

The mob started indulging in arson and looting in different parts of the town. Police opened fire. 26 shops and a few houses were gutted. 1 person died of stabbing and 1 of bullet injury.

(6) *Aligarh (U. P. October and November 1978)*: Consequent to a rivalry in a wrestling bout and subsequent stabbing of a wrestler belonging to anti-social elements and his death on 5-10-78, anti-social elements resorted to arson, looting and stabbing when his dead body was taken away in a procession. 11 persons were killed and 34 injured. 56 shops/houses were set on fire, looted and the loss to property was about Rs. 3.5 lakhs.

On 6-11-78, rumours spread over a stabbing incident between two persons both belonging to the minority community. Communal trouble again flared up and on 8-11-78 there were several incidents of stabbing and firing by members of public. Police had to open fire. 16 persons lost their lives and 32 were injured in the riots. 34 houses were affected by arson and looting and the loss to property is about Rs. 1.75 lakhs.

Government of Uttar Pradesh have appointed Shri S. K. Verma, former Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, as Commission to inquire into all aspects of the disturbances in Aligarh and submit his report within a period of 4 months.

2. During the corresponding period in 1977, there were 86 incidents of communal nature of which 5 were major.

3. Communal riots have occurred on comparatively small grounds and do not reveal any common pattern. The State Governments are taking all possible steps and remedial measures to check these incidents. The Central Government have also given necessary help to the States by deploying units of CRPF and BSF.

Chief Ministers' Conference on law and order situation

*78. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) when the Conference of Chief Ministers was held to discuss the law and order situation in country;

(b) what was the nature of the discussions held and the decisions taken at the Conference;

(c) whether the reported increase in the incidents of looting and arson in the flood affected areas of Bihar and West Bengal was brought to the notice of the concerned Chief Ministers; if so, what was their reaction; and

(d) whether Government propose to hold such conferences of Chief Ministers regularly to review the law and order situation in the country; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) September 23-24, 1978.

(b) The Chief Ministers gave their views on all aspects of law and order and outlined the various steps taken by them to prevent and contain communal riots, atrocities on Harijans, students and labour unrest, crime activities of Extremists socio-political-agitations etc. A number of Chief Ministers pointed out that the existing provisions in the new Code of Criminal Procedure were inadequate for taking effective preventive action against anti-social elements and criminals. District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police should be given more powers to enable them to take effective preventive action against such elements. According to some of them, existing provisions regarding bail enabled affluent and dangerous criminals to remain at large making investigation difficult. The need for expeditious trial and disposal of cases by courts was also underlined.

(c) The crime situation in the country including Bihar and West Bengal

was discussed. The Chief Ministers of Bihar and West Bengal gave their assessment.

(d) Such conferences will be convened as and when necessary.

Closure of small scale coir factories

*79. SHRI BHAIRAB CHANDRA MAHANTI; SHRI LAKHAN SINGH: SHRI M. R. KRISHNA;

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 4000 small-scale coir factories have recently been closed down in the district of Alleppey in Kerala;

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

(c) what is the number of workers rendered jobless as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) Over 3000 small scale coir factories located in Alleppey and Kottayam districts in Kerala which had stopped production w.e.f. 24-10-78, have resumed work w.e.f. 10th November, 1978.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) About 20,000 workers were affected by the temporary suspension of work by these small scale coir factories.

Statement

The demands of Small Coir Factory owners were as follows:—

(i) Revision of prices based on increase[^] cost of production,

(ii) fixation of prices of fibre and yarn on the basis of controlled prices of husk,

(iii) supply of raw materials such as fibre, yarn, jute and dyes through accredited dealers at fixed prices to small scale producers,

(iv) recognition of cooperatives constituted by small scale coir factory owners,

(v) to evolve new system for collection and distribution of orders among small scale producers,

(vi) to give representation to small scale producers on Coir Board and other committees,

(vii) to grant exemption to small scale factories from payment of sales tax and employment tax,

(viii) to give export assistance to small scale producers also, and

(ix) to stop court proceedings and extend period of repayment of bank loans granted to small scale producers.

Security money from traffic offenders in Delhi

•80. SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH; Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Administration has issued a notification empowering Inspectors of Police to demand security money from traffic offenders as reported in the Indian Express of the 20th October, 1978; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether Government are aware of the legal implications in the adjustment of security money received from offenders; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) The Delhi Administration have issued a notification declaring that the offices of the Traffic Inspectors shall be Traffic Police Stations within the local area specified. A copy of the notification is laid on the Table of the House. A traffic offender is released by the Traffic Inspector U/S 445 Cr. P.C. by