

Title: Requests the Central Government to take action on discrimination against Scheduled Castes in various parts of the country.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to a matter of profound public importance. In 1949, in our Constitution, we have abolished untouchability and declared that enforcement of any disparity, arising out of untouchability, shall be an offence. But rampant discrimination against members belonging to the Scheduled Castes is being practised in various parts of the country. In Uttar Pradesh, the Government has already issued a circular asking the officials of the Police Department not to register reports under the Prevention of Untouchability. They might not have exactly said "not to register", but they have said that it should be examined at various level, before any report is registered at the Police Station. Recently, we have received a report from Gujarat where Dalits have been forced indoors as fear stalks in these hamlets. This incident took place on the day of Diwali. Though I am mentioning about this village particularly, there are several other places where these incidents are being reported.

Today, again, there is a report in The Indian Express about the incident that took place in Tamil Nadu. I am certain that the Government in Tamil Nadu, which was born out of the Dravidian Movement, would take action. ... (Interruptions) You need not say anything. I am certain that the Government will take action on it. Basically, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam is the product of self-respect movement of the Dalits. I have great regards and respect for them. So, I am certain that the Government will take action.

The point which I am trying to emphasise, Mr. Chairman, is that these tendencies are trying to suppress and oppress the members belonging to the Scheduled Castes. These tendencies are being promoted and, through, I would like to request the Central Government to come down heavily on those elements who are responsible and are resorting to these suppressive and oppressive measures.

>SHRI T.R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH): A special committee has been constituted by the Collector to look into the matter, and stern action has been taken by the police.

>SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (AMROHA): The hon. Member mentioned about Uttar Pradesh saying that there was a directive from the Uttar Pradesh Government not to register cases under the Atrocities Act. I would like to correct the record and tell the hon. Member that there was no directive like this. Since the Act was misused earlier, yes, the Government has only said that any kind of incident should be inquired into first and then registered. So, let the record be put straight.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : Sir, I have a right to reply. When Parliament was deliberating on that measure, it had taken enough precautions to ensure that no provision of the law is misused. It is not open for any State Government to emphasise more on this aspect of stopping the misuse; they should rather apply the provisions of the Act in the true spirit.

Instead of that they are emphasizing more that it should not be misused. Who would be responsible for the misuse?