

(ख) इस संघर्ष के परिणामस्वरूप कितनी सम्पत्ति को नुकसान पहुँचा, और

(ग) क्या सरकार ने मारे गये नागरिकों के परिवारों को सहायता देने तथा उनके पुनर्वासि का प्रबंध करने के लिये कार्यवाही की है ?

[VILLAGES BURNED AND CIVILIANS KILLED DURING INDO-PAKISTANI CONFLICT]

381. SHRI V M CHORDIA
SHRI RAMGOPAL GUPTA

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the number of villages in the border areas of India which were subjected to arson and loot and the number of civilians killed by the Pakistani Armed Forces during the recent Indo-Pakistani conflict,

(b) what is the extent of loss of property suffered as a result of the conflict, and

(c) whether Government have taken measures to provide relief and rehabilitation to the families of those civilians who were killed ?]

गृह-कार्य मंत्रालय में उपमन्त्री (श्री बी० सी० शुक्ल) (क) से (ग) अपेक्षित सूचना एकत्रित की जा रही है।

[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI V C. SHUKLA).—(a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected

12 NOON

FAREWELL TO RETIRING MEMBERS

MR CHAIRMAN Today's sitting marks the close of yet another biennial term of the Rajya Sabha. While the term of office may be limited by law, the democratic way of life is an unending process. We who work in this Parliament are specially equipped and have special responsibilities to ensure, by our own conduct, the preservation and sustenance of this process.

The country today is passing through pressures and strains in many spheres of national life. Scarcity of food, lack of employment opportunities, inadequate

housing and other amenities of life for the under-privileged are problems which can be great irritants to any people. Ours is a growing community, and consequently our problems multiply. We have yet to build up a society in which social justice is ensured to all, irrespective of communities and castes, status or position. Those of you, Members of this august House, who are laying down their office are re-entering a wider community life. Your opportunities for service and constructive work are unlimited. Your experience, and the first hand knowledge you have gained through your membership of Parliament, of the difficulties of administration, equip you specially to be educators and leaders of the new social order based on social justice realising its decisions by discussion and persuasion and characterised by tolerance and self-discipline.

I must thank you for the courtesy you have shown to me and the co-operation you have extended to me in conducting the business of this House with dignity and decorum. May God be with you and good sense prevail in whatever activities you engage yourself.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI M C CHAGLA) Sir, may I join you in saying good-bye and good luck to all those of our members who are leaving us. Some of them who retire will come back but some will not, and it is a matter of deep regret that we will not see many familiar faces on these Benches.

Sir, this House has been proud of its traditions. We have carried on our discussion and debate with dignity and decorum with consideration and courtesy. Sir, we have had heated debates, passionate discussions.

I am one of those who believe in tepid advocacy. If you believe in a cause you must argue it fervently and fight for it, and even when we have argued passionately we have always shown consideration and courtesy to our opponents. Now, these Members who are retiring have helped us in maintaining the high traditions of this House. We have Members who are good at putting supplementary questions and catching out the Minister. It is a painful experience for the Minister, but,

[] English translation

I assure you, Sir, the Minister also appreciates and admires the skill of the questioner. We have Members who have dialectical skill which they show in the debate. We have Members who have a sense of humour and repartee which lightens a dull hour. We will be missing all of them.

Well, Sir, this is the price we have to pay for life. The longer we live the more partings we have, some permanent and some temporary. But, I hope, the partings in this case will only be temporary. Even those Members whom we may not see on these benches, I hope, we will meet them sometimes in the Central Hall and exchange recollections of old times and many incidents in this House. Sir, I wish all those who are departing and who will come back on Monday, my best wishes and Godspeed to them and whatever occupation they may take up or whatever work they do, I hope they will have every success.

PROF. M. B. LAL (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, on behalf of all those who are retiring today or tomorrow from the Rajya Sabha and will not be able to attend the sessions of the Rajya Sabha from Monday, I wish to pay my humble respects to this august House and pay their respects to all their colleagues with whom they worked for six years.

Sir, we were fortunate to have Dr. Radhakrishnan as our Chairman and you as our Chairman subsequently. We enjoyed all courtesies extended to us by both of you and we feel proud of the fact that during our stay in this House we had the honour of having you two as the presiding officers of this Rajya Sabha.

Sir, many of us who are retiring belong to some opposition party or the other and they had the painful duty to invite the attention of the Government to their shortfalls, to their failures. They had to voice public opinion which was increasingly critical of what was happening in the country and therefore, they had the painful duty to be critical of the Government. But I wish to assure the Ministers that none of us suffered from any malice against Ministers, that we wished that our criticism might enable the Government to be conscious

of the needs of the people and to run the Government more efficiently than it was being run before.

Sir, those who are retiring from the Rajya Sabha belong to different political parties ; yet all of them are agreed that they enjoyed fellowship with all the Members of the Rajya Sabha. We have just started the democratic life and the democratic process is not functioning in this country as it should function. All the same, on the whole the Rajya Sabha was able to maintain due Parliamentary decorum, due Parliamentary dignity and nothing will please us more than to know that the traditions, so far built up, are not only preserved but are further improved by those that come after us and that the Rajya Sabha would be able to set an example to all legislative bodies in this country of how the Parliamentary system should function and can function in India.

Sir, on behalf of all, I can say that though we belong to different political parties, we were all citizens of India and we were conscious of the unity which bound us all and which was of greater importance than political differences that tended to divide us and I feel that no legislature in the world can claim that it has better fellowship among Members than we, the Members of the Rajya Sabha, have amongst ourselves.

You invited our attention to the work that is awaiting us outside the legislature and I am perfectly sure that all of us would continue to take interest in public affairs of this country and will do what we can for promoting the good of the country and the people in cooperation with the parliamentary institutions that are being established under the Constitution.

Once more I thank you, the staff of the Rajya Sabha and all Members of the Rajya Sabha for their cooperation, for their courtesies to us and we assure you, Sir, and through you the whole House that we would always remember the days we spent in this Rajya Sabha with the fellow Members of the Rajya Sabha.

Thank you.