

Report from the Maharashtra Government on Communal Riots in Bhiwandi

454. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any report from the Maharashtra Government on the communal riots which took place in Bhiwandi recently; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA):

(a) and (b) The Central Government has received the report on communal riots witnessed in Bhiwandi during May, 1984. As per this report, the communal trouble started because of the provocative speeches made by the Shiva Sena leader and distorted version of alleged abuse against Prophet Mohammad carried in certain language papers. In this riot, in Bhiwandi alone 109 persons were killed and 217 persons were injured. 972 persons were arrested during this riot, in Bhiwandi alone. Immediately after the riot broke, the State Government took all possible steps to curb the riot in Bhiwandi. Relief centres for riot victims were opened. The following *ex-gratia* payments were made to the riot victims:

(i) Next of kin of those killed: Rs 5000.

(ii) Those seriously injured: Rs. 2,000.

(iii) Other injured persons: Rs. 1000. Further, the Government of Maharashtra have provided financial assistance for repairs/reconstruction of houses in Bhiwandi.

Price Hike of Steel

455. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have increased the prices of steel by 15 per cent recently;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) how far it is likely to affect the common man and the small scale industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE):

(a) to (c) Due to escalations in costs of production and to provide assistance to the Engineering Goods Exporters, the Joint Plant Committee of main producers of iron and steel had announced on June 21, 1984 an average increase of 15 per cent in the prices of iron and steel. The price increase in respect of items commonly used, such as, bars and rods and GP/GC sheets has been less than even 10 per cent as against the average increase of about 15 per cent. Impact of the increase in price of iron and steel on the economy is expected to be marginal.

Changing of State Cadre of Officers belonging to All India Services

456. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:

SHRI PARVATHANENI: UPENDRA:

SHRI T. THANGABALU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to change the State Cadre of officers belonging to the All India Services so that they could be shifted from one State to another; and