

Incident of fire in National Museum of Natural History in Delhi

SHRI ANIL DESAI (Maharashtra): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. My submission to the House is regarding devastating fire in National Museum of Natural History in New Delhi. It is very unfortunate that a huge blaze gutted India's Museum of Natural History in New Delhi this week. It destroyed not only six floors of the FICCI building but it also caused immense destruction of possibly countless collections of country's flora and fauna. Whatever we lost cannot be retrieved, nor the loss can be quantified in rupees.

The Natural History Museum is a national treasure. It is not that we lost one of the natural museums but the fact is that the Museum is the first and only natural history Museum in India. In addition to the flora and fauna collections, it also displays several fossils; one of which is the femur bone of a dinosaur belonging to the Sauropod group.

Sir, everywhere in the world, people treasure their museums and look after them with great care and make sure that there are adequate firefighting equipments on hand to deal with any contingency. So, when we see a news report that casually says that a Museum in the Delhi was gutted in fire, you have to wonder what kind of people we are. Why was there no foolproof fire safety arrangement? What is the responsibility of the Director of the Museum and the concerned Ministry that is finally responsible for the safety of the natural and historical valuables?

And it is almost terrorising to imagine the gravity of loss had this incident happened during peak hours when hundreds of visitors, including school children, visit this museum as part of their subject. Nowadays it has become a common phenomenon that fire accidents take place in Government buildings, particularly during summer season, either due to short circuit or negligence of the people working in those buildings. If fire equipment is installed, in many cases it does not work. The same thing happened in the FICCI building.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to issue strict instructions to the CPWD and other agencies which are in charge of Government buildings and other owners of private buildings to put in place fire equipment and remove encroachments in and around the buildings to avoid such fire accidents. Thank you, Sir.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

KUMARI SELJA (Haryana): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, मैं स्वयं को इससे संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री पी. एल. पुनिया (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, मैं स्वयं को इससे संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री अनिल माधव दवे (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, मैं स्वयं को इससे संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV (Chhattisgarh): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All of you have associated yourselves with it. Now, Shri Pavan Kumar Varma.

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी): उपसभापति जी, जीरो ऑवर में डा. सुब्रमण्यम स्वामी का भी नाम है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That may be another one. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That may be another list. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: नहीं सर, उनका इसमें नाम है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... जीरो ऑवर में ...*(व्यवधान)*... क्या बात कर रहे हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*... चेयर की तरफ से न्याय होना चाहिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... इसमें नाम है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... I don't know why लास्ट मोमेंट पर नाम कैसे चेंज हो जाएगा? ...*(व्यवधान)*... इसमें नाम दिया है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... लास्ट मोमेंट पर नाम कैसे चेंज हो जाएगा? ...*(व्यवधान)*... His name is here. सर, इस तरह का भेदभाव क्यों? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश): नकवी जी, आप हमारे लिए तो कभी भी खड़े नहीं हुए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: His name is in the list. यह ...*(व्यवधान)*... Sir, his name is in the list. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is not the final list. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is not the final list. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is not the final list. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*... हमें चेयर से यह उम्मीद नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... हमें उम्मीद है कि चेयर न्याय करेगी। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is not the final list. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: ऑनरेबल मैम्बर अपनी बात कहना चाहते हैं और उनको जीरो ऑवर एक्सेप्ट हुआ है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह नहीं है कि जीरो ऑवर एक्सेप्ट नहीं हुआ है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... उनका जीरो ऑवर एक्सेप्टेड है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... लिस्ट में उनका नाम है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप लिस्ट से कैसे डिलीट कर रहे हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*... मेम्बर का अधिकार रोका जा रहा है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. That is not the final list. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: उनकी मेडेन स्पीच है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is not the final list. ...*(Interruptions)*... A Minister should not make such complaints. ...*(Interruptions)*... Ministers should not make such complaints. ...*(Interruptions)*... They should find out the position and then ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, I am reminding you, I am requesting you that the factual position is that the name of Mr. Subramanian Swamy is in the list. ...*(Interruptions)*... क्यों बिना बताए लिस्ट से हट गया? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know the factual position better than you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am standing...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will allow him. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Minister, I know the factual position better than you. That is number one. Number two, a Minister should not stand up and raise it. ...*(Interruptions)*... You can approach the Chairman and get the latest position and then say that. That is the way. Now, in any case, I called out Mr. Pavan Kumar Varma. If you or Mr. Subramanian Swamy has any complaint, you can certainly approach the Chairman. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, I am not complaining. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am only reminding you that his name is in the list. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But that is not the final list. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have the final list. ...*(Interruptions)*... I know the latest position. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, it is all right. ...*(Interruptions)*... हम आपको रिमाइंड करा रहे ...*(व्यवधान)*... हम आपको रिमाइंड करा रहे हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is a communication gap. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी: आपने एकदम अटेंडेस ...*(व्यवधान)*... उनका नाम ड्रॉप कर दिया। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is a communication gap between the Minister and me. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is all. ...*(Interruptions)*... We will sort it out. ...*(Interruptions)*...

12.00 Noon

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, there is no communication gap. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will sort it out. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is a communication gap. We will sort it out. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PAVAN KUMAR VARMA (Bihar): Mr. Deputy Chairman, it is very unfortunate. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Deputy Chairman, I know that the time is short but I am not going to rush through without consideration of what I am raising.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Only one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PAVAN KUMAR VARMA: Sir, why should I suffer because of the Minister's intervention? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Only one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*... you say it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PAVAN KUMAR VARMA: What is this, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)*... Anyway let me raise it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me raise it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, in March, the Government of Nepal has signed multiple agreements with China for providing...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time is over. It is time for Question Hour. Time is over. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, he should be allowed to raise it tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*...

(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question No.46. Mr. Ramdas Athawale. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question No 46. Questioner is not here. Is there any supplementary?

*46. [The questioner (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE) was absent.]

UN help for Women and Child Development Schemes

*46. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any financial help from United Nations or UNESCO for women and child development schemes in the country;