

## RAJYA SABHA

Monday, 1st September 1958

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### FIRES IN THE TELIWARA AREA IN DELHI

\*276. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fires which broke out in the Teliwara area in Delhi in the months of May and June 1958;

(b) the total amount of loss suffered by the residents of the locality; and

(c) what steps, if any, have been taken to rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): (a) May, 1958—Nil; June, 1958—2.

(b) Rs. 5.30 lakhs approximately.

(c) Immediate monetary and other help was provided to the fire sufferers. A statement giving details is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

#### *Relief given to the sufferers from two fires in Teliwara area*

In addition to free meals and temporary shelter, the Delhi Municipal Corporation provided the following immediate help:—

1. From the Mayor's fund:	Rs.
47 families at Rs. 200 each	9,400
3 families at Rs. 300 each	900
2 families books and stationery for school going children worth	200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,500</b>

#### 2. From donations:

5 yards of cloth and one dhoti each to 200 families. Total 1,000 yards of cloth and 200 dhoties.

'51 R.S.D.—1.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, what were the causes of the fire and whether any inquiry was instituted for ascertaining the causes and, if so, with what results?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Sir, enquiries were made but it was difficult to establish the specific causes why the fires broke out. A number of alternative suggestions had been made, but . . .

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: What were the alternative suggestions?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I have no objection; I shall mention them, sparks from the oven, electric short circuits, burnt cigarette ends.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, if the fires every time began at the southern corner of the crossing of Kutub Road and Sadar Bazaar and, if so, was there a widespread feeling that the successive fires were as a result of misdeeds on the part of anti-social elements?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: It is not possible to say.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, whether the leaders of all groups of the Delhi Corporation in a joint statement urged the Government to institute a judicial inquiry and, if so, what were the reasons for not instituting such an inquiry?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I am not aware of it.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, how many firemen were sent to quench these fires?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Sir, we have in all 24 units and a very large number was sent on each occasion.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, for how many days free meals and temporary shelter were provided?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I could not follow the question.

**SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND:** You say in the statement: "In addition to free meals and temporary shelter, the Delhi Municipal Corporation provided the following immediate help." etc. I would like to know for how many days these free meals and temporary shelter were provided.

**SHRI B. N. DATAR:** I believe it was for a week.

**SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND:** What arrangements were made after that week?

**SHRI B. N. DATAR:** Naturally they could make their own arrangements.

\*277. [The questioner (Dr. R. B. Gour) was absent. For answer, vide col. 1540 infra.]

\*278. [For answer, vide col. 1539 infra.]

\*279. [The questioner (Shri Niranjan Singh) was absent. For answer, vide col. 1540 infra.]

\*280. [The questioner (Shri Ratanlal Kishorilal Malviya) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1540-1541 infra.]

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** It is bad that people who put questions are not here, not one of these is here.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** You allow more supplementaries.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Not on your questions.

Next question.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AMERICAN EXPERT COMMITTEE ON LOCATION OF OIL REFINERY

\*281. **SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA:** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an American Expert Committee has recommended the establishment of only one oil refinery to be located near the source at Naharkatiya oil fields;

(b) if so, whether those recommendations have been considered by Government; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what decision Government have taken in the matter?

**THE MINISTER OF MINES AND OIL. (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA):** (a) Not any American Expert Committee but a firm of American consultants has made such a recommendation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have not accepted the recommendation.

**SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA:** Who appointed this Committee?

**SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA:** As I said there is no Committee; a firm of consultants were engaged by the B.O.C. in order to get their views on the whole question.

**SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA:** May I know, Sir, if it is the same Committee which was asked to submit a project report on selecting a site for the refinery?

**SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA:** No, Sir; no committee has been appointed by anyone to select a site for the refinery.

**SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO:** May I know, Sir, the estimated economy in the cost of construction as recommended by this committee and how it compares with the previous recommendation?

**SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA:** I said, Sir, that the consultants were engaged by the B.O.C. for certain matters, and they recommended that certain steps should be followed in place of those suggestions made earlier. Government have not accepted any one of those suggestions.

**SHRI V. PRASAD RAO:** May I know, Sir, whether in the terms of reference to this firm of consultants