected. Wherever they are finding people affected by this, they are moving them to the near by hospitals. People are being told not to be very worried about it. About those who are in the hospital although I have used the word 'serious', I am given to understand that no one is in danger. All of them are out of danger. That much work our people have done. They have been able to go to the spot and neutralise the gas and they are still trying to neutralise more. The affected people have been taken to hospitals. We have certainly taken prompt action from the side of the Delhi Administration. As far as other measures are concerned, as I said, I don't think it will be appropriate for me to say here now anything more than that
(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Have you neutralised that gas which, you have said, is travelling eastwards ? Have you neutralised it ? You said that you people are working at the site. It is neither here nor there. An incident has taken place and the gas has been produced. It is now going or it has gone eastwards since

morning. The question now is very specific : Has that gas, which has travelled eastwards, been neutralised, because it is my under standing that no more gas is being produced ? Has that released gas been neutralised ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU) : So that it will not affect more people.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, I have stated in my statement that the work is going on for neutralisation and that work is still on. I have myself put this question to the Delhi Administration and the police people who have been there as to whether the things are under control. They have given me to understand that things are absolutely under control and there should not be any worry about it. This much I can say now. Whether it has been fully neutralised or not, I am sorry, I am unable to say anything about it now. But they say it is absolutely under control. So, these are the main points raised *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : What about Mr. Charat Ram's arrest ? You tell me about that. *(Interruptions)*.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL : Sir, it is a very simple thing, a simple question. After the Bhopal tragedy, has any survey been conducted in the city of Delhi with a view to finding out whether any such incidents are likely to take place in Delhi ? Sir, we had raised and this issue and we have also raised the issue of the arrest of the Chairman and the Managing Director. I would like to know the arrests have been made or whether he is proposing to make or whether he is going to make any recommendation to that effect. May I suggest, that if the honourable Minister does not have enough information, he may sir, that another statement, an additional statement, tomorrow regarding this matter ? Mr. Minister, kindly gather this information and make a comprehensive statement tomorrow.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU) : Mr. Minister would you like to make a statement tomorrow ? *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : What about the arrest of Mr. Charat Ram ? *(Interruptions)*.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL : Sir, we know that he is not a technical man, but certainly he is a responsible man and he should give answers to the queries. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, a case has been registered

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Against whom ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Three people have already been arrested. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Are you not going to arrest Mr. Charat Ram *(Interruptions)*

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SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : Not only these people should have been arrested. What about the people in the Inspectorate who have inspected it and should made a report ? *(Interruptions)*. Have they been arrested ?

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : This is under the Home Ministry only. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI J. K. JAIN : Sir, he is not giving the reply. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : You arrest Mr. Charat Ram. *(Interruptions)*.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL : Sir, you ask him to make a statement tomorrow.

He has no information. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, the investigation is going on and I can assure the House that the law will take its own course. will not be able to say now as to the who will be arrested and who will not be arrested. But I can assure the House that the matter will be inquired into.....

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : The proprietor of the firm should be arrested. *(Interruptions)*. He should be arrested.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL : We want another statement.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : We want the arrest of Mr. Charat Ram. *(Interruption)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU) : All of you, please sit down.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL : Mr. Minister, why don't you make a statement tomorrow ? Sir, let him give all the information tomorrow.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI : Sir, this is a very serious matter. The statement is very much incomplete. *(Interruptions)*. Let him make another statement tomorrow.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA : Otherwise it will be taken that the Minister has not given the replies. *(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU) : All of you, please sit down. I would like to suggest to the Minister that if he has additional information, he can give that information tomorrow.

The House now stands adjourned till 11:00 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at thirty-nine minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 5th December, 1985.