

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

Committee on Subordinate Legislation. This being a Bill which is regularising an earlier lapse—I have also given the reasons why this lapse occurred—I hope this hon. House would approve of this Bill and pass it unanimously.

The question was proposed.

3 P.M.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : If no one wants to speak we can take up the clause by clause consideration also and finish this now.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI : (Rajasthan) : No, no.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN (Kerala) : No, we want to speak.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : All right, we go to the next item then.

MOTION RE SITUATION ARISING OUT OF RECENT COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN AHMEDABAD AND OTHER PLACES IN GUJARAT

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : Before we start discussion on this motion I would like to inform hon. Members that the time allotted for discussion on this is 3 hours and hon. Members will keep the time limit in view so that more and more Members could take part.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, we were told that today this would continue till we finish.

SHRI OM MEHTA (Jammu and Kashmir) : We have no objection to it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : That is what we were told.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, may I, with your permission, move the following motion :

“That the situation arising out of the recent communal disturbances in Ahmedabad and other places in Gujarat be taken into consideration.”

In initiating this discussion, I would like to make it clear that it is not my object. . .

FELICITATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON HER BIRTHDAY

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, with your permission on behalf of my party may I pay our felicitations and wish Madam Gandhi on her birthday many more happy returns and a very happy life?

MOTION RESITUATION ARISING OUT OF RECENT COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN AHMEDABAD AND OTHER PLACES IN GUJARAT—
contd.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, while initiating this debate, I would like to make it clear that I do not want to highlight those gloomy and sordid aspects of the humiliation which the nation suffered in the Ahmedabad riots in the last week of September this year because the whole world is watching how the country is reacting to the situation created after the riots. I would like to say here that the hon. Home Minister made a statement this morning in answer to a question stating :

“According to figures received from the State Government on October 24, 1969, 434 persons were killed in the riots in Ahmedabad city. Till September 27, in arson cases 98 shops, 166 houses and 7 religious places were burnt. In the districts 38 persons were killed. The loss of property in the districts was estimated at about Rs. 6 lakhs. These are provisional figures, furnished by the State Government, as subject to correction as a result of detailed inquiries in progress.”

I would like to inform the Home Minister that nobody fully believes these understated figures. There have been independent witnesses and persons who have gone to the spot to find out the damage and the loss of life. A committee from Delhi has brought out a pamphlet. Though it is technically by a Hindu, it does not have any communal bias. It says here :

“The figure for murders is not less than 2,000 and that for the wounded . . .

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI (Rajasthan) : Who is he ?

SHRI A. D. MANI : It is by Mr. B.N. Pande. It is not a Hindu pamphlet at all; it presents the other point of view also. He says:

“The figure for murders is not less than 2,000 and that for the wounded thrice