

reached Andhra Pradesh alongwith 3 trucks loaded with relief material. Further, this junior Shankaracharya was about to reach Orissa.

The hon'ble Members also raised a point related to science. We are equally concerned about it. We cannot stop cyclone. It is not in my control. Moreover, it is not directed by the rules of the House. A meeting of scientists of Asia-Pacific region was being held here. We had made an appeal to the scientific committee if it could help us in growing small coconut trees and that the crop is ripe before the cyclone comes. This matter was also raised in the World Congress. We are neither scientists nor magicians. I, on your behalf, have already asked them to take steps in this regard.

A point regarding national calamity was also raised. In that connection, I as well as the hon. Prime Minister had declared it a national calamity. National calamity means providing assistance first from the Relief Fund and then mobilising it from public. Members of Parliament and MLAs have also donated their one month's salary and we are also urging upon employees and others to come forward in this regard. As regards crop insurance, no country of the world, even America provides full compensation. Therefore, it will take time to decide as to what can be done in this situation. At this point of time, I assure you that nobody will be allowed to suffer or die for want of money. The hon. Members can approach me and tell me about their grievances. I shall try to arrange money from other sources.

[Translation]

With these words, I would like to request you again to explain us in a concrete way as to how it should be done.

As the announcement was made Umaji impressed upon it. She had also narrated a story about a husband, wife and a thief. I would like to convey my thanks to her for the story... (Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the way Mishraji is cutting Jocks in the House, is very shameful or him... (Interruptions) You must be aware of it that I sleep with my brother and my sister-in-law. I have also slept with my parents. Such things happen in all families. It is a different thing if it is not so in your family. I used to sleep with my parents. Presently, I sleep with my elder brother and sister-in-law... (Interruptions) I am very sorry that you are continuously cutting jokes of my being a lady and a Sadhu. This is unbecoming of a person like you holding such a high post. Unless and until the hon'ble Minister seek apology I will not sit here in the House. He will have to apologise... (Interruptions) It should not go on record... (Interruptions).

[English]

13.14 hrs.

At this stage, Kumari Uma Bharati came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That will not go on record

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : If the hon'ble Member is hurt, then I beg pardon from her... (Interruptions) If anything is there in the record then it may be expunged and I have no objection to it. If you are hurt then I have admitted, but all are not like you... (Interruptions)

[English]

13.14½ hrs.

At this stage, Kumari Uma Bharati went back to her seat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mishra come to the point.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I have already finished my points. I am concluding with a request to the House that this House should advise me correctly I will do everything.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the House stands adjourned for lunch till 2.15 p.m.

13.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.24 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-Four Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Shri P.C. Chacko in the Chair)

RE : AGITATION OF DALIT CHRISTIANS FOR RESERVATION

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, I have a matter to be raised. Just at some distance... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be seated.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : There was a rally... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, this is no Zero Hour. Shri Thomas.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Three hundred and seventy-five people, including ten Bishops are in custody
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seat?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : They are in custody in the Parliament Street Police Station (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : It is a very serious matter, Sir. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is very serious but you cannot raise a matter like this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I would like to bring it to the notice of Shri Paswan... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Any urgent matter, you senior Members should know, should be raised under certain rules.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, they have been taken into custody. They are in custody now. (Interruptions) three hundred and seventy five persons, including two Members of Parliament. They have been called by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is not here just now. They have been called... (Interruptions) A small delegation is going to meet him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Thomas, please take an appointment with the Prime Minister and discuss the matter with him.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, ten Bishops are also arrested... (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, you ask the Minister to clarify. This is a very serious matter... (Interruptions) On a genuine demand ten Bishops are arrested... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, the matter is simple. It is to persuade the Government to bring a Bill. That is all... (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, you call upon the Minister to make a statement here... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Actually, they are under surveillance. They cannot go... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Thomas, you have already made your submission. I made it very clear that if you have to, you please approach the Prime Minister and discuss the matter with him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, I would urge upon the hon. Leader of the House, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is here. He is a Dalit leader. Shri Paswan, please respond.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Thomas, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, you should also express your serious concern about it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, we just want to say that... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Paswan, please take note of this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please take your seat.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, he must say something to the House... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I have already told the Minister, the Leader of the House to take note of this problem.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, let him respond... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we take up Item number nine, please resume your seat.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Shri Paswan, please respond. Otherwise you will force me to sit here... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Thomas, please resume your seat.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, let him respond. Otherwise we will be forced to sit here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, I have given the direction. Shri Thomas, please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Shri Paswan, please respond.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : What is the matter? First of all, I must know what you want to say.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : The demand is to include the Dalit Christians in the Schedule. The Bill is to be brought. It has been brought out in the Common Minimum Programme. This has been specifically said... (Interruptions) But, till now, the Bill has not come. We understand that it is coming... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, that is not the question. Shri Paswan, the matter is

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interfere.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, all are arrested. Ten bishops are arrested... (Interruptions)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Sir, this is a serious matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Suresh, will you please resume your seat?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, this is a serious matter....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am trying to help you. Please resume your seat.

Shri Paswan, some agitation is going on outside. They have explained the thing. They are being arrested. Somebody is being manhandled. That is the report. When a Member is making this report in the House, you please take a serious note of this and take appropriate action.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, ten Bishops are arrested.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, I came to..

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you not want the response?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has two aspects. The first aspect concerns with the reservation for Dalit Christians and the other one concerns with the arrest. These are two issues question of including Dalit Christians in the list of Scheduled Castes is under consideration of the Government and very soon the Government are calling a meeting of the leaders of various political parties for considering this issue.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Do it quickly, too much time has been taken.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : There are two views in every party on this issue. The manifesto of political parties says something and when M.Ps. meet together their view is something else. In such a situation we have decided that to know the views of the leaders of various political parties we should...

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Why are you delaying it? It is your promise. It is in the Common Minimum Programme....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Suresh, please take your seat. You allow the Minister to complete.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : You said that you would bring the Bill....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It is a fact that this issue comes under common minimum programme and we want to implement this also.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : You promised. I got a letter.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The Government wants that the Dalit Christians should be included in the list of Scheduled Castes but how it can be done will be decided in a meeting of various leaders. So far as the second issue is concerned, we will bring the notice of the concerned officers, the matter of demonstration and arrests of M.Ps. and other kind of excesses.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should be satisfied with this.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, the meeting is going to be called. It was assured earlier that it will be brought in this Session. We would like to know whether this will be brought in this Session or not....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not allowing you to raise that issue of bringing the Bill in the House. The issue is only about what happened today outside the Parliament House and you are allowed to raise it.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : I would like to know whether the Government is going to give reservation on the basis of religion?....(Interruptions)

We want to express our view on providing reservation on the basis of economy, education etc....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a discussion on reservation.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the necessity of expressing your opinion now? There is no discussion on that topic now. Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What happened outside the Parliament, that is brought to the notice of the Government and the Minister has said that the Government will take a serious note of that and take appropriate steps. You should be satisfied with this. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, there is equality in Christianity and there is nothing like upper or lower

caste...*(Interruptions)* The framers of the Constitution have made provision for the reservation...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rasa Singh Rawat, this is not fair. There is no discussion on that issue now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : We are not against Hindus, we are all with Hindus...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rasa Singh Rawat, please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This matter is over and we are taking up Item No. 9 of the agenda - Calling Attention, Shri George Fernandes.

14.31 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Mid-air collision near Charkhi Dadri in Haryana on 12 November, 1996

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Civil Aviation towards the following issue of urgent public importance and urge upon him that he should give a statement in this regard.

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of civil aviation towards the action taken by the Government in regards to the 349 people losing their lives in a mid-air collision between a Saudi Arabian, Boeing 747 aircraft and a Kazakhstan Airlines IL-76 aircraft on 12th November, 1996.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, with deep sorrow and regret, this is to inform the House that a Saudi Arabian Airlines Boeing 747 aircraft HZ-AIH operating flight SV-763 from Delhi to Dhahran and a Kazakhstan Airlines IL-76 aircraft UN-76435 operating flight KZA-1907 from Chimkent to Delhi were involved in a mid-air collision on 12th November, 1996 at about 1840 hours IST, approximately, 40 nautical miles west of the Delhi Airport.

The Saudi Arabian Airlines aircraft had departed Delhi airport at 1833 hours. There were 312 persons including crew members on board the aircraft. The

aircraft was cleared to climb to 14,000 feet by Delhi airport Air Traffic Control. The Kazakhstan Airlines aircraft with 37 persons on board including crew members was cleared to descend to 15,000 feet, thereby providing a vertical separation of 1,000 feet. The radar blips of both the aircraft disappeared at about 1840 hours. All the persons (349) on board both the aircraft died in the accident.

The wreckage of the Saudi aircraft had spread over in the open fields near Charkhi Dadri in District Bhiwani, Haryana. The main body of the aircraft along with the cockpit was burnt. The wreckage of the Kazakhstan flight fell near village Barohar in Rohtak District of Haryana. There was no fatality on the ground.

Immediately on receipt of information from the ATC on 12th evening, Chief Secretary, Haryana, was contacted and senior district and police officers from Bhiwani and Rohtak districts rushed to the site of the crash. The Army and the Air Force were also alerted and with the help of local villagers the fire to aircraft was extinguished and bodies extricated from the site. Senior officers of the Airports Authority of India also rushed to the site for rescue and relief operation. A team of officials from DGCA reached the site in the early hours of 13th November, 1996 and started gathering evidence for investigation. The DGCA appointed an Inspector of Accidents under Rule 71 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 for carrying out investigations.

The dead bodies of the Saudia flight were shifted to Civil Hospital, Dadri. Of these, 124 have been handed over to the relatives; 94 buried/cremated at site and 94 sent to Delhi for embalming and onward transmission. Indian Airlines have transported 69 bodies to different parts of India and Nepal by regular and special flights. The 37 bodies extricated from Kazakhstan flight were moved to Rohtak Medical College and were transported to Chimkent by a special aircraft at 4 a.m. on 17th November, 1996.

Airports Authority of India had set up control rooms at IGI Airport, Delhi, at the site of the accident. All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Sucheta Kripalani Hospital. The Authority also provided transport to the relatives of the victims for going to the site and their stay at Centaur Hotel at Delhi and also made arrangements for embalming the bodies of the victims.

Along with Secretary Civil Aviation, Chairman, Airports Authority of India and DGCA, I had visited the site in the morning of 13th November, 1996 to oversee rescue and relief arrangements. The Chief Minister of Haryana and civil authorities had made arrangements to help the relatives of the deceased for transporting the bodies. Honourable Prime Minister also visited the site on 13th November.