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13.04 hrs.

Title: Regarding alleged harassment of Bengali speaking people in Noida by the police on the charge of being foreign nationals.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very serious matter. About 200 Bengali-speaking people, most of whom are from West Bengal, and some from Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh and other parts of India, are working in NOIDA area.

They are working in NOIDA area as workers and manual labourers, and they are staying in Sectors 18, 31, 37, 44 and 58. On 29th April 1999 and on 19th June 2000, the police rounded up hundreds of Bangali speaking people, beat them and let loose barbaric atrocities, extorted huge money. After the intervention of the Government, it was stopped.

But recently, on 7th February, 15th February and also on 20th February, the police have taken into custody, 18 people, 16 people and 11 people respectively and they were harassed. They were beaten up too. You will be surprised to know that they are beaten up and forced to accept that they are not Indians. But they are Indian citizens. Hon. Member P. R. Dasmunsi's certificates are there; voting cards are there; and other documents are also there. ...*(Interruptions)* These people are being harassed in NOIDA. Some people are beaten up and made naked to check up whether they are Hindus or Muslims. I have the list of about 200 people; their names are being changed to fit Muslim names. For instance, the name 'Lakshman Mandal' is being changed as 'Lakshman Khan'; like this, Muslim names are added after the Hindu names and made to look as Muslim names and framed false charges against them. It is a serious matter and the U.P. Government is perpetrating atrocities on them.

I will request the Home Ministry to intervene and stop the U.P. Government and U.P. police from attacking the Bengali-speaking people, because they are Indian citizens. I agree that Bangladeshis must be deported, but Bengali-speaking citizens should not be harassed in this way you have to distinguish between "Bangla Bhashi and Bangla Deshi". I will request the Government to take appropriate action. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BIRBHUM): Sir, it is a very serious matter, which was raised by Shri Hannan Mollah. ...*(Interruptions)* We want to know the reaction of the Government on this issue. Why the Bengali-speaking people are being harassed? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Bengali people are agitated over this issue. There are a lot of people suffering because of the atrocities of various State Government officials. In Delhi, Maharashtra, Punjab and in other States too, the Bengali-people are being harassed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : We need the reaction of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, we seek your protection on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, we need at least some response from the Government. It is a serious matter. Many people from my constituency are suffering in Maharastra, Gujarat and Rajasthan. Many people have gone to Shri Ramdas Athawale to plead with him in Mumbai. Occasionally such attacks on bengali speaking Indians are organised by police in different parts of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the other hon. Members from making their points.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I can understand that the issue is important. The Minister has taken note of it.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Sir, it is an important matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you shouting, if it is important? Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : We want a response from the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is here. She is listening to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. All of you may please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

श्री तरित बरण तोपदार (बैरकपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, बंगलादेशी और बंगला-भाषी में फर्क है। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : We are proud to be Bengalis. Bengali is a national language and we are all Bengalis. We are proud to be Bengalis.

: We are proud of the fact that we speak Bengali....(Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : This is a very serious question. Is it wrong to speak Bengali in this country?...(Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जब मैं खड़ा हूँ, प्लीज आप लोग बैठिये।

â€¦ (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: You always force that rules must be observed in the House. Now, when I am standing, why do you want to stand and speak?

You have raised a very important issue. By legal means Bangladeshi people can be asked to go back but not those who speak Bengali language. The point has been taken note of by the Hon. Minister and she will convey your feelings to the Home Minister.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Why is she not responding?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Bengali people are known for their good culture. You must exhibit that in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you not allow even the Minister to speak?

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : You may remember, Sir, when you were the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, myself, Shri Ajit Panja and Shri Akbar Ali Khandukar met you on this issue. In the name of deportation, all Bengali speaking people had been moved from the city itself. Naturally, the point raised is serious. All those who speak Bengali are not Bangladeshis. Screening, in the name of Bangladeshi, should be very articulate, effective and accurate. Otherwise many Bengali speaking people are being stamped and projected as Bangladeshi and are being deported. It is the burning problem of the State of West Bengal. The State Government has also realised it. From the very beginning it used to oppose the whole idea but now it has responded to the Central Government's appeal. Shri L.K. Advani and the Chief Minister of Bengal are discussing among themselves. West Bengal has become a paradise for the poor Bangladeshi people. We should take all precautionary measures and should be cautious in this regard....(Interruptions)

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, people are confusing Bangladeshis with Bengali-speaking people....(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : You might remember, Sir, that when you were the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, some Bangladeshis were detected and were deported from Maharashtra by train towards the West Bengal border. But at Panskura Station a mob entered into the train, beat the escorting police and got those Bangladeshis released. Shri Hannan Mollah knows it much better and he can answer it....(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, should we confuse the issue between Bangladeshis and Bengali speaking people?...(Interruptions)

MR. Speaker: Please sit down. Let the Minister make a statement, if she wants. Why are you disturbing her?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्री (श्रीमती सुमा स्वराज) : अध्यक्ष जी, मैं बड़ी विनम्रता से अपने सांसद साथियों से कहना चाहूंगी कि जब वे मुझे कहें, तब मैं रैस्पांड करूंगी। वे लोग डायरेक्टली कह रहे हैं कि गवर्नमेंट रैस्पांड नहीं कर रही है। जब वे लोग आपके माध्यम से कहते हैं और आप मुझे कहते हैं, तब मैं रैस्पांड कर रही हूँ। वैसे आपने स्वयं ही आदेश दिया है कि सम्बंधित मंत्री को बता देंगी। इसी संदर्भ में मैं भी यही कहूंगी कि आपके आदेशानुसार मैं माननीय गृह मंत्री जी, जो उप प्रधान मंत्री भी हैं, निश्चित रूप से सदस्यों की भावनाओं से उन्हें अवगत करा दूंगी।
