

(b) the quantity of cement allotted and so far delivered up till 31st July, 1964; and

(c) how much more has been promised for the rest of the year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA) : (a) 'co (c). Against the quarterly indent of cement received from the Delhi Administration a bulk allocation is made in their favour. Detailed distribution of the quarterly bulk quota among the Delhi Municipal Corporation, New Delhi Municipal Committee, Tile manufacturers, house-builders and stockists (for maintenance and repair purposes) etc. is decided by the Delhi Administration. It is understood that the Delhi Administration has allotted about 43,500 tonnes of cement to house-builders in Delhi since April, 1964.

अंडमान तथा निकोबार द्वीपसमूह में
औद्योगिक निगम

७६१-बी०. श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव :
क्या उद्योग तथा संभरण मंत्रो यह बताने
को कृपा करेंगे कि अंडमान तथा निकोबार
द्वीपसमूह में एक नया औद्योगिक निगम
स्थापित करने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की
गई है और अभी तक वहां ऐसे कितने निगम
हैं ?

**\$ [INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION IN
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS**

791-B. SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to state the steps taken for establishing a new industrial corporation in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the number of such corporations already functioning there?

द्वीपसमूह में न तो कोई औद्योगिक निगम है
और न ही वहां ऐसा कोई निगम स्थापित
करने का विचार है ।

if THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA) : There is no industrial corporation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands nor is there a proposal for setting up such a corporation.]

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**OUTBREAK OF FIRE IN LIFE (INSURANCE
CORPORATION OFFICE ON ASAF ALI
ROAD, DELHI ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1964**

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): Madam, with your permission may I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the outbreak of fire in the Life Insurance Corporation Office on Asaf Ali Road, Delhi, on September 26, 1964?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : Madam, the Life Insurance Corporation Divisional office building near the Delhi Gate is a modern six storeyed building. On the 26th September, 1964, a message of outbreak of fire in the building was received over the telephone at 18-26 hours at the Headquarter Control of the Delhi Fire Service. At 18-27 hours three fire units from the Con-naught Circus, and Rakabganj fire stations rushed to the spot covering a distance of about two miles within three minutes. The officer in charge found the fire extensive and serious and summoned additional assistance at 18-32 hours. Between 18-40 hours to 18-50 hours, 14 additional fire units arrived on the scene from different fire stations. The Chief Fire Officer personally supervised the control operations with the help of 150 persons and officers of the Fire Service.

Six members of the staff received minor injuries and four were overcome by smoke. They were attended to in the Irwin hospital as out-patients. There was no loss of life.

There was no difficulty in the water supply for fire fighting. The fire was brought under control by about 20-55 hours and completely extinguished by 21-20 hours.

The officers of the Police Station Daryaganj had also noticed thick smoke coming out of the building area by about 18-25 hours. A constable was at once sent to the spot, and on receiving his report the Superintendent of Police, Central Deputy Superintendent of Police, Daryaganj and all available police force in the police station rushed to the spot and cordoned off the building.

The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained definitely. A case under Section 436 I.P.C. has been registered and investigation is proceeding. Crime Inspection Team along with photographers have inspected the site. The Superintending Engineer and the Executive Engineer of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking have inspected the building and its electric installations. They have reported that in all probability the fire was not caused due to short circuit.

The Inspector of Explosives, Agra, has also inspected the site. He has also reported that there was no evidence to show that the use of any explosive material had caused the fire. The investigation is being pursued vigorously to determine the cause.

The full extent of loss is still to be assessed. The damage is mostly in third and fourth floors; it was largely confined to wooden partition, furniture, racks containing stationery and files. The policy holders records were in another building and are not affected. The building is fully insured, but not the furniture.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Since a similar fire broke out on the 17th of August in the L.I.C. Building on Parliament Street, may I know whether the Government has thought of appointing a judicial officer to enquire into the causes of these fires, in view of the fact that serious allegations have been made and also in view of the fact that the employees of the Life Insurance Corporation have also demanded that a judicial probe should be had?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: There was a fire in another L.I.C. Building in Parliament Street some time in August. But so far as a judicial enquiry is concerned, we are not having any judicial enquiry. And as regards the demand for an enquiry from the employees, we have not received any representation from the employees of the Corporation.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: (Uttar Pradesh): What is the estimated loss due to this fire?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: It is difficult to say at this stage, before the full survey is made.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Approximately?

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया
(मध्य प्रदेश): क्या श्रीमान यह बतलायेंगे अभी आपने वक्तव्य में बताया कि आग 4 बजे के लगभग लगी, 16वें घंटे में लगी और फायर ब्रिगेड्स आए 18वें घंटे में, अगर यह सही है तो यह 2 घंटे का अन्तर क्यों पड़ा ? पहली बात । दूसरी बात यह है कि अलग अलग मंजिल में एक साथ लगी हुई आग मालूम पड़ी तो इसके कारण को भी देखा अथवा नहीं ?

श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र : आपने देखा होगा कि 6 बज कर 26 मिनट पर पहली सूचना उन लोगों को मिली और 6 बज कर 50 मिनट तक यानी 20-25 मिनट के अन्दर सभी लोग इकट्ठे हो गए और आग को बुझाया

गया, आग को बुझाने में 2 घंटे के करीब लग गए क्योंकि आग बहुत जोरों की थी। तो 24-25 मिनट में सभी तरह के लोग वहां पहुंच गए। सभी मंजिल में आग थी, तीसरी और चौथी मंजिल में ज्यादा आग लगी हुई थी, बाकी की मंजिलों में कम आग लगी हुई थी।

SHRI OM MEHTA (Jammu and Kashmir): May I ask whether any sabotage is being suspected in this fire?

श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र : यह कहना मुश्किल है लेकिन अभी तक जो रिपोर्ट है उसमें ऐसा नहीं लगता।

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI (Uttar Pradesh): May I know what is the exact difficulty about having a judicial enquiry? As the hon. Minister is aware, people generally have faith in a judicial enquiry.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: The position, Madam, is that we are expecting the report and at the moment we have not taken any decision on the matter.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA (Uttar Pradesh): May I know whether the experts have given the opinion that the electric wiring in that building was defective?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: No, Madam

श्री दत्तोपन्त ठेंगड़ी (उत्तर प्रदेश): कौन कौन से विषयों की फाइलें जल गई हैं?

श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र : अभी तक जो सूचना है उसके अनुसार वह पत्रव्यवहार या उनके डिवाजन कार्यालय एवं एजेंट्स लोगों के साथ। कोई ऐसी महत्वपूर्ण फाइल नहीं है, जैसा कि कहा जा रहा है।

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: In view of the fact that this fire broke out in the Government building, how it is not possible for the Government to assess the actual loss sustained and also the cause of the fire?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Madam, a survey is being made of the value of the stationery, of the value of the furniture and so it is difficult to say it now. The value of the building is Rs. 15 lakhs and the building is fully insured.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI (Maharashtra): Madam, the hon. Minister said in his reply that the building has been insured but that the furniture has not been insured. Is it really a fact that no furniture is insured by Government in any Government building?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I want notice for this.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: In view of the fact that fire breaks out in some of these buildings belonging to the Government, would Government order the immediate rectification of all the electrical fitting in all the Government buildings?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: So far as this case is concerned, no such experience has come to us. People say that the electrical fittings were all right.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENTS SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON ASSURANCES, PROMISES AND UNDERTAKINGS GIVEN DURING VARIOUS SESSIONS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAM NATH) : Madam, on behalf of Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, I beg to lay on the Table the following statements showing the action taken by Government on the various assurances, promises and undertakings given during the sessions shown against each:—

(i) Statement No. X—Thirty-eighth Session, 1962.

(10) Statement No. XVII—Fortieth Session, 1962.