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13.01 hrs.

i. **RE: Alleged atrocities on minorities in Jhabua,**

Madhya Pradesh

Title : Regarding alleged atrocities on minorities in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): While the Government is planning for a very successful documentary on Doordarshan, which would be sent I am told to get an Oscar Award, for India Shining, Jhabua is burning. The hon. Member concerned is also present here. ...(*Interruptions*) The first incident took place on 30th December, followed by another on 16th January and followed by one more on 29th January, reminding me of the killing of Graham Staines and his family in Orissa. ...(*Interruptions*) Our hon. Prime Minister has, in this House and outside, made the strongest claim of maintaining the unity of the nation irrespective of religious differences. ...(*Interruptions*)

कोयला मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रहलाद सिंह पटेल) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्य जो बोल रहे हैं, (व्यवधान)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, is he interrupting me? The only man who can respond to this is the hon. Deputy Prime Minister. I want a response only from the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister. I gave the notice in that order. सर, इन्हें कुछ नियम कानून सिखाना चाहिए। (व्यवधान)

श्री प्रहलाद सिंह पटेल : इतना नियम कानून हमें मत समझाइए। (व्यवधान)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, Seva Bharati, an organisation promoted by Bajrang Dal, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Vanavasi Kalyan Parishad first attacked a village on 30th December, followed by an attack on a Church and the rape of a nine-year old girl. After the rape, the canard went on as they put the blame on the priests of the Church. Incidentally, the police took cognisance of this to arrest all of them. ...(*Interruptions*) Later on, it was detected that it was not the priest but an activist called Manoj Jhadav, an activist of the Bajrang Dal, and he was taken into custody. ...(*Interruptions*)

I gave you a notice to read out this part:

"A rumour was spread that one of the Church personnel had raped the girl and killed her, despite clear evidence that an outsider was involved. By the time Manoj Jhadav was nabbed and incontrovertible evidence against him had been collected, it was too late. An action group under the banner of Hindu Jagran Manch gave a call for a *bandh*. It was very evident that the Manch was not bothered about the murdered girl or interested in getting the guilty punished. It was looking for an opportunity to spread canards against Christian missionaries and generate tribal fury against missionaries who were engaged in social service in the region."

Sir, after this incident, the Catholic Bishops' Conference on Thursday urged the Madhya Pradesh Government to ensure law and order in the wake of unprovoked attacks on members of the Christian community in Jhabua district. It is not only the Christians but the houses of non-Christian tribals were also burnt. Because their houses were burnt, they were first arrested by the Madhya Pradesh Police. Till today the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Deputy Prime Minister are silent even to make a public reference in regard to that incident. The Chief Minister only thanked the *Bajrang Dal* and *VHP* for their restraint.

I feel strongly about the incidents that took place in Jhabua and Ahmedabad yesterday. They apprehended that the portrait of Goddess Durga had been painted by Maqbool Fida Hussain -- a Muslim cannot paint Durga -- so, they had torn the portrait also. It was detected (Interruptions) What is going on? ...(*Interruptions*) These are the designs of 'Seva Bharati' ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This issue is being raised during Zero Hour. You know the limitation of time during the Zero Hour.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I do not know whether you will accept it or not. I will not interfere in it. But I must submit about the gravity of the situation among the tribals after Graham Staines' death. ...(*Interruptions*) Our delegation and a Women's Delegation had gone there. But uptill today a campaign is there that unless they are converted into Hindus, none of them could stay in India. In this campaign, slogans

were shouted in the presence of Chief Minister, Kumari Uma Bharati. No one was apprehended.
...(Interruptions)

I demand the hon. Minister of Home Affairs – because it is the right of the House – to make a comprehensive statement in the House ... (Interruptions) We do not know what is the position of the Government in regard to this situation. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no debate during 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Our M.P., Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria, represents that constituency. He was there for the last eight days. He narrated all the pathetic tales to us. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no debate on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria is the M.P. of that area. ... (Interruptions)

श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान (विदिशा) : अपराधियों के खिलाफ एफ.आई.आर. दर्ज की गई है और पुलिस कार्रवाई कर रही है। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: I will permit those Members who have given the notices.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister can deny that.

...(Interruptions)

श्री कांतिलाल भूरिया (झाबुआ) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे संसदीय क्षेत्र की यह समस्या है इसलिए मुझे इस पर बोलने का मौका दिया जाए। मैंने इसके बारे में नोटिस भी दिया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपका अधिकार आपके साथी को दिया जा चुका है, वह इस पर बोल चुके हैं।

श्री कांतिलाल भूरिया : यह मेरे संसदीय क्षेत्र का मामला है इसलिए मुझे एक मिनट अपनी बात कहने का मौका दिया जाए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : ठीक है, यह आपके संसदीय क्षेत्र का मामला है इसलिए मैं आपको एक मिनट बोलने के लिए दे रहा हूँ।

श्री कांतिलाल भूरिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि आपने मुझे इस विषय पर बोलने का मौका दिया। सबसे पहले मैं आज 30 जनवरी के दिन महात्मा गांधी जी के बलिदान दिवस पर सरकार द्वारा नेग्लिजेंस बरतने के लिए उसकी निंदा करता हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, 30 दिसम्बर, 2003 को मेरे संसदीय क्षेत्र झाबुआ के एक गांव में सेवा भारती, आरएसएस और बजरंग दल के लोगों ने मिशनरीज के एक अंतिम वद्यालय पर हमला करके वहां आदिवासी को धराशायी कर दिया और उस आदिवासी को लूट कर वहां आग लगा दी गई। इसके बाद उस आदिवासी को जेल भेज दिया गया। (व्यवधान)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, for the last four years we have been observing how the Christian minorities are being attacked by VHP, Bajrang Dal, RSS and these fundamental groups in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. ... (Interruptions)

श्री कांतिलाल भूरिया : 11 जनवरी को वहां एक नौ वर्षीय बच्ची के साथ बलात्कार करके मिशन के परिसर में फेंक दिया गया। इससे वे यह सिद्ध करना चाहते थे कि चर्च के फादर ने बच्ची का बलात्कार किया है। यह साजिश करके वहां दंगा भड़का दिया गया। (व्यवधान) वहां 100 साल पुराना मिशन का चर्च है। उसके स्कूल के बच्चों को पीटा गया और गोली चलाई गई। (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप क्यों खड़े हैं, मंत्री जी उत्तर दे सकते हैं।

â€ (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Only what Shri Basu Deb Acharia says will go on record and nothing else.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, what happened in the district of Jhabua from 30th December? How virulent attacks were mounted ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not want to speak? I have taken your name and you can go ahead.

*Not Recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, for the last four years, we have been observing that Christian minorities are being attacked by Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal and Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Basu Deb Acharia's statement will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, what happened in the district of Jhabua from 30th December?
...(*Interruptions*)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जो कुछ भूरिया जी बोल रहे हैं वह रिकार्ड में नहीं जा रहा है, इसलिए आप लोग बैठ जाइये।

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, virulent attacks were mounted against the Christian minorities. One nine-year-old girl was raped and her body was found in a toilet. Immediately, in order to spread poison, the *Bajrang Dal* spread the rumour, called bandh and started demanding that all the Christians should be thrown out from the district of Jhabua.

Sir, 106-year-old church was attacked, desecrated and ransacked and all its furniture items were destroyed. Schools are educational institutions, which are being run by Christian Missionaries. These schools were also attacked. Now, none of the schools is functioning. Nobody has been arrested. All the culprits came from Gujarat and they are now trying to revive a divide between *adivasi* Christians and non-Christians. None of the culprits has been arrested. Only Christians have been arrested. No action has been taken against any of the culprits.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan will speak now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, when the Prime Minister as well as Deputy Prime Minister are present here, I demand a statement from the Prime Minister.

*Not Recorded.

Sir, we condemn the incident. We have not seen anybody from the Government – neither the State Government nor the Central Government – condemning the incident of attack on Christian minority.
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALGHAT): Sir, let them respond. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If the Government wants, they can always make a statement.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan will speak now. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, you make a statement.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we demand a statement from the Prime Minister who is sitting in the House. Thank you. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Hon. Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister are present in the House. Let them respond on this matter. This is a very serious matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: They are listening to the debate. If they want, they can, at any time, stand up and reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): Sir, we want them to respond. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, we want them to respond. Such a serious incident has taken place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If they want, they can always reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : They cannot keep quiet when such an incident has taken place. ...*(Interruptions)* On other issues, they will respond. ...*(Interruptions)* On this issue also, they have to respond. They will have to respond. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, nobody has been arrested. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, nobody has been arrested so far. What is going on in our country? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is an important issue. Hon. Deputy Prime Minister is present here. his issue concerns his department, and he can make a statement immediately if he wants to or after some time.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please. This is a 'Zero Hour', and in 'Zero Hour' there is no such practice that the Minister must reply immediately. You are all aware of the rules. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, since he is present here, he should respond.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, the hon. Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister are present here. Why are they not responding to this issue? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have requested the Deputy Prime Minister. Now, please sit down.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, if the issue raised in the 'Zero Hour' relate to a State, then the Central Government can only assure the House that it would ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the issue concerns the Christian minorities.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I know that, and I am aware of it.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM): Mr. Speaker Sir, this issue concerns the minorities and it is not a problem of a State, etc.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you stand up when he is speaking? The hon. Minister is standing and you want to shout. Please sit down. Please let the hon. Minister complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

Shri L.K. ADVANI : Sir, the duty of the Central Government is to get the facts from the State Government. In this particular matter, broadly speaking, most of the reports that I have seen in the Press, and the allegations that have been heard here today have been denied by the State Government. Nevertheless, I will find out from the State Government as to what are the facts in respect of the Jhabua incident, and come to the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing else. Please sit down. Do you want the 'Zero Hour' to be completed or not? Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

Shri BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): There should be an inquiry by the CBI in this case.