

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES
(1978-79)**

(SIXTH LOK SABHA)

THIRTY-NINTH REPORT

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

**DISTURBANCES IN MARATHWADA REGION
(MAHARASHTRA)**



*Presented to Lok Sabha on 30-4-1979
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 30-4-1979*

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CORRIGENDA

to

The 'Thirty-ninth Report of the Committee on the
Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
(Sixth Lok Sabha)

<u>Page</u>	<u>Para</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Correction</u>
51	116	14	<u>For</u> 'clerk' <u>read</u> 'chowk'
52	118	6	<u>For</u> 'right' <u>read</u> 'fight'
		13	<u>For</u> 'forebeares' <u>read</u> <u>read</u> 'forebearers'
53	123(i)	6	<u>For</u> 'communitest' <u>read</u> 'communities'
55	123(iv)	1	<u>For</u> 'ersons' <u>read</u> 'Persons'
58	125(iii)	1	<u>For</u> 'easte' <u>read</u> 'caste'
		2	<u>For</u> 'castism' <u>read</u> 'casteism'
	125(iv)	2	<u>For</u> 'names' <u>read</u> 'named'
60	132	3	<u>For</u> 'punished' <u>read</u> 'published'
64	136	8	<u>For</u> 'complaints' <u>read</u> 'complaint'
		13	<u>For</u> 'estinguished' <u>read</u> 'extinguished'
65	142	5	<u>For</u> 'conciousness' <u>read</u> 'consciousness'
66	144(2)	7-8	<u>For</u> 'He reported that a launched against the' <u>substitute</u> 'He reported that his house had been ransacked and clothes, books and one sewing'
69	-	1	<u>For</u> 'bruning' <u>read</u> 'burning'
70	-	4	<u>Delete</u> 'that' <u>after</u> 'stated'
		6	<u>For</u> 'ensured' <u>read</u> 'assured'
72	161	17	Treat the matter from '162 With a view t (onwards)' as a new paragraph (No.162)
75	162	2	<u>For</u> 'othen' <u>read</u> 'other'
76	164	4	<u>For</u> 'at Udgir and Kallam and resort to firing thirteen times once' <u>substitute</u> 'Bhoom, Twice at Jalkot, four times at Kallam and six times at'
77	169	9	<u>For</u> 'agitato' <u>read</u> 'agitated'
		15	<u>For</u> '(,) the' <u>read</u> '(.) The'
100	186	11	<u>For</u> 'Puck-up' <u>read</u> 'Pick-up'
107	-	19	<u>For</u> 'aftwer' <u>read</u> 'after'
113		2	<u>after</u> 'Shivaji' <u>insert</u> ','
113	215	last line	<u>For</u> 'these' <u>read</u> 'those'
115	219	12	<u>For</u> 'to' <u>read</u> 'of'
119	229	3	<u>For</u> 'Manded' <u>read</u> 'Nanded'
123	236	7	<u>For</u> 'statbment' <u>read</u> 'Government'
134	265	14	<u>For</u> 'Scheduled Caste' <u>read</u> 'Scheduled Castes'
135	265	15	<u>For</u> 'Sons' <u>read</u> 'Son'
		1	<u>Delete</u> '265'

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COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES
(1978-79)

Shri Ram Dhan—*Chairman*

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Shri Y. Sahai—*Chief Legislative Committee Officer.*

Shri H. L. Malhotra—*Senior Legislative Committee Officer.*

*Ceased to be Member of the Committee on his retirement from Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 21st April, 1979.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty-ninth Report on the Ministry of Home Affairs—Disturbances in Marathwada Region (Maharashtra State).

2. In pursuance of the Motion adopted by Lok Sabha on the 14th August, 1978 directing the Committee to investigate into the causes of the incidents in Marathwada and to identify those who were responsible for such incidents and to suggest remedies, the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at their sitting held on the 17th August, 1978, decided that a Study Group of the Committee might visit the affected areas in Marathwada region, Bombay and Nagpur from 18th to 27th September, 1978. The Study Group left Delhi for Aurangabad on the morning of the 19th September, 1978 by air and visited the affected villages there. On 20-9-1978, the Study Group divided itself into two Groups viz. Groups 'A' and 'B'. Group 'A' visited Beed and Osmanabad while Group 'B' visited Parbhani and Nanded districts. Both the groups returned to Aurangabad on the 23rd September, 1978. At Aurangabad, the Study Group held discussions with the officials and non-officials and left for Bombay on 24th September, 1978. At Bombay, the Study Group held discussions with the Chief Minister and other Ministers of the Government of Maharashtra, Chairman of the Legislative Council, a number of local M.L.As and M.Ps. The Study Group also held discussions with the representatives of various Associations, Organisations, educational institutions, etc.

3. A copy of the tour programme of the Study Group and composition of the Study Group is at Appendices I and II.

4. In October, 1978, after the Study Group of the Committee had completed its visit to Marathwada and Nagpur for on-the-spot study and investigation of the situation, the Committee were informed that the Government of Maharashtra had decided to hold a Judicial Enquiry under the Commission of Enquiry Act, 1952 into the disturbances that occurred at a few places in Nagpur Municipal area from the 4th to 6th August, 1978 and also into the police firing that took place on the 5th and 6th August, 1978. A suggestion was made to

The Government of Maharashtra to enlarge the terms of reference of the aforesaid Judicial Enquiry so as to cover enquiry into the incidents that took place in Marathwada region as well. In February, 1979, the Government of Maharashtra did not agree with the suggestion and pleaded that it would not advance public interest to order a Judicial Enquiry to cover Marathwada area and other parts of the State. In the circumstances, the Committee could not present their report earlier.

5. The Committee would like to express its thanks to the Government of Maharashtra for providing to it all facilities required during the tour and for supplying the necessary material and information wanted in connection with the examination of the subject.

6. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee on the 26th April, 1979.

NEW DELHI;

April 28, 1979

Vaisakha 8, 1901 (Saka)

RAM DHAN,

Chairman,

Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled
Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

BACKGROUND

In the first week of August, 1978, there were some disquieting newspaper reports about all the five districts in Marathwada region which were reported to be engulfed by a major strife between Neo-Buddhists and caste-Hindus over the re-naming of Marathwada University after the name of late Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. The police had to resort to firing several times and curfew was imposed at many places to bring the situation under control.

2. There was a discussion on the reported disturbances in Marathwada in Lok Sabha on the 14th August, 1978 and the following Motion was adopted at the end of the discussion:—

“This House, having considered the situation arising out of the reported large scale disturbances and some killings in Marathwada in Maharashtra State, expresses its great concern and directs the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, to investigate into the causes of these incidents and to identify those who are responsible for such incidents, and suggest remedies to meet the present situation as well as to suggest such other remedies to prevent recurrence of such incidents in any part of India in future.”

3. In pursuance of the above Motion, the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at their sitting held on the 17th August, 1978, decided that a Study Group might visit the affected areas in Marathwada region, Bombay and Nagpur from 18th to 27th September, 1978.

4. A copy of the tour programme of the Study Group and Composition of the Study Group is at Appendices I and II. As per tour programme, the Study Group left Delhi for Aurangabad on the morning of the 19th September, 1978 by air and visited the affected villages there. On 20-9-1978, the Study Group divided itself into two Groups viz. Groups A and B. Group A visited Beed and Osmanabad while Group B visited Parbhani and Nanded districts. Both the groups returned to Aurangabad on the 23rd September, 1978.

REPORT
AURANGABAD

19-9-1978

5. The Study Group visited the following villages in Aurangabad district on the afternoon of the 19th September, 1978:—

(i) **Visit of Golatgaon** (32 kms. from Aurangabad).

6. At Golatgaon, the Study Group was informed that the village never witnessed any communal trouble during the last fifty years or more. The Study Group was informed that the trouble started in the village on the 31st July, 1978 from 12.00 hrs. and a number of Scheduled Castes huts were set on fire by the miscreants. Fire was there till 14.00 hrs. approximately. A number of affected villagers were interviewed by the Study Group. They had narrated the incident as follows:—

- (I) Shrimati Sona Bai w/o late Shri Dasratha, about 55 years, informed the Study Group that when she was returning from the daily work on 31-7-1978, she found that a number of people had gathered there and were setting fire to their huts. She could not say whether the people belonged to the village or were from other villages. Her hut was burnt totally. There were two blankets and Rs. 40/- in a box and other house-hold articles which were all burnt. She was provided relief in the shape of 4 G.I. sheets and one wooden door.
- (II) The Study Group then met another victim namely Shri Sokha s/o Shri Punja Ram aged about 60 years. He informed the Study Group that he was owner of 12 acres of agricultural land which was almost barren. He had one bullock cart and also agricultural implements in the hut. These were totally destroyed. He stated that Sarvashri Nivratti s/o Shri Limba Bapurao s/o Shri Sanji Rao, Digambar s/o Shri Bansi Boa, Sakharam s/o Shri Bandu and other high caste Hindus of the village instigated the culprits who were responsible for masterminding the crime. His loss was estimated to be about Rs. 3,000-. He was provided with thatched roofing material and no G.I. sheets were provided to him. No cash relief was also provided to him.

- (iii) The Study Group also got the opportunity to meet some of women folk there. They informed the Study Group that when they came out of their houses, stones were showered on them and they were also abused. They ran with their children towards the fields and their clothes and other belongings were thrown in the fire. It was stated that it was done by the village people.

One Chaddar and one Saree had been given to each of the affected womenfolk. No cash relief had been provided to them.

- (iv) The Study Group then met Sarvashri Sukhaji Nikhaji s/o Punjee and Sachmi Nikhaji. They informed the Study Group that their stock of fooder was set on fire. Sarpanch Sudamappa and his brother who were Maharatas, came to their help and extinguished fire.
- (v) Shri Bhim Rao s/o Shri Tukka Rao informed the Study Group that two blankets, one saree and clothes of their children were forcibly taken out from his house and thrown in the fire.
- (vi) Later on, the Study Group met the villagers in a group. The Study Group was informed that they were mostly agricultural labourers and they were getting Rs. 2.50 as daily wages. The victims stated that there was no enmity with the caste Hindus of the village prior to this incident. The police station was about 6 miles from the village and the police reached there on the same day at about 14 hrs. On the following day, Shri R. S. Gavai, Chairman, Maharashtra Legislative Council, District Magistrate of Aurangabad, Sub-Division Magistrate and other officials visited places of arson in the village and collected information about the incidents. 5-6 constables had been posted in the village. The Inspector of Police was making frequent visits.
- (vii) Shri Vithal s/o Keru informed the Study Group that his house-hold goods worth Rs. 200/- were looted from his house. His house was locked and was forcibly opened. Although he had lodged complaint with the police, no compensation had been given to him. Community Centre in the colony was burnt and for that only one small shed had been provided.

(viii) Shri Sampat s/o Shri Maruthi informed the Study Group that his house was under a tree and he had one bullock cart which was set on fire. Trimbulle s/o Shri Maurti also told that he also lost one bullock-cart, fodders and some agricultural implements in the fire. He also alleged that he had given names of the culprits to the police but no action had been taken by the police in the matter.

7. In reply to a question, the Study Group was informed that 44 persons had been arrested in connection with incidents and all had been released on bail by the High Court.

8. The Study Group was also informed that they were mostly agricultural labourers and they had started going for work after the incident. They were not prepared to live in the village even if police protection was provided to them and they stressed that they should be provided with alternative accommodation in Aurangabad City.

(ii) Visit to Badnapur (15 Kms. from Golat Gaon)

9 The Study Group then visited Badnapur where a camp was organised to give shelter to the affected persons by Akola Village. Temporary thatched huts were provided to them. The Study Group heard the victims. The victims stated that they were not prepared to go back to the village and they might be rehabilitated in the town.

(i) Shrimati Drupadabai W/O Dasratha informed the Study Group that she was a widow and was having one minor child. She was resident of Akola where her house was burnt on the 2nd August, 1978 at about 8 p.m. She stated that there was no previous enmity in the village and it all happened suddenly. She came to the camp alongwith other families and had no desire to go back to the village. She was an agricultural labourer and her daily wages were Rs. 2/- only.

(ii) Shri Bhanudatt s/o Ambuji stated that initially 21 families came from Akola to the camp and out of these 16 families were reported to have gone to Aurangabad. Only 5 families were staying in the transit camp at that time.

(iii) Shri Abdul Ghani s/o Shri Gulbnabi stated that he was a carpenter and was running a carpentary shop about 4 Kms. from Badnapur. He was coming on foot to Badnapur to

make purchases. He was assaulted by Police with lathis and his both legs were fractured and he also got injuries on his hands. He had not been provided with any financial assistance.

- (iv) Shri Kuhalok s/o Shri Datt stated that he was grazing the cattle in the fields which was quite away from the road. He was also assaulted by Police with lathis and has sustained injuries both at the back and also on the hand. Both were taken to the police station and were treated in the hospital.

(iii) Visit to Akola Village

10. At Akola village, there were certain arson cases on the night of 2nd August, 1978 and about 21 Nath Borde, a police Patil from Neo Buddhists who is owner of 14 acres of agricultural land in the village. He had installed a flour mil and was quite well off. He was the main target of the fury of the caste Hindus because in his official capacity he had been reporting the cases of harassment of Scheduled Castes to the authorities concerned. His bullock cart and house-hold articles were burnt. The police reached the spot when the house had already been set on fire and the miscreants had fled away from the spot. The attackers set fire to the houses with "Mashals".

11. The Study Group was also informed that neo-Buddhists had hidden their women and children in the fields and saw their houses burning. Only neo-Buddhists had been made the target of the fury.

12. The Study Group also met a number of persons during the course of their visit to the village. Shri Babuji s/o Shri Viswanath aged 25 years who is Mang by Caste stated that he could not understand as to why the houses of neo-Buddhists only were made targets. They were living peacefully like brethern in the village previously.

(iv) Visit to village Kandari Buzak

13. In Kandari Buzak village, the Scheduled Castes were segregated and were living in the outskirts of the village. The Zilla Parishad had also constructed some houses for the Scheduled Caste persons over the house-sites allotted to them. The Study Group was informed that the trouble in the Village started on the 4th August, 1978 and the house of Shri Sakha Ram, a school teacher was burnt late in the evening. In all, 13 houses (9 inside and 4 outside

the villages) and 4 cattle sheds were burnt. It was stated that Shri Vishwanath Nandev Borde, a scheduled caste person had married some time back the daughter of a Police Patil who belonged to a caste Hindu Community and that incident was to some extent responsible for bitterness among the Caste Hindus and Scheduled Caste persons. However, the house of Shri Borde was not set on fire.

- (I) Shri Narayan s/o Shri Tukaram informed the Study Group that on the 4th August, 1978 at about 9.30 p.m., he let the village with his children out of fear. He did not know how his house was burnt. He had been given a sum of Rs. 125/-, two dhotis and a saree and also some utensils and ration for one month. He stated that he was a carpenter and his carpentry instruments and clothes like blankets, dhotis, etc. had been burnt. He stated that there was one house belonging to Mang Community and four houses of Chamar Community in his vicinity and those houses had not been set on fire while his house had been selected and set on fire. He had been provided with G.I. sheet, doors, etc.
- (ii) Shri Bhiva s/o Dagrū, aged 70 years informed the Study Group that he along with his wife and 3 children ran out of fear from their house on 4th August, 1978 at about 9 p.m. and took shelter in the house of Shri Seshrao s/o Shri Kishan Patil Singare. He returned to his house on the following day. The police had also come on the next day if and he did not know as to who had informed the police. He also state that there was now no threat and he was daily going to his work as an agricultural labourer.
- (III) Shri Mati Kera Bai w/o Shri Dagrū, aged 70 years, informed the Study Group that the members of her family took shelter with some other villagers in the village and she could not say as to how and when her house was set on fire. She was a Buddhist.

14. The Study Group was informed that Rs. 50/- per person and ration for a period of 15 days, some utensils and one dhoti and a saree to each of the affected families were given by the District authorities.

(v) Visit to village Kandari Khurd.

15. The Study Group was informed that there were 27 houses belonging to Scheduled Castes and non-buddhists in the village Kandari Khurd and some houses were burnt and some houses were damaged on the night of 4th August, 1978.

(I) Shri Sesh Rao s/o Jethram, aged 23 years, informed the Study Group that a mob of about 150 people from the adjoining village Kandari Buzuk came raising slogans against the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and set the houses on fire. It was stated that Gangadhar s/o Sunderrao, Salo s/o Shri Ganpat Kheri, Ek Nath s/o Shri Krishen Rao were in the forefront. He also stated that he was alone in the house and all other family members had already run away out of fear. He was at that time standing on the road which was at a distance of about 20 feet from his house. In his house there were agricultural implements and carpentry tools, articles belonging to customers and wood logs valuing Rs. 3000/- and household articles and clothes were all burnt in the fire. He estimated that his total loss was to the extent of Rs. 5000/-. One set of carpentry tools and cash assistance of Rs. 100/- and two chaddars, 2 Durries, 3 Dhotis and 2 sarees and some utensils had been given by the district authorities. He further stated that there was no threat from the villagers and he was doing his regular work.

He was owner of 8 acres of land and one of his brother, named Namdev, was studying in Dr. SVMA College at Aurangabad. He also could not explain as to why their house was set on fire. They had no enmity with the villagers.

(II) The Study Group was also informed that the houses of (i) Shri Bhikha s/o Shri Ranaji, (ii) Shri Totaram s/o Shri Natha Dabaha, (iii) Shrimati Kerabai w/o Shri Dasrath had also been set on fire by the mob on the same night. They were formerly Mahars and now nee-Buddhists. The houses of other Scheduled Castes, namely, Mangs and Chamars had not been touched. They were helped by Banjaras in extinguishing the fire. The Collector, District Magistrate and the Police came on the following day at about 4 P.M. They had given some names to the police authorities who had committed the arson but they had not so far been arrested. He demanded that he should be fully compensated.

(III) Shri Bhika s/o Shri Ranaji informed the Study Group that he owned some land in the village which was barren. His house was burnt and he had suffered a loss of Rs. 1,000/-. He had 4 family

members and had been provided with relief by the district authorities as had been provided to others.

(IV) Shri Tota Ram s/o Natha stated that he had suffered a loss of Rs. 2,000/-. He was now going to work and there was no fear. He had also been provided with relief on the lines provided to other victims.

(V) Shrimati Kerabai w/o Shri Dasratha Sonawane was bitterly weeping while explaining the losses suffered by her. All her belongings including a cash of Rs. 1500/- her life-long saving had been destroyed in the fire. She had been provided with 7 G.I. sheets, wooden door and other relief as provided to others. She had one son one daughter and desired that she might be provided with a house-site in Aurangabad city.

(PARBHANI)

20-9-1978

16. On arrival at Parbhani from Aurangabad on the 20th September, 1978, Group B of Study Group of the Committee visited Village Nawaki and Adgaon.

(i) Visit to Nawaki village.

17. The Study Group was informed that the total population of Nawaki village was 790 according to 1971 census and out of them, about 195 were Neo-Buddhists and 16 were Mangs. 11 houses belonging to Neo-Buddhists were burnt into ashes during the disturbances on 5-8-1978 and 14 families had been affected. The affected persons stated that the Caste Hindus from the village itself had burnt their houses and two persons were injured in the disturbances. The total loss was stated to be exceeding Rs. 10,000/-.

18. The Study Group was shown 11 newly constructed houses which had been allotted to the persons whose houses had been burnt during the disturbances. The cost of each house was estimated to be Rs. 1,500/-. The Study Group was also informed that each affected family had been given one dhoti, one saree and some house-hold utensils on 19-9-1978 just one day before the visit of the Study Group to the village.

(I) Shri Ramu s/o Shri Gomaji stated that he was in the village at the time of incident and was mercilessly beaten by the crowd. He had received injuries on his legs and also on the hands. He was admitted in the hospital and was there for 23 days. He also stated that one Shri Babu had beaten him and he had given his name to the police. The Study Group was informed that the police reached the village on the same evening of incident and registered cases against 35 persons. 3 persons were arrested on that day and the rest, who were absconding, were arrested after 10 days. 3 persons had been remanded to judicial custody and the rest had been released on bail under the orders of the Assistant Sessions Court, Parbhani. The miscreants belonged to the age groups of 25—30 years and 40—45 years. He estimated that his loss was to the extent of Rs. 1500/-.

(II). Shri Kondiba s/o Shri Khandare reported a loss worth Rs. 2,000/- on the burning of his hut on 5-8-1978 at about 12.00 hours. He alongwith his family members ran away from there and returned back to the village on the following day. He stated that his son Raoji informed about the incident at Police Station, Purna which was at a distance of about 7 K.M. from the village and the police reached the village on the same evening. He was given cash assistance to the extent of Rs. 450/-, clothing and also some utensils.

(III) Shri Raoji stated that he received injuries all over the body. He was admitted in the hospital at Purna and was indoor patient from the 6th to 28th August, 1978. He suffered a loss of Rs. 2,000/-. He got cash assistance to the extent of cash Rs. 400/-.

(IV) The following persons of the village also reported about their loss, etc. as indicated below:—

Sl. No.	Name	Father's name	Total loss incurred	Assistance received	Ramarks of the affected persons
1.	Shri Narain	Dogra	1000	400	Not assaulted by the crowd.
2.	Shri Nagu	Govinda	2000	700	Do.
3.	Shri Kisan	Kondiba	1300	500	He ran away on seeing the crowd.
4.	Shri Kachru	Hiraji	600	400	He was not getting any job after the incident
5.	Shri Satwa	Jalbaji	3000	500	He was cultivating $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of Govt. waste land. At present working as labourer @ Rs, 4.00 per day.
6.	Shri Sita Ram	Nagu Ram	1500	350	He was landless there but owned 4 acres in adjoining Abirwadi village.
7.	Shri Mahadu	Purbaji	1300	400	Poseses no land.
8.	Smt. Jana Bai	Vithal	1200	200	Out of fear, she ran and fell in chest deep water. Since the incident, she was not getting any job. She was cultivating one acre of Govt. waste land.
9.	Shri Kishan	Punjachi	500	100	..
10.	Shri Tukaram	Purbaji	..	..	He was landless. At present working in "Bundh" and but construction work.
11.	Shri Newrati	Piraji	600	180	..

(ii) Visit to Adgaon

19. The Study Group reached Adgaon Village at 17.25 hours. In Adgaon, 38 houses belonging to Neo-Buddhists and 2 houses belonging to Scheduled Castes had been burnt on the 2nd August, 1978. Out of total population of 2581, about 228 Neo-Buddhists and 56 Matangs were living in this village.

20. The Study Group was informed that the caste Hindus from the village itself had burnt their houses on the 2nd August, 1978 just after the sun-set. Very few persons of this village owned lands and it was understood that wages were not being paid to the agricultural labourers at the prescribed rates. There was a separate drinking well for Neo-Buddhists in the village.

21. The Study Group was shown the houses which were being constructed for the affected persons. Such houses had a minimum life of 10 years and were made of bricks|stones with zinc sheet roofing and murum flooring covered with cow dung. The affected families were given the option to reconstruct|repair their houses themselves and in such cases, subsidy limited to Rs. 1500|- was given to them in kind and cash. Option had also been taken from the affected persons whether they wanted reconstruction to be done on their existing plot or at a different well laid-out site. The Study Group noted that the quality of cement used was of inferior quality.

22. The Study Group then heard the affected person:

(I) Shri Kishan s/o Shri Rangaji stated that there were Gram Panchayat elections about 3 months back and police patil Shri Baba Saheb s/o Shri Tate Rao and Shri Venkatrao Chavan approached him and offered Rs. 3,000|- and asked for his support and votes. As he refused to support him, Police patil Shri Baba Saheb got annoyed. The houses were set on fire out of that enmity. He stated that about 40—45 persons came on 2-8-1978 at about 19 hours and set fire to houses of Neo-Buddhists and left with no means of livelihood. They threatened that he should be burnt alive. There was his cattle shed nearby and it was also set on fire. All agricultural implements were burnt. He ran away from there out of fear and spent the night in the fields. He came to the village on the following day and did not know as to when the police arrived.

Three persons including one lady Shrimati Sadubai w/o Khandare were beaten. The injured lady was taken to the hospital at Hatta and was treated for 2 days. He also alleged that he was cultivating

3 pieces of land measuring 11 acres which had since been taken by the land authorities and left without any means of livelihood. He sustained loss of Rs. 8,000|- approximately. He said that he had received assistance at the rate of Rs. 50|- per head in cash for 6 persons and also one saree and dhoti.

(II) Shri Umakant s|o Shri Kerwa Khandare stated that he was non-matric and was also landless. He had sustained a loss of Rs. 4,000|-. There was no student of the village who was studying at Aurangabad. He stated that besides houses of 38 neo-buddhists, houses of 2 Mangs were also burnt as they were helping and co-operating with Neo-Buddhists. They were not assaulted physically but only their houses were burnt.

(III) Shri Jayaram s|o Gyanu stated that he sustained a loss of about Rs. 7000|- and had received assistance to the tune of Rs. 350|- from the local authorities. He said that he had gone to hear religious discourses on the date of incident and when he returned at about 20.30 hours, he saw that houses in the village were burning. He also saw that Shri Deshpande, Police Inspector and one constable in uniform were there but was not aware as to who had informed the police and also when the police had arrived. With regard to the role of police, he stated that the police helped to extinguish the fire and also made Panchnama. 3 or 4 persons were arrested on the following day. He, out of fear, had fled to the field and could not, therefore, identify the persons out of the crowd. He also informed that they were now on taking terms with the high caste villagers and they did not assault them or threaten them. They were now getting work in the field. He was, at that time, working as a labourer for the construction of new houses for the affected people.

(IV) Shri Bhagwan s|o Shri Ranju Khandare stated that he suffered a loss of about Rs. 4,000|- and had received assistance of Rs. 150|-. He was landless labourer and his elder brother was a teacher but none of his relations was studying in Aurangabad. He stated that when his house was set on fire by the crowd, Police Patil, Sarpanch and Chairman of Co-operative Society were present, and small children came raising slogans against the Chief Minister and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

(V) Shri Naik s|o Shri Moti Ram stated that he sustained a loss of about Rs. 4,000|- and had received assistance of Rs. 200|-. He ran away from the House out of fear and returned on the following day. He could not, therefore, say as to who were responsible for setting the houses on fire.

(VI) Shri Rama s/o Shri Kerba Khandare stated that he had sustained a loss of about Rs. 800/ and had received assistance of Rs. 200|-. He was a landless labourer. In reply to a question, he stated that he had asked for a pipe connection from the well as the approach road to the well was not good and also wanted a proper approach road to be constructed for the Neo-Buddhists colony. He also stated that when he saw that a nearby house had been set on fire, he ran away with his children out of fear and could not, therefore, know the persons who had set the houses on fire.

(VII) Shri Radhaji s/o Shri Gobind Khandare stated that he suffered a loss of about Rs. 2,000|- and had received assistance to the extent of Rs. 450|-. He came back to the village after 8 days and found his house burnt.

(VIII) Sarvashri Uttam, Govind and Amrat stated that they were brother and were staying under the same roof but had different compounds for each of them. They complained that their house had also been burnt but their names had not been included in official records as they were not residing in the village at that time. They also complained that the newly constructed houses had no deep foundation.

(IX) Shri Girmaji s/o Shri Ganapati stated that about 50 persons came shouting slogans against Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and set fire to the houses on 2-8-1978 at about 7 P.M. He ran away and returned to the village on the following day at about 7.00 A.M. As it was dark, he could not identify the persons who had set fire to the houses. He suffered a loss of about Rs. 1000|-.

(X) Shri Bapu s/o Shri Gyanba Londhe stated that he was non-matric. He was in the house at the time of incident and when he saw that the neighbour's house had been set on fire, he ran away with his children out of fear. He did not hear any slogans and was also not aware of the causes of setting their houses on fire. He suffered a loss of about Rs. 2,000/-.

(XI) Shri Shankar s/o Shri Gyanoba stated that they had never attempted to draw water from the common well. There were separate cups and soucers for them in the village hotels and they had never complained to the police authorities in that regard. He had

2-3 acres of land and had suffered a loss of about Rs. 3,000/-. He was also working as an agricultural labourer as and when he was getting work. He had a family of 7 members and had received assistance of Rs. 350/-. He was provided with a new house.

(XII) Shri Bholaji s/o Shri Mariba Khandare stated that he was a landless labourer and was in his house at the time of incident. He could not identify the persons who had set the houses on fire. He had suffered a loss of Rs. 4000/- and received assistance of Rs. 150/- only.

(XIII) Shri Uttar s/o Shri Govind stated that when the houses were set on fire, women folk were in the house and they ran away to the nearby sugarcane field out of fear. Sarvashri Venkatrao s/o Shri Dajiba, Namdeo s/o Shri Manikrao Chavan and Prabhu s/o Rangnath Chavan and 50 to 60 other people were responsible for setting their houses on fire. In the Gram Panchayat elections, he supported the candidature of Pandit Rao Deshmukh. He suffered a loss of Rs. 2500/- and had not been given any aid. He was not even allotted a newly built house though his elder brother had been allotted a house.

(XIV) Shri Ram Rao s/o Shri Pandu Ram, Police Patil, stated that he got a monthly honorarium of Rs. 75/- for working as Police Patil. He was sleeping in the house when the arson took place and was awakened by the Police Sub-Inspector who knocked at his door and enquired how he dared to sleep when the whole village was burning. He then came out and took ex-Sarpanch and 25 other persons to the site of Budhwada where houses were burning. No person was present there at that time. He with the assistance of others took articles from 6 houses and they were there till 2 a.m. by which time all the houses had burnt. Shri Deshpande, Police Sub-Inspector told him to wait in Budhwada till he returned from Police Station, Hatta. After one hour, at about 3 a.m., local fire brigade came to Budhwada when everything had been burnt and they had nothing to do. The Officer, who accompanied the fire Brigade abused him saying that how he had allowed the houses to be burnt down. He gave one stroke with stick on his thigh and also pushed ex-Sarpanch. That Officer was D.S.P. At that time, the present Sarpanch came and pacified the children of the village who were agitated for beating them. The Police Patil left for home at that time and did not know as to what happened thereafter.

(XV) The following victims also narrated about their losses to the Study Group as stated below:

Sl. No.	Name & Father's name	Loss	Aid received	Remarks
		Rs.	Rs.	
1.	Shri Hari s/o Gavila Maruti	5000 to 6000	200	
2.	Shri Mohan s/o Mariba Khanadre	1000	Did not receive any cash aid and his name was not included in official list. He gave an application for allotment of house but his name was not included in the official list.	
3.	Shri Maruti s/o Shri Ganpati :	1000	250	

(iii) Visit to Sirsam village.

23. The Study Group was informed that Sirsam village was situated at a distance of about 80 Kms. from Parbhani town and it had no proper approach road during rainy season. On 4-8-1978, about 19 huts of neo-Buddhists were burnt—10 completely and 9 partially. The population of this village was about 517 and out of them, 252 were neo-Buddhists and 30 were Matangs. The houses of Matangs were safe.

24. The Government had constructed 10 houses for allotment to those whose huts had been completely burnt during the disturbances on 4-8-1978 and 9 houses were repaired by providing zinc sheets, doors etc.

25. In this village, the Study Group paid surprise visit to a house of caste Hindu, Shri Sri Ram s/o Shri Vimaji Limbaji. The Study Group saw that 3 brothers were staying in a small mud house and 15 persons (7 adults and 8 children) were living there. They had about 20 acres of land, out of which only 8 acres of land was cultivable. Their income was about Rs. 1,000/- per annum. All the adults, except the mother, were working as agricultural labourers and their daily wages were Rs. 3/- for males and Rs. 1.50 for females. Shri Sri Ram informed the Study Group that prior to the incident, their relations with neo-Buddhists were good and they used to sit

together and even used to dine together. He also informed that one Shri Ganpat Rao s/o Shri Appa Rao, an agriculturist, and 14 others against whom a case was registered last year on the allegation that they had broken the photo of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar into pieces on the Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti Day when a procession was passing, were released hardly 8 days before the disturbances took place in the village on 4-8-1978.

26. On the day of incident, he returned from the fields at about 9 a.m. and he did not know the details of the incident. However, he gathered that 24 persons were arrested on that day and the aforesaid 15 persons were re-arrested and had been released on bail. He also informed that some outside persons had come to the village on that day but he did not know their details.

27. The affected persons gave details of the incident as follows:—

(I) Shri Dattu s/o Shri Hiranman Waghmare stated that there were 9 members in his family. His house was burnt on 4-8-1978 at about 10 a.m. and they ran away from their house out of fear. He saw a procession coming towards Budhwada and they were carrying sticks, swords, etc. He stated that there could be two causes of the incident, one was that they had refused to carry on hereditary services i.e. carrying dead animals, sweepings, etc. for the last two years and the other could be that they were cultivating Government waste land without *pattas*. The villagers were feeling irritated and they used to let loose their animals in their fields and crops were destroyed. 9 families were cultivating 100 acres of land in the village. He suffered a loss of Rs. 10,000/ and received assistance of Rs. 850/ only. He was not allotted newly built house because he did not own a house in the village.

(II) Shrimati Sheshabai w/o Supan Kamble stated that the houses in the village were set on fire on 4-8-1978 at about 8 a.m. and these continued to burn till noon. 13 houses were burnt and 11 houses were looted. Next day, she alongwith two women went to the nearby police station at Palam in Gangakhed taluk which was at a distance of 10 miles from the village at about 6 p.m. On the next morning, one police inspector alongwith 4 constables came to the village at about 6 a.m. and she did not know what the police did.

During the time of incident, the men and women folk fled away from the Budhwada to the nearby fields. They could hear the crowd raising slogans like "Mahatma Gandhi Ki Jai". She also

stated that just 4 days back, they had been threatened again by the following persons:—

- (i) Shri Shesh Rao s/o Shri Nanaji Patil
- (ii) Shri Maurati s/o Shri Govinda Patil
- (iii) Shri Digaram s/o Shri Maurati Patil
- (iv) Shri Gyandeo s/o Shri Abhaji Ware

The Police had, however, not been informed of the threats even though the police and revenue officials were visiting the village almost daily after the incident. This had not been done out of fear. She had not been allotted a newly built house.

(III) Shri Gopal s/o Yadav Waghmare stated that he was a member of the Gram Panchayat and was not allowed to sit together with other members of the Panchayat. Besides him, Shri Biswanath s/o Bithoba who had been elected on reserved seat was also not allowed to sit alongwith other members. They were sitting separately in Gram Panchayat meetings and were also not allowed to take water from Gram Panchayat office's pitchers.

In the village, they took water from nearby river which was at a distance of about 2 furlongs. There was one well in the village which was property of a private owner and he did not allow them to draw water from there.

28. Last year, when they celebrated Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti, none of high caste Hindus attended the function although they had invited the villagers to attend the function. When the celebrations were going on, there were disturbances in the meeting and the photograph of Dr. Ambedkar was broken by Shri Shesh Rao s/o Shri Nanaji Patil. He had heard the news of the change of name of Marathwada University but no meeting was held in the village. 3 boys of their community were collage students and 4 of high school. There was a primary school in the village and Scheduled Caste students sat separately in that school.

The villagers did not attend their marriages but on the other hand they had to work at the time of their marriages as labourers on payment.

In the end, he stated that he purchased 10 acres of land about 10 years back and several obstructions were created by Caste Hindus against this transaction. There was still fear in their mind.

(IV) Shri Bhujung s/o Shri Hiranman Waghmare.—There was a land dispute for the last 22 years against Shri Digamber who owned cultivable land on which neo-Buddhists had constructed their huts. The land was acquired by Government to settle neo-Buddhists. He stated that because of that their huts had been set on fire.

(V) Shri Shesh s/o Shri Nanaji Patil stated that neo-Buddhists were in the habit of making false complaints otherwise there was no enmity between Hindus and Neo-Buddhists and other Scheduled Castes. He added that neo-Buddhists had made false allegations against them in the past. According to him, some college students came from outside the village and set fire to the huts of Neo-Buddhists.

(VI) Shri Ram Chandra s/o Shri Digambar Patil, Sarpanch, aged 22 years, stated that he was elected 2 months back and was not aware of enactment of the Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955. He was suffering from Malaria from 2-8-1978 and was in the house at the time of incident. He recovered from 8-8-1978 and he had not reported the incident to the police even after illness. Till 1976, he was studying in B.A. (Ist year) in Yashwant College, Nanded and then left the college. During his tenure of 2 months, only two meetings of the Gram Panchayat were held and Scheduled Caste members did not attend those meetings. They attended Independence Day celebrations function when they were served tea alongwith other members of Gram Panchayat. As neo-Buddhists suspected him as a suspect, he did not visit the affected huts even after recovery from illness. On 5-8-1978, when the police officer came, he accompanied him even though he was sick. Before 2 years, neo-Buddhists accused him for breaking the photo of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar and he feared that they might take revenge on him at this hour.

(VII) Shri Shivaji s/o Shri Shanker Rao stated that he was Police Patil for the last 3 years. He fell ill and had gone to Ambajugai which was at a distance of 70 Kms. from the village on 27-7-1978 and returned to the village on 10-8-1978. He did not meet anybody on 10-8-1978 as all had gone to Gangakhed.

(VIII) Shri Digambar s/o Shri Shivaji Bhdhwada stated that he was fisherman and his two bullocks were stolen by Shri Gopal s/o Jadu about 15 days back. He had lodged a complaint with the police but no action had been taken in the matter.

The Study Group left Sirsam village at 12.30 hours and reached Gangakhed at about 13.40 hours. The Study Group was informed by Shri T. N. Sawant ex-M.L.A. that he was running a hostel in house

on station road which was attacked by young students and all the furniture was damaged. A jeep which was standing opposite his house was also burnt. He was not present in the house at the time of incident.

(iv) Meeting with non-officials at Zila Parishad Hall, Parbhani

29. The Study Group held a meeting with non-officials at Zila Parishad Hall, Parbhani on the afternoon of the 21st Sept., 1978.

(I) Shri D. N. More, Vice-President, Marathwada Republican Party stated that since the passing of the resolution on the 27th July, 1978 by the two Houses of State Legislature to change the name of Marathwada University to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, disturbances had started with a view to suppress neo-Buddhists.

(II) Shri S. N. Sadaware stated that the agitation against the re-naming of Marathwada University started in Marathwada from the 27th July, 1978. It has originated from caste feelings. On 29-7-1978, the agitators first started stopping trains and buses and cut off telephone lines with a view to snap contact with the villages. At that stage, the police played the role of a silent spectator. From 30-7-1978, the agitation became serious and concerted attacks were made on Dalit *Bastees* and looting started. The agitators not only set the houses of Dalits on fire at various places by uttering the slogan "Har Har Mahadev" but damaged also the photos of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Lord Boudha.

As the agitation was communal, the agitators treated the Dalits in the same way as they were being treated during the regime of Peshwas in the past. There was fear in the minds of Dalits and they had a leaning for migrating towards cities and towns to save their lives. As the atmosphere in cities was in no way different, they were wandering hither and thither for a week or so. The mothers were separated from their children. The police machinery was then ineffective. He suggested that judicial enquiry should be ordered into the disturbances in the Marathwada area and the decision to re-name the Marathwada University should be implemented. Prosecutions should be launched against those who had burnt the photos of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and the cases already lodged should not be withdrawn. The persons whose houses had been burnt should be given Rs. 3,000/- each uniformly. The persons who had lost standing crops should be given compensation at the rate of Rs. 1,000/- per acre.

(III) Shri Hem Raj Jain of the Citizens Council stated that he formed Citizen's Council on 19-7-1978 for restoring peace in Marathwada without the support of any political party. He apprehended that selfish motives were the cause of recent agitation in the region which should be probed into. He was of the view that feelings of the people were not taken into consideration before passing of resolution in State Legislature for change of name of the University.

(IV) The representative of the Janata Party stated that the recent out-bursts in Marathwada region on the question of re-naming of the Marathwada University were essentially due to economic and social backwardness of the region. There was no substantial economic and industrial development in this region. The region, therefore, remained very backward in every respect and the educated and the uneducated youths were roaming all over Marathwada in urban as well as in rural areas.

There were two agitations in the region in the past and they were in respect of economic backwardness *vis-a-vis* establishment of projects and Agricultural University in the region.

The conspicuous feature, in all the three agitations, was against the Government and state property was damaged to a large extent. Subsequently after 1-8-1978, the news spread in the rural areas and some reactionary elements took advantage of the situation and settled their personal or private accounts with neo-Buddhists. Likewise, there were certain provocative activities had also added to the aggravation of the situation.

The people in the region had great respect for Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Marathwada University was established about 20 years back and it was so named after taking all factors into consideration. There were sentiments in respect of the name "Marathwada", and the people thought that Government or the political parties were taking out something of their culture and thrusting something on them. In most of rural areas, local questions viz. implementation of the Civil Rights Act, 1955 and disputes in respect of wells and lands and the disrespect shown by the neo-Buddhists particularly by members of Dalit Panthers to the 'Mandirs' and dieties of the Hindus were the causes for the recent outbursts.

There was unrest in among the educated youths of the region due to lack of employment opportunities. There was also resentment in the student community in respect of the policy of admissions in the technical and professional colleges.

(V) Shri Venkat Rao of Divine Mission spoke of lack of devotion and faith in humanity which were the root cause of all the troubles.

(VI) Shri Shankerrao Manwatkar, Advocate, stated that the recent disturbances which took place in Marathwada region were the outcome of unemployment. Many Graduates in the cities and even in the villages were jobless, especially the poor. The jobs could only be given to those who were influential and had money to bribe. The political leaders who do not belong to the backward classes were not inclined to see the advancement of the down-trodden people in the society.

At the end, he made the following suggestions:—

- (i) The Government and private fallow lands should be allotted to landless scheduled caste people and all facilities such as free supply of manures, bullocks, etc. should be given to them at least for a period of five years.
- (ii) Special mobile courts should be set up for quick disposal of untouchability cases. Scheduled Caste police officers should be appointed to investigate these cases.
- (iii) 20 percent of houses in cities should be reserved for Scheduled Castes and backward people.
- (iv) Collectors belonging to backward communities should be posted in the districts for at least a period of ten years so that strict supervision for the schemes for the settlement of Scheduled Castes could be kept.
- (v) Special attention should be paid to the hostels meant for Scheduled Caste boys and girls.
- (vi) Special colleges like medical and engineering should be started in the name of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in Marathwada region and all seats in these colleges should be reserved for Scheduled Castes and backward classes people.
- (vii) There are some professional colleges in the country who admit students after receiving donations. All such institutions should be nationalised.
- (viii) The mode of elections both for Parliament as well as for Assemblies should be changed.

(VII) Shri Rameshwar Majerao stated that landlords and landless workers desired to live together in the villages but political parties were trying to create unrest in the villages.

(VIII) Shri Kishan Rajarao stated that one Shri Ashok got the job of a lecturer but lost it due to non-delivery of postal dak in time. During the agitation, he received the letter of appointment ten days late and could not join in time. He pleaded that he might be given that job.

(IX) Shri Labu Khandare of Backward Classes Employees' Welfare Association stated that many teachers had to leave the villages due to incidents of atrocities there. Orders had been issued that such absence of teachers would be regarded as leave and would be paid leave salary. It was suggested that such period of absence should be treated as on duty and they should be given salary accordingly.

It was also stated that huts of 20—25 government employees were burnt at Parbhani during the recent agitation and they had not been given compensation so far. It was stressed that such Government employees should also be given compensation.

(X) Shri Ashok Chitrahari stated that Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti was founded 4 years back and they were opposed to the re-naming of Marathwada University and also against the destruction of Government properties. He suggested that a technical University should be opened in the region and it might be named after Dr. B. R. Ambedkar as a solution to Marathwada agitation.

(XI) Shri Madhav Hatagare stated on behalf of Dalit Panthers that there could not be a more anti-national and sabotaging activity than the one exhibited during the Marathwada agitation, namely, communal riots in their ugliest form, killing of innocent people and burning of Buddhist bustees. The Government encouraged the culprits as was evident from the indifferent and silent spectator's attitude adopted by the police during the period of agitation. It should be considered from the national and social point of view rather than political one and permanent remedial measures should be taken to improve upon the situation. He suggested that the decision to re-name the Marathwada University should be implemented and the anti-social elements involved in the agitation should be punished. The Dalits who were affected during the agitation should be given houses and also provided with jobs. Dalit employees should be transferred to the cities for safety. Government and other vacant land should be allotted to Dalits and back-log in services should be cleared early. The educated unemployed amongst

the backward classes should be granted loans for starting industries. In the end, he stressed that a judicial commission should be appointed to enquire into the incidents in Marathwada.

(XII) Shri B. S. Naik, President, Zilla Parishad stated that he had toured all the areas and was of the view that the poor villagers were not interested in re-naming of Marathwada University and they had their own disputes. Out of 1300 villages, only 20 villages in Parbhani District faced the disturbances. Government property was damaged by the students. He stated that there could not be peace in the area until the cases were closed against all the persons.

(XIII) Shri Om Prakash Deora, District Secretary General, C.P.I. stated that the atrocities committed in Marathwada were more serious than the happenings in Belchi, Agra, etc. because the latter incidents were confined to certain places and took place only for a day or two whereas in Marathwada, atrocities had been taking place on Dalits in one village or other continuously for 8 days. Although the agitation was over, the social understanding, peace and mutual confidence had not been established. Whatever peace and understanding were visible, those were superficial.

(XIV) At village Babri, about 10 miles from Parbhani, Shri Bapurao s/o Shri Vithal and others were prevented to enter fields by one Shri Rameshwar Marwari. They had been cultivating the fields for last three years but they were now threatened with axe. His wife Chandrabagha had been assaulted 2 months sback by Shri Hari s/o Niruba and others. Police had taken her to hospital and a case was registered but no action had been taken thereafter.

(XV) There were two different reasons for riots in urban areas and in rural areas. Amongst the educated, there was a discontentment for the reservation of seats for Dalits in Medical Engineering and Vocational Colleges as well as for reservation of posts in services. Originally, the Students Action Committee demanded that these reservations should be scrapped but later on, the students demanded that all economically weaker communities should be granted these concessions.

(XVI) At many places, in villages, where Dalits were attacked, the young people were in the fore-front. At some other places, the reasons were local. Wherever Dalits fought for their rights, they were attacked and wherever they tried to improve upon their positions, they were also victims of attacks. The rural people thought that the attacks were connected with the incidents taking place in

towns and cities. Hence the agitation stood juxtaposed to the flight of Dalits leading a self-respecting and equal life. In cities, the agitation was apparently against Government, its real direction was against the facilities and concessions being enjoyed by the Dalits.

(XVII) At the end, it was suggested that Dalits should be rehabilitated where they were staying at present. The existing facilities which were being given to Dalits should not be withdrawn or reduced under any circumstances. Facilities to weaker section should be given for making progress in comparison to economically better people.

(XVIII) A nation-wide and comprehensive programme should be chalked out for implementation of land ceiling laws, distribution of land, guarantee of jobs, giving doles to unemployed and promotion of industries, etc.

(XIX) Prosecution already launched should not be withdrawn. The Central Government should also take steps to honour Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

(XX) Shri F. S. Shinde, Lecturer, Shivaji College of Commerce, stated that initially, the agitation was against the Government but later on turned to caste war. The students did not belong to any political party but they had participated in the agitation and some had been arrested. The students should be released and the cases withdrawn against them. To honour Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, a technical institute in the region should be named after him.

(XXI) Shri Uttar Goude, M.L.A. was of the view that there was no connection between the incidents of arson and re-naming of Marathwada University.

(XXII) Shri P. S. Dhapre, General Secretary, R.P.I. stated that he was furiously attached during the recent agitation. He did not get timely police protection and even now some caste Hindus were after him. He requested for judicial enquiry into the whole affair and also prayed for adequate protection.

Discussion with District officials at Parbhani

30. The Study Group was informed that the total population of Parbhani District as per 1971 Census was 15,06,702. The total number of Scheduled Castes excluding neo-Buddhists as per 1971 Census was 85,000. The population of neo-Buddhists was 1,73,000.

31. On a question, the Study Group was informed that 141 huts of Scheduled Castes were damaged/burnt during the recent disturbances in the district and the total estimated loss of property of Scheduled Castes in all the affected villages was Rs. 3,11,928. There had been no loss of life of Scheduled Castes in any part of the District during the recent disturbances. However two non-Scheduled Castes were killed in the Police firing at Purna Taluka, Parbhani on the 3rd August, 1978.

32. The total number of Scheduled Castes injured during the recent disturbances was 32. Apart from them, one Taluka Magistrate, 11 Police Officers, 32 constables and 17 non-Scheduled Caste persons received injuries during the recent disturbances.

33. The Study Group was also informed that in pursuance of the demand to change the name of Marathwada University to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar University, Dalit Panthers and R.P.I. started agitation in the district from the 1st August, 1977. 16 agitations during 1977 and 6 during 1978 were organised by them.

34. As against this, students opposed to changing the name of the University also agitated during the years 1977 and 1978. 6 counter agitations between August, 1977 and October, 1977 and 6 between 12th July and 26th July, 1978 were organised by the students.

35. On being asked to state the causes of disturbances in the area the Study Group was informed that the main cause of the recent agitation was the passing of the resolution on the 27th July, 1978 by both the Houses of State Legislature, to change the name of Marathwada University to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University. This action irritated the students who were opposed to changing the name of the University and they immediately started attacking Government/semi-Government vehicles and property at district and taluka Headquarters.

36. However, after some days some incidents took place in a few villages where property of Scheduled Castes was also damaged. These incidents in the villages appeared to be motivated by a feeling of enmity between some villagers and some members of Scheduled Caste. The enmity could have arisen either because of some cases started or threatened to be started under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 or because of some dispute about the lands granted under the Land Ceiling Act or due to the rivalry caused during recent Gram Panchayat elections, or due to encroachment over Government grazing land, or because of any earlier incident

which resulted in straining the relations between some of the villagers and some of Scheduled Castes. No definite trend was seen during the period of various incidents that took place in villages. The incidents in the villages had, however, no relationship with the issue of changing the name of the University.

37. The Study Group then enquired as to what remedial steps were taken by the local authorities to restore confidence among the Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhists. In reply, it was stated that in the urban areas, colonies of Scheduled Castes were provided protection by posting Police parties. The members of Scheduled Castes residing in such colonies were also requested to be vigilant so that no untoward incident took place. Protection to the statues of Lord Buddha and Dr. Ambedkar in such areas was also provided.

38. In the villages, in the beginning, Police parties were sent immediately after the report was received of attack/threatened attack on Scheduled Castes for taking suitable action against the miscreants. Later, when the number of such reports started increasing, mobile teams consisting of one Naib Tahsildar level Officer, one Police Sub-Inspector and 4 constables were formed in various Talukas who were assigned the specific job to visit all such villages, hold peace committee meetings in the villages, make Sarpanches and Police Patils exclusively responsible for maintenance of peace in the villages, and, if necessary, to post Police guard in the village for providing protection. The Collector also held meeting of the elected representatives of Zila Parishad and important social workers and appealed to them to move in villages and make sincere efforts for maintenance of peace. The Collector also appealed on the All India Radio exhorting all people in the villages to maintain peace and harmony. As far as restoring confidence in the minds of affected Scheduled Caste persons was concerned, it was stated that police parties had been posted in all such villages. The ring leaders who committed arson had been arrested and were being dealt with in accordance with due process of law. Meetings of villagers of both communities had been held in the presence of officers, in which party leaders, social workers and elected representatives were associated. An assurance has been obtained that they would live in perfect harmony now. Employment was available to Scheduled Caste persons in the villages on agricultural fields and day to day transactions were running as usual. There was no migration of Scheduled Caste persons from villages. Mobile Police teams were still moving in the villages to give an increased sense of scrutiny to the Scheduled Caste members.

39. Shri Deshpande, Sub-Inspector of Police, was called by the Study Group to narrate the incident at Adgaon village. He stated that he was on normal routine round to the village on that day. When he reached the Bus Stand of Adgaon village, he saw police Patil standing there. On enquiry, the Police Patil said that there was no trouble in his village. So, Shri Deshpande moved for a round to the next village. There his Head-Constable informed him that he saw flames in the village they had just left *viz.* Adgaon. They immediately rushed to the village and found 5 houses of Budhwada on fire. No person was seen there but they could hear the cries of goats. He then called Police Patil and with the assistance of 15 other villagers, he could extinguish fire during night. Next morning he went to report to the District authorities at Police Station which was 7 kms. away from the village Adgaon. He informed that one case as a whole was registered for the arson in the village and 4 persons had been arrested including the Police Patil.

40. He also informed that before the incident, he had visited Adgaon about 15 days back. He had not received any instructions for taking preventive measures from the District authorities after passing of the resolution with regard to the re-naming of Marathwada University in the State Legislature on 27th August, 1978. The strength of the police station consisted of 1—SI, 4 Head Constables and 10 Constables. The Study Group was informed that all police stations were not provided with jeeps or wireless sets.

41. The Study Group then enquired from the District Magistrate whether he was aware of the Prime Minister's assurance in Parliament that District Magistrates would be held responsible for any act of atrocities on Dalits in their area. The District Magistrate stated that he was responsible for maintaining peace and harmony within his district and he was aware of his duties.

42. The Study Group then enquired from the concerned Inspector about the incident in village Sirsam. The Inspector informed that the Police Patil of the village was sick and his father had gone on foot 25 kms. to inform Police at 10.10 A.M. on the following day about the incident.

43. The Study Group thereafter asked the quantum of financial assistance and other help given to the victims of these atrocities. In

reply, it was stated that immediate financial assistance on the following scale was given to the Scheduled Caste victims:—

Rs. 1.50 per head per day (for 15 days) for subsistence.

Rs. 27.50 per head for immediate requirements of utensils and clothing.

As per above scale, Rs. 42,247/- were distributed to 181 affected families comprising of 864 members. In a few cases, foodgrains from the villages were collected and distributed to the affected Scheduled Caste families. Zila Parishad had distributed one 'Saree' and one 'Dhoti' to each affected family. In some villages, utensils, purchased out of voluntary donations, were distributed to the affected families.

44. Financial assistance upto Rs. 500/- per family for loss of movable property was being distributed. People who suffered injuries and thereby temporary incapacitation were granted cash relief upto Rs. 500/- as per Government orders taking into consideration the nature of injury, loss of wages and cost of medical treatment.

45. As a part of short term measure to rehabilitate the affected persons, temporary sheds were immediately constructed to provide them shelter. In some villages, G.I. sheets were given to the affected families for using over their remaining structures for roofing purposes. Works under the Employment Guarantee Scheme were started near the villages, as far as possible, to provide employment to the affected families.

46. As a part of long term measure to rehabilitate the affected families whose huts were badly damaged or burnt, new houses had been constructed at a cost of Rs. 1500/- each. The affected families were provided work on the construction of these houses and paid wages for their labour. Such houses had a minimum life of 10 years and were made of bricks|stones with G.I. sheet roofing and murum flooring covered with cow dung. The affected families were also given the option to reconstruct|repair their houses themselves and in such cases subsidy limited to Rs. 1500 was given to them in kind and cash. Option was also taken from the affected persons whether they wanted reconstruction of their huts to be done on their existing plot or at a different well-laid-out site. In a few cases where loss suffered was much more than the permissible Government relief proposals had been sent to Chief Minister's Relief Fund for financial assistance.

47. On being asked as to how many times the Police had to resort to firing/tear gas/lathi charge to control the situation, the Study Group was informed that Police had to resort to firing at 2 places during the entire period of disturbances. The first incident took place on the 3rd August, 1978 at Purna where the unlawful and violent mob was advancing towards the backward classes hostel. The Police Sub-Inspector and the constables trying to prevent the advance of the mob were severely injured by heavy stone throwing whereupon firing was ordered. Three rounds were fired which resulted in the death of two persons none of whom belonged to Scheduled Caste. One of the deceased was a railway employee and the other was the son of a local trader. A magisterial inquiry had been ordered which was in progress.

48. The second incident of Police firing took place at Jawla Bazar on 3-8-1978 where mob attempted to attack on a Police Wireless van. One round was fired to save damage to the Police Wireless van. No casualties or injury resulted from this firing. Magisterial inquiry in the case of firing had also been ordered and was in progress.

49. As far as adequacy of force at the disposal of local authorities was concerned from the point of view of deterring the miscreants from committing atrocities on Scheduled Castes and from the point of view of controlling the campaign of violence against Scheduled Castes, it was stated in reply that the existing force was sufficient to avoid the atrocities that actually took place in the villages provided there was any earlier expectation of such violence. In all cases where reports were received of threatened attack, the use of existing force not only deterred the miscreants but also prevented any such incident from happening and thereby controlled any designs of violence. Likewise, movement of mobile teams and posting of Police force by these teams, wherever felt necessary, did have salutary effect on the miscreants and did not allow the number of such incidents to increase. Without any earlier indication of likely violence in the villages and without any clear cut trend being visible from the few incidents that took place in the villages, it was not possible to post Police force in all 1,587 villages of the district. With the help of existing Police force, effective remedial measures were taken promptly to control violence.

50. As far as trouble from law and order point of view was concerned, the local authorities responsible for the maintenance of law and order had taken steps to get additional force on 25th itself suspecting agitation primarily from the group demanding change in the name of the Marathwada University. However, the sudden

decision of the Political parties and the two Houses of Legislature made the other group (i.e. students) as the aggrieved party and seeing this and their activities, additional force became necessary which was received on 27th and 28th July, 1978 and the same was deployed effectively to contain loss of property to the minimum.

51. When the Study Group specifically asked the reasons as to why law and order could not be maintained in the 42 villages affected by arson where as many as 32 persons were injured, it was stated that the disturbances took place suddenly and they had no advance information.

52. The Study Group then enquired of the nature of preventive and punitive measures taken or proposed to be taken with a view to see that such incidents did not recur. In reply, it was stated that Prohibitory orders were issued at various places in the District during the period of recent disturbances. Besides, preventive arrests under Section 151 Cr. P. C. of 119 persons (anti-social elements) was made. 242 persons were detained at various points of time under sections 68 and 69 of the Bombay Police Act. From time to time Peace Committee meetings were held at District Headquarters by the Collector and at Taluka places by the Deputy Collectors who were made incharge for one Taluka each for supervising maintenance of law and order. Peace Committee meetings were also held in villages by the mobile teams which were formed and also by the Revenue Inspectors and Talathis. Police Patils and Surpanches were responsible for ensuring that no untoward incident took place in the villages.

53. 543 persons had been arrested for various offences out of which 345 persons were involved in offences of atrocities on Scheduled Castes.

54. 7 Police Patils who were found negligent had been placed under suspension.

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55. On the forenoon of the 22nd September, 1978, the Study Group visited Sugaon, Kushnoor and Tembhurni villages.

(i) Visit to Sugaon

56. The Study Group was informed that Sugaon was a village about 8 kilometers away from Nanded town. The village was in two parts (i) Sugaon Buzak, and (ii) Sugaon Khurd. These villages were on both sides of a Nallah running through the area. Incident in Sugaon Khurd occurred on 4-8-1978 at about 5.30 a.m. In the

night before incident, about 800 people from Sugaon and some adjoining villages assembled in Sugaon Khurd in connection with Pandharpur Yatra (festival) in connection with (Ashadi Ekadashi) and had religious feasts. On the following day, in the early morning they rushed to Sugaon B.K. and attacked the "Boudh-Wada" with deadly weapons and burning torches. In the attack, one Janardhan Jaideo Mawade was killed and 52 persons were injured. The dead body of the deceased was removed by the police to the Civil Hospital, Nanded for the post-mortem and 23 injured persons were admitted to Civil Hospital Nanded. Others who sustained minor injuries were given first-aid.

57. The attack on Boudhawada locality resulted in burning of 53 houses. Out of this, 21 houses were damaged to such an extent that these were to be constructed fully. Other 32 houses, which were partially burnt and damaged required repairs.

58. The Study Group was shown the new houses which were being constructed for their settlement. These were one room tenements (14'x10' type design) and it was stated that the estimated cost of each house was Rs. 1900/-.

59. The total number of affected families in Sugaon Buzak was 74 which included persons whose houses had been damaged (Partially or fully), who sustained loss of personal belongings through looting, etc. and those who sustained injuries. Gratuitous relief, as per approved scale, was reported to have been given to concerned affected persons. The Collector, Nanded, sanctioned Rs. 1,000/- from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to the wife of the deceased, Janardhan Jaideo Mawade.

I. Shri Nam Deo s/o Shri Gunnaji stated that he was owner of 20 acres of land and had 7 family members. Only 3 persons were doing agricultural work. He was also employing 5-6 agricultural labourers daily and was paying Rs. 4/- to male workers and Rs. 3/- to female workers per day. In reply to a question, he stated that at the time of incident, he was not in his house and could not say as to who were responsible for arson. No person came to his house for shelter or protection. His wife, Shrimati Gianbai also stated that they had no knowledge of the incident in advance and they did not come out of their houses.

II. Shri Gyanoba s/o Gunaji Vaidya informed the Study Group that on the 2nd August, 1978, stones were pelted on the Scheduled Castes school in the village and the school was then closed. They approached the authorities concerned for help and police assistance

was reported to have been assured to them. On the early hours of 4-8-1978, about 1500 persons came from the adjoining village and surrounded the village. One group of persons was chasing the neo-Buddhists and the other group was setting the houses on fire. The village well was also poisoned. He alongwith others informed the D.S.P. at Nanded on that day at about 9.30 a.m./7 to 8 police lorries came at about 10 a.m. on that day. There was no bus service on that day.

III. Shri Bhaskar s/o Shri Gopal Patil, school teacher, stated that he resided in the locality of high caste Hindus of the village. On the morning of 2-8-78, about 100 boys of 12—15 age group came and pelted stones on the school and they raised slogans to close the school. There were no elder persons in the group. He reported the incident to the Police Patil who stated that written complaint might be lodged but he did not make any written complaint. He also verbally reported the incident to the Inspector of Schools.

IV. Shri Balaji s/o Shri Dattaram, Police Patil, was in the first instance reluctant to reply to the question raised by the Study Grouping protection on 2-8-1978 at about 10.30 hours and sent those applications within one hour of their receipt alongwith a note to the Sub-Inspector of Police Station, Limbgaon through Kotwal Ganga Ram s/o Shri Vittobha. The Police Station was at a distance of about 10 miles. No police force came on that day or at night time. The Kotwal did not also turn up to intimate as to whether the letters had been handed over to the police Sub-Inspector. At about 2 p.m. on 2-8-1978, he himself also went to the office of the Collector, Nanded and handed over an application in 'Inward and outward' section of the Collector's office asking for police protection to be given to Scheduled Caste people at Sugaon Bd. He did not meet any official in this connection. He also stated that as he was working as Police Patil for the last 8 months only, he was not fully aware of his duties or responsibilities. He was in his house when the burning of houses in the village started at about 5 a.m. on 4-8-1978. He did not come out of his house as stones were also being pelted on his house. He had shown the stones to the Police Inspector when the latter came to the village. In reply to a question, he stated that he did not discuss anything in this regard with the village Sarpanch.

V. Shri Deo Rao s/o Shri Kandoji, village Sarpanch, stated that the Scheduled Caste residents of the village did not report to him earlier out of fear. He came out of the house at about 6 a.m. on 4-8-1978 when the houses belonging to Dalits were still burning. Police Patil had not talked to him in this regard earlier. He did

not try to extinguish the fire nor he could get the help of other people as they had already fled away. There was no enmity amongst the local people prior to this incident.

(ii) Visit to village Kushnoor

60. The Study Group was informed that a mob of about 150 Caste Hindus came to the locality of Dalits on 3-8-1978 at about 8.00 hours and burnt 51 houses. It was stated that in village Kushnoor, there was problem of drinking water and the Dalits started to take water from the well of Caste Hindus about 3 months before the start of Marathwada agitation. No Caste Hindus objected but some miscreants put stool in the well. The Dalits lodged a complaint against the caste Hindus and offence was registered against the caste Hindus and a charge-sheet was submitted against those persons. Since then clashes between both parties had started and it resulted in the burning of houses in the village on 3-8-1979.

I, Shri Digambar s/o Shri Hinnaji, while corroborating with the above facts stated that he had studied upto B.A. (Second year). There was acute scarcity of drinking water in the village and they were drawing water from a common well which was dug by Panchayat Samiti. Later on, human stool was put into the well and they lodged a complaint with the Police Station at Kushnoor which was about 9 k.m. from the village. They had also asked the Sarpanch and other villagers to take out the dirty water and make the well fit for drinking purposes. This happened on 6-5-1978. Action was taken on the report and the villagers were called at police station. Another complaint was made some time back with regard to the same matter.

On 3-8-1978 at about 8 a.m., a mob of about 100 persons came and set fire to their houses. They had brought kerosene oil and burning torches of rags. He ran away out of fear and did not return to the village for 15 days.

He reported the incident to the police station Kushnoor on that day at about 12 hours and the police came to the village at 2 p.m. He also stated that he lodged a written complaint and he had given names of 46 persons on that complaint and had also given a list of 22 witnesses. All the persons had been arrested. He had also given a list of persons whose houses had been burnt. He stated that there was no threat or fear. The villagers were not cooperating with them. They were, however, now getting work in the fields.

At the end, he stated that all the victims had been given assistance by the local authorities in accordance with the norms fixed by the State Government.

II. Shri Sanker s/o Shri Babu Rao stated that he was Police Patil since 1962. His house was about 2 furlongs from the place of incident. There were about 250 school going children in the village. No meeting with regard to Marathwada agitation was held in the village. He reached the spot immediately after the incident and called for persons to extinguish the fire and also helped in extinguishing the fire for 2 hours. He had sent the report with regard to the incident to the police station at about 12.30 hours on that day and had also sent a list of persons whose houses had been burnt. He could not name the persons who were responsible for the incident. He was, however, of the view that the incident was due to previous enmity in the village. In reply to a question, he stated that he had not reported the earlier incident with regard to pollution of common well to the authorities concerned.

III. Shri Madho Rao s/o Shri Ganga Rao, village Sarpanch, stated that he was not in the village when the incident took place. He had gone to his fields and returned only after Police Inspector had arrived in the village. He had no knowledge about the incidents.

On arrival to the village Kushnoor, the Study Group was shown the new huts which had been constructed at the cost of Rs. 1,800/- for those persons whose houses had been burnt/damaged in the disturbances.

(iii) Visit to Village Temburni

61. The Study Group was informed that village Temburni was about 24 kms. to the west from Naigaon Police Station with a total population of 19,00. Out of this population, the Dalits population was 500 including Mangs and Buddhists. The Dalits of the village were well to do and amongst them, some were educated ones.

62. In 1975, on the complaint of Shri Chandu Govinda, offences under the protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 were registered at Naigaon Police Station against Ahmedmiya Modh, Marti Laxman, Venkatesh Dhondiba and Digamber. This had caused bitterness in the minds of the accused and their relations and friends.

63. The birthday anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was celebrated in the village each year. In 1977 when Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti was being celebrated, some unknown persons

pelted stones on the photo of Dr. Ambedkar while the function was going on. A case was registered at Naigaon Police Station. The spot was visited by the then Superintendent of Police and persons of both the communities were advised to maintain peace and cordial relations. The case was finally dropped as it was not possible to identify the miscreants.

64. In the first week of July, 1978, one Vithal, servant of Dadarao, Ex-Sarpanch of Temburni, was assaulted by Pochiram Mariba Kamble as the cattle of Vithal were found grazing in the fields of Pochiram. The matter was not, however, reported to Police.

65. On 4-8-1978, at about 7.30 hours, about 200 persons of the village attacked the houses of Scheduled Castes. They were carrying lathis, swords and burning torches. It was alleged that Muslim shopkeepers of the village helped the Caste Hindus and also gave them Kerosene oil, etc. In all, 39 houses were gutted.

66. After setting fire to the houses, the miscreants enquired about a person named Pochiram Mariba Kamble. His widow, Shrimati Dondibai, narrated to the Study Group how her husband was killed and burnt. Two friends of the deceased came to the house of Shri Kamble and warned him that the Caste Hindus were preparing to set fire to their houses and that his life was in danger. They took him to their houses and gave him shelter. In the meantime, the Caste Hindus descended on the habitations of the Scheduled Castes and set their houses on fire. They enquired from the widow of the deceased Smt. Dondibai about the whereabouts of her husband. After ransacking the houses of Scheduled Castes and looting their foodgrains and house-hold goods, the miscreants reached the house of the friends of the deceased who in the meantime asked Shri Kamble to run away to save his life. When they found the whereabouts of Shri Pochiram, they chased him and brought him back to village Chouka where he was done to death and burnt his body.

67. The police arrived in the village on 5-8-1978 at about 10.00 hours and make enquiries into the incident. Superintendent of Police, Nanded visited the village on 6-8-1978 and, at his instance, a separate offence regarding murder of Pochiram was registered on the complaint of Shrimati Dondibai, wife of the deceased on 7-8-1978. 21 persons had been arrested so far and out of them, 7 persons had been bailed out.

I. Shri Shankar s/o Shri Jherva Kamble stated that the real culprits were still absconding. He could not give the names of

those persons as he feared that the situation would worsen and the enmity might increase. There was still danger to his life and asked for police protection.

II. Shri Malung Sahib s/o Shri Poor Sahib, Kotwal, informed the Study Group that Shri Laxman s/o Baswantrao, Police Patil, gave him verbal instructions to report the incident of burning of houses to the police station which he did.

III. Sarpanch Shri Narsingh Rao s/o Shri Madhorao, stated that his house was situated at a distance and was not in the village at the time of incident. He had gone to his fields for work. He was not aware of any tension in the village prior to the incident on 4-8-1978. He had gone to the house of Pochiram after the incident and had met the widow of the deceased. He had not given her any help.

IV. Shri Ganpat s/o Shri Lakshman (nephew of late Pochiram) stated that caste Hindus in the village were jealous of his uncle's (late Pochi Ram) good economic condition. He got prior information and had ran away from the village. He also revealed that one Shri Sessa Rao Anant Rao had forwarded on the 2nd evening the wife of the deceased about the ensuring trouble.

The Study Group was shown the new houses which were being constructed for the affected families. It was also stated that gratuitous relief, in accordance with the prescribed scale, had been given the affected families. The district authorities had paid Rs. 1,000/- to the widow of the deceased.

(iv) Meeting with non-officials at Shastri Bhawan, Nanded

68. The Study Group held a discussion with the representatives of various associations, organisations, etc. at Shastri Bhawan on the afternoon of the 22nd September, 1978.

69. Shri Keshavrao Dhondge, M.P. also accompanied the Study Group to the meeting hall. His presence was opposed by some non-officials representing R. P. I. Group and the meeting was disturbed. Sensing the mood of non-officials, Shri Dhandge left the meeting and order was then restored.

I. Prof. Manjramkar Anant, President, R. P. I. (Marathwada), who spoke first, explained that people belonging to his party were not extremists and did not take law in their own hands. The houses

of Buddhists and Scheduled Caste people in Nanded had not only been burnt and razed to the ground by caste Hindus under fury but also their standing crops were was grazed by cattle and property was also damaged. He stated that the Study Group had visited only 3 villages where Government had taken some steps to rehabilitate the victims of atrocities. He suggested that loans to victims should be enhanced and minimum aid of Rs. 500/- should be given to all affected families.

He alleged that the attitude of police and revenue officers was partial in preparing first information reports and the prosecution cases. Revenue officials were not preparing correct Panchanama of the fields grazed by cattle and property damaged. Police had not yet been able to trace real criminals.

He further stated that Boudh Mandirs were attacked and monks were beaten. The photos of Dr. Ambedkar were burnt. All such cases should be looked into and culprits should be punished. Boudh Mandirs and statue of Dr. Ambedkar should be repaired at State expenses.

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe teachers of Government Schools had been beaten and harassed. One teacher's son died during the course of disturbances. All such teachers should be transferred to the safe places.

He suggested that work under the E. G. S. should be started in order to provide employment to the affected people. Arrangement should also be made for the permanent rehabilitation of affected families at their respective villages. The families who were not prepared to settle in their villages should be provided with accommodation at district places. They should be provided with subsidy as well as with loans in order to start new business.

The cases against those persons who had indulged in looting, arson and murder of Scheduled Castes should not be withdrawn under any circumstances. Police Patils and Sarpanches should be held responsible for such incidents in future.

At the end, he suggested that the resolution passed by the State Legislature to re-name Marathwada University should be honoured by the Government and the change effected early. He also pleaded for judicial enquiry into the Marathwada incidents and also for firing at Nagpur.

The educational facilities and opportunities in services should also be extended to the economically weaker sections.

II. Shri L. S. Gaekwad, Editor, Panchnama informed the Study Group that the unfortunate and ugly incidents happened in Marathwada due to the announcement of the decision by Maharashtra Government to re-name Marathwada University. The long battle of the backward classes for changing the name of the University continued in a peaceful manner. The arson of houses of the Buddhists, beating, looting, molesting and raping cases became common in Marathwada during the recent Bundh. The caste feelings came to the surface and the police failed to curb the situation inspite of earlier intimation to them. Buddhists of Ardhapur, Dharmabad and Umri and many other villages could not be saved from the jaws of Marathas. P. S. I., Dharmabad instead of handling the situation carefully, provoked the Marathas to arson, loot and eradicate the Buddhists of that locality.

70. During the period of Marathwada agitation, efforts were made to transfer Buddhist officers or to suspend them. Their properties were not only looted but also burnt to ashes. Railways, P&T and other Government Departments totally yielded to the hooliganism. Shri Keshavrao Dhondge, P.M. kept himself engaged in instigating Maratha Community against Buddhist people for the last 7 or 8 months and as a result thereof, horrible things had happened in the area.

71. At the end, the following details with regard to molesting and raping of women were brought to the notice of the Study Group:—

- (i) Shrimati Krashnabai Ram Dongre resident of Bolsa, Tq. Bhokar, was molested and raped by Shri Baburao Majnu Shinde, Mahajan Shinde and Nakalwed Babu Potaji Kote.
- (ii) Shrimati Janabai Vithal Kashirasagar resident of Bolsa, Tq. Bhokar was molested and raped by Sarvashri Babu Potaiya, Digambar Piraji and Chandi Gangaram Kote.

III. *Shri W. D. Patil, Representative, Backward Classes Teachers' Association*

72. Shri Patil informed the Study Group that the Dalit teachers were harassed in the disturbances and they had asked for transfers. They were in difficulty and should be transferred to the places of their

choice. He further stated that his own house and motor-cycle were gutted in Degloor and had requested for transfer to Nagpur but his request had not been acceded to.

Shri Vittal Rao Yadav stated that since February, 1978 during the period of the Chief Ministership of Shri Vasant Rao Patil, a group of representatives of the Budha Community known as 'Dalit Panthers' made the demand of naming the Marathwada University. After the emergence of Sharad Pawar Ministry, he himself moved the resolution of changing the name of the University and got it passed in both the Houses of State Legislature. The resolution was not then opposed. A Citizen and Students Action Committee was then formed to oppose the name of the University. Since 28-7-1978, the said Action Committee organised agitation and succeeded in paralysing the communication and transport system throughout Marathwada region. The movement then spread in the villages and country-side from 1-8-1978. The Mahars and Mangs were the victims and the police were silent spectators. The persons among the Dalits who were well-to-do, occupants of Government Gairan land, etc. were chosen for assault and it was, therefore, a deliberate attack against the Dalits. Besides this, many illiterate persons and having no affinity with the change of name of the University were victims of the agitation.

73. In majority of the villages, peace was maintained as the people did not allow anything to happen in their villages. During the period of agitation, one more landlord class had emerged which had got the power and capacity to challenge any reform in the country. They wanted that the Dalits should lead helpless and miserable life and always be submissive to them.

74. The root cause of the present agitation was economic backwardness of the region. The development of Marathwada was suppressed as there was no broad gauge railway lines in the area. There was, therefore, no big industry either in private or public sector which was the basic demand of the region. There should be one public sector industry in each district of Marathwada and the irrigation schemes in the area should be completed. Another University or International Research Institute in the name of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar should be established in Marathwada. A judicial inquiry should be instituted and all persons who were responsible for the disturbances should be adequately punished.

IV. Shri N. D. Gaure stated that the recent disturbances in Marathwada were created by Hindus with a view to eradicate

Buddhism and thrust Hindu Culture on them. He suggested that the practice of untouchability should be discouraged and Dalits and other Scheduled Castes should be protected.

Shri S. M. Pradhan, Vice-President, Dalit Panthers narrating the circumstances leading to the present disturbances stated that during the Golden Jubilee celebration year of the Mahad Satyagrah led by Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar, the Dalits and other Buddhist Organisations announced publicly that the Marathwada University be re-named after Dr. Ambedkar. A demonstration was staged by 24 Youth Organisations including the present Marathwada Colleges Students Committee, before the Office of University at Aurangabad. The Executive Council of the University too passed the resolution in favour of the proposal. All the militant and cultural organisations, political parties etc. arranged morchas before the Collectorates and Tehsil offices peacefully throughout the Marathwada. They moved the public opinion through signature campaign, lectures, symposia, leaflets, etc. Shri Bapu Saheb Rajbhoj, President of Indian Buddhists Society undertook fast from 1-7-1977 to 11-7-1977. A morcha was also taken out in Bombay on 12.8.1977 by the Dalit Panthers when the State Government agreed upon to search out the formula acceptable to all and all the members of State Legislature showed their willingness in the meeting held on 2-9-1977 with opposition from Shri Govindbhai Shroff. At the instigation of Shri Shroff, the colleges in Marathwada remained closed from 12th September, 1977. They opposed the move to re-name the University and pleaded for the opening of an International Research Centre at Buddha Gaya. This anti-movement turned into violent clashes between Dalit students and others but ended on the assurance of the then Chief Minister, Shri Vasant Rao Patil. The Buddhist monk Rev. Vinaya Vatsayana observed fast from the 14th October, 1977 at the Deeksha-Bhoomi, Nagpur. All the organisations took out morcha and submitted memoranda to the Chief Minister when the Assembly was in session at Nagpur. The Panthers led out a morcha before the Parliament House on 14.11.1977. Rev. Bhikshu Bhadant Sanghrakshit observed fast for 33 days at Boat Club, New Delhi. After the fall of Congress, Ministry Shri Tirpude requested the Government to implement the decision taken by the previous Government. On 27.7.1978, both the Houses of State Legislature passed the resolution to rename Marathwada University. The Marathwada College Students Action Committee gave a call for 'Marathwada Bundh' and caste-riots started in the region.

75. He added that in Nanded District, all the well-built houses of Buddhists had either been burnt or demolished in 52 villages and 750 families had been affected. The Buddhist monk Kashyapa of village Ardhapur received serious injuries from the rioters. The Buddhist temple had also been demolished. 52 Scheduled Caste school teachers were beaten at their respective residences. The rioters compelled them to break the photos of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Lord Buddha. Shri Lagade, a school teacher, was forced to submit a written statement that he broke the marble statue of Dr. Ambedkar. 17 teachers went on hunger strike on 17.9.1978 to press their demands for transfer to the safer places.

76. He further stated that all the photos of Dr. Ambedkar had either been removed or burnt from village Panchayat Offices. During all the occurrence, the Police remained a silent spectator and rushed to the places where all the houses had already been demolished and the persons beaten sufficiently. The Sarpanches and Police Patils, who blessed the agitators, were invariably involved in the burning incidents.

77. He suggested that (i) a Judicial Enquiry should be held into the incidents in Marathwada and all persons who were responsible for the caste-riots should be punished; (ii) The persons affected during the riots should be rehabilitated and new schemes started in the affected areas to provide them with employment; (iii) the resolution adopted by the State Legislature should be honoured and the name of Marathwada University should be changed to Dr. Babasaheb Marathwada University.

Shri Keshavrao Dhondge, M.P. in a written memorandum submitted to the Study Group stated that the Students Action Committee, Citizens Action Committee and others protested against the resolution of the Maharashtra Legislature passed on 27.7.1978 to re-name the Marathwada University. The demonstration took ugly turn resulting in strikes, processions, destruction of property, burning of statues of Dr. Ambedkar and attacking the residences of peoples' representatives. In public meetings, the agitators excepting neo-Buddhists protested against the decision to rename Marathwada University.

78. In initial stages, the agitation was confined to cities but later on it spread to villages also. The friction between Dalits and Non-Dalits increased and in some villages, the houses of neo-Buddhists and Matangs were burnt and lot of atrocities were

inflicted on these people. In some places, the Statues of Dr. Ambedkar were damaged and photos were torn or burnt, mock processions with Dr. Ambedkar's photos were taken out at some places. All these and other similar incidents created a sense of fear, terror and insecurity in the minds of Matang community. Nowhere, the women were raped or their modesty insulted.

79. It was not correct to say that the atrocities were perpetrated by the Caste Hindus. Had it been so, then there would have been civil war between Buddhists and non-Buddhists, etc. in every village. But such a thing had not taken place. In Nanded District, out of 1600 villages, only in 52 villages untowards incidents took place and such incidents deserved to be condemned. The persons who had committed such incidents should be dealt with severely but it would not be proper to harass innocent persons. In many villages, caste Hindus had given protection to the riot-affected Buddhist people, risking their own lives.

80. He also stated that generally, caste Hindus of affected villages were deemed to be responsible for these incidents but the fact was that objectionable activities of Dalit leaders were responsible for riots at many places. He further stated that after the passing of the resolution to re-name Marathwada University, the Dalit students shouted vulgar slogans and incited the feelings of Hindus. Due to past actions of Mahar Razakars, caste Hindus had a hatred for them in many Marathwada villages. This was also one of the causes for burning houses of some Mahars in villages. The two murders of Mahars in villages Sugaon and Tembhorni in Nanded District had taken place because they were bad characters. Amongst the Dalits, 90 per cent benefit of concessions went to Mahars and it was a contributory factor for atrocities on Mahars. It was suggested that the solution lay in the elimination of social, economic, religious, educational and cultural disparities.

Shri Hanumant Rao Dharamji More stated that the disturbances in Marathwada were not sudden. These were pre-planned and the question of re-naming Marathwada University was just an excuse. The houses of Dalits were attacked in the presence of Police officials who did not help them. It was suggested that Scheduled Caste officials should be posted in the villages.

The Communist Party of India, Nanded, in a memorandum, submitted to the Study Group, stated that the incidents in Marathwada had aggravated the communal feelings intensely to the extent

of demand of separate settlements for Dalits on one hand and demands of cancellation of reservation, educational facilities, priorities in employment, etc. to Dalits on the other hand, thus endangering with in democracy, national integrity and social justice.

81. There was a wide spread communal tension against Dalits in the non-Dalit communities. In many places, the crops on the land of Dalits were grazed by cattle let loose on their lands. Lands distributed to the Dalits from Gairan or excess land had been the main targets.

82. The campaign of terror was let loose with the main intention of suppressing the Dalit masses for their united struggle against untouchability and their endeavour to improve their socio-economic conditions.

83. During the whole period of agitation, the law and order machinery proved ineffective and could not stop the hooligans. The entire communication and transport machinery including railways remained collapsed for about 10 days. Dalit people informed the Police and Collector of probable attacks but no help could be rushed to stop the attacks.

84. The following suggestions were made by them to meet the situation:—

- (i) The affected persons should be rehabilitated as per their wishes.
- (ii) The educated unemployed should be provided with employment or unemployment relief.
- (iii) The concessions to Scheduled Castes should not be cancelled. The economic and educational concessions should also be extended to other economically backward sections.
- (iv) The land reforms should be implemented resolutely.
- (v) Steps should be taken to guarantee reasonable prices to the agricultural products.
- (vi) The Agricultural labour wage should be increased to Rs. 5/- per day.
- (vii) Strict measures should be implemented to curb communal terror.

Shri Baburao Nilangekar, President, Nanded District, R.P.I. (K), in a memorandum submitted to the Study Group, stated that

the attitude of police and revenue officers was partial in preparing first information reports and prosecution cases. Revenue officers were not giving true account of the fields grazed by cattle and property damaged during the riots. Action had been rather slow in redressing the grievances of the families of victims. Police had not yet been able to trace real criminals.

85. The Government should give top priority to the work of rehabilitation of riot-affected persons. 'Panchanama' of the damages caused should be prepared truthfully without any shadow of doubt and partiality. Loans should be given for purchase of seeds, fertilizers and agricultural implements to the affected families.

86. Arrangements should be made for providing permanent residences at their respective villages. Some people were reluctant to go back to their villages and they should be provided with accommodation at district places. For this purpose, subsidy and loans under the rules should be granted to them. Besides, loans under D.I.R. Scheme should be given to the affected families to start their business.

87. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe teachers had been harassed and involved in trifling matters. They should be transferred to safe places.

88. Decision to add the name of Babasaheb Ambedkar to the Marathwada University should not be changed and a Judicial Commission should be appointed to look into all these cases.

The District Committee of C.P.I.(M), Nanded, in a memorandum submitted to the Committee, stated that in 52 villages, the houses of Scheduled Caste persons were burnt in Nanded but renaming of the University was not at all a cause for the burning. The internal enmities between Caste Hindus and Scheduled Castes were responsible and hence Caste Hindus burnt the houses of Scheduled Castes in this agitation as they thought that was a suitable time. They supported the renaming of Marathwada University into Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University.

Nagrik Samiti, Nanded, in a memorandum submitted to the Committee, stated that the Maharashtra Legislature announced its decision to re-name Marathwada University as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University on 27-7-1978. On hearing this announcement, the people of Marathwada including Nanded District immediately reacted and 28th July was observed as a Bandh Day to voice their disapproval. Although the Bandh was observed and

agitation began no loss was caused either to public property or to the Scheduled Castes or to their dwelling units upto 31-7-1978.

89. The Marathwada Students Action Committee gave a call for Marathwada Bandh on 2-8-1978 and in response all the markets were closed, throughout Marathwada. On that day, no private property was damaged and the attack was on public property. The agitation was solely against the Government upto 2-8-1978.

90. On 2-8-1978, the agitation took a serious turn and reports stated that the Scheduled Castes localities were being made target and burning incidents of huts were reported. This continued in 55 villages out of total 1360 villages in Nanded District. This continued upto 6-8-1978.

91. Last year, the Dalit students were the first to go on strike to demand the re-naming of the University. On the then Chief Minister's assurance of the sympathetic consideration of the demand, the strike was withdrawn. Then to counter-act, the rest of students went on an 11 day strike in favour of the present name. There was also some minor incidents of scuffles between the Dalit and non-Dalit students. One caste Hindu student, Shastri Nule of Peoples' College, Nanded was stabbed in stomach but escaped death.

92. In June, 1978, the Government, as a policy, decided not to consider any suggestion relating to the renaming of any institution in the State. This resulted in Morchas, etc. organised by the followers of Dalit Panthers and Mass Movement. In such morchas, the Dalits used abusive slogans and tried to threaten the non-dalits for their opposition to re-naming the Marathwada University. A feeling of hatred started to work in the minds of non-dalits.

93. After introduction of amendments in the Untouchability Offences Act and conversion of it into Protection of Civil Rights Act in 1978, the Dalits took undue advantage of the provisions of the Act by filing false complaints against non-dalits with the police authorities. In spite of all these, the non-dalits in several villages of the district had protected the dalit localities from being damaged.

94. There was no caste war in Nanded District and the atrocities which took place in certain villages were conclusively due to local reasons.

95. Some of the leaders from Dalit Panthar and Mass Movement had given false names while reporting the incidents to the police and on the basis of such reports, these persons had been arrested

inspite of the fact that majority of them were not involved in the incidents. Innocent persons had been involved in the cases falsely only to settle the personal score.

96. During the period of agitation, some of the Dalits had burnt their own huts by removing their house-hold articles with an intention to get relief from the Government. Some of the huts of non-dalits had also been destroyed by fire.

97. The agitation was suspended from 6-8-1978 but the workers of Dalit Panther and Mass Movement did not stop their provoking activities. On 8-8-1978, Shri Nand Kumar Deo, Secretary, Janata Party, Nanded City was mercilessly beaten with the intention to kill him.

98. The question of re-naming the University and the opposition to it by the students from all corners had gone deep into the consciousness of the masses and it was suggested that the present name of Marathwada University be retained and a suitable memorial in the form of another University or Institution having national status should be established to pay regards to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

(V) Meeting with District Officials at Collector's Office, Nanded

99. At the outset, the Study Group was informed that the recent agitation in Nanded district could be traced back to July/August, 1977 when the Dalit organisations started agitation for renaming the Marathwada University as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar University. This agitation gained momentum in August/September, 1977. A number of morchas, Bandhs were organised at Nanded and Taluka Headquarters. A counter agitation was also started by the Caste Hindu Students in September, 1977 as per the call given by the Marathwada Mahavidyalayeen Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti. They observed strike in all colleges to express their opposition for re-naming of the Marathwada University. During the strike period, some students belonging to Scheduled Castes assaulted the Caste Hindu Students resulting in injuries including stabbing to one person. This agitated the Caste Hindu Students and tension started mounting up between the students of both communities. There were serious clashes between the Caste Hindus Students and the Scheduled Caste Students. As many as 13 offences of rioting, 11 against the Dalit Students and 2 against the Caste Hindu Students were registered. However, the situation remained under control and did not spread to rural areas. The agitation was suspended by Caste Hindu Students from 27-9-1977. The agitation by Dalit Panthers continued till 25-10-1977, after which everything calmed

down. The entire agitation of 1977 was restricted only to towns and never spread to rural areas and also never took serious and violent turn. The immediate cause of action of the recent disturbances had been the passing of resolution by both the Houses of Maharashtra Legislature to rename the Marathwada University. After passing of the resolution the Marathwada Mahavidyalayeen Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti launched an agitation with effect from 27-7-1978. The agitation was initially restricted to the urban areas and a few big villages of the district. It was also restricted in the initial period to the damaging of the Government properties. It was only after the disturbances in two villages viz., Ardhapur and Kalambar on 31-7-1978 that the disturbances and violence started in villages. It was only from that date that the agitation took a caste-wise turn and turned unexpectedly violent resulting in atrocities against the Scheduled Castes. The original issue of renaming the University got coupled with several other emotional factors like personal enmity, grudges, misunderstanding, accumulated grievances and envy of benefits flowing from special schemes for Scheduled Castes, etc. It was the out-burst of emotions resulting in violent incidents at different places which could not be anticipated.

100. After the incidents, following remedial measures were stated to have been taken to restore confidence among the Scheduled Castes:—

- (i) Peace Committees were formed at district place and in villages. The Peace Committee members were sent to the affected areas and they took Dalit families into confidence and convinced them that they would be assured full protection. Ministers, M.L.As., M.Ps., Professors, Social Workers, Leaders of different parties paid visits to the affected areas and created confidence in the minds of the Dalit families.
- (ii) Sufficient Police force was sent to the affected villages and they are still kept in those villages.
- (iii) Successful efforts were made to convince the person who had fled to Nanded of the need to return to their villages and they were soon sent back to the respective villages under adequate police protection.
- (iv) Immediate arrangements for temporary shelter at Nanded and affected villages were made. Gratuitous relief was made available to the sufferers immediately.
- (v) Assessment of the losses suffered was made and the affected families were taken into confidence and consulted

while preparing plans and estimates of reconstruction and repair of their houses.

- (vi) Police machinery undertook expeditious investigation of all offences including arsons and murders and effected large number of arrests which assured the Dalits of the impartiality of the administrative action.
- (vii) Revenue Officers and Police Officers had been instructed to tour the affected villages often so as to restore the confidence among the people.
- (viii) Police Patils and Sarpanches had been instructed to keep strict vigilance in the villages.

101. In reply to a question with regard to role of Police Patils posted in the villages, the Study Group was informed that since 1957, Police Patils were being selected by the District Collectors and were paid Rs. 800/- annually. There were no arrangements at present to give them training and their duties were also not clearly laid down. He was assisted by Kotwal who was a whole time worker. He was paid Rs. 100/- 1 p.m. and his services could be utilised by all Government officials visiting the village. He had not been provided with conveyance. There were 1,238 Police Patils in Nanded District and their caste-wise distribution was stated to be as under:—

Scheduled Castes	16
Scheduled Tribes	30
Nomadic Tribes	37
Other Backward Classes	164
Others	193
TOTAL	1238

102. A statement showing the details of police firing resorted, teargas shells used and Lathi charges during the recent disturbances in Nanded District is in Appendix III. Another statement showing the total number of persons killed and injured and loss of houses/huts and also of private properties in Nanded District is at Appendix IV. .

103. Explaining the short term measures taken to rehabilitate the persons who had suffered in the disturbances, the Study Group was informed that the riot affected families which had become destitute or had deserted their homes and villages and had fled either to towns like Nanded, Degloor and Mukhad or had taken shelter

with relatives needed immediate financial help in the shape of cash doles for food and clothing and domestic utensils. An amount of Rs. 1.50 per day per head for a period of 15 days was given for food and Rs. 27.50 per head for clothing and utensils. The families that had fled to other Taluka places were also given this gratuitous relief. Thus, in 52 villages, 6,533 persons were paid gratuitous relief to the extent of Rs. 2,43,710/-.

104. Transit camps were immediately opened to provide shelter to the affected families. As it was decided that the affected persons should be persuaded to reside in their own villages, temporary sheds were constructed for them in the villages.

105. As regards long term measures, the Study Group was informed that 53 villages in Nanded District had been affected resulting in complete or partial destruction of 747 houses. The affected families were being given financial assistance as well as technical help to reconstruct and repair their houses. All the material like Zinc sheets, Ballies, stones, bricks and cement were being provided on the spot through Government agency. The affected families had been consulted before taking up to work of construction and repairs regarding selection of/and, plan of the houses to be constructed and the mode of construction. The work of construction and repair of houses had been undertaken under the Employment Guarantee Scheme.

106. The Study Group was also informed that, subject to the cost of reconstruction and repairs, an amount of Rs. 1500/- was being paid per Family in kind as subsidy exclusive of Rs. 100/- to be spent on removal of debris and Rs. 200/- as labour charges under the E.G.S. If the estimate of work exceeded the aforesaid amount but did not exceed Rs. 4,000/- the remainder was to be treated as interest free loan and it was repayable in twenty equal annual instalments.

107. The Nationalised banks had agreed to provide loans to the affected families to purchase milch cattle. The banks had also agreed to give loans to the affected families to restart their trades and occupations.

108. It was also stated that, in accordance with the State Government's orders, subsidy upto Rs. 500 depending on the extent of loss could be given for the loss of moveable property including crops. Similarly, subsidy upto Rs. 200 for the loss of business premises of petty traders and upto Rs. 500 in case of other traders could be given. In case of heavier losses, loan upto Rs. 5,000 could be given.

109. The Study Group was also informed that work under the Employment Guarantee Scheme had been provided around the affected localities to provide employment to the affected families. The Zila Parishad had started free distribution of books to the children of the affected families.

110. To a pointed question, the Study Group was informed that out burst of violence in rural areas was sudden and it was not anticipated in the form and magnitude it took place. The agitation spread like wild fire without any direction and it could not be anticipated in which village violence was going to break out next, and under the circumstances it was difficult to deploy police force at places because of the unpredictability of violence. The major loss occurred during the period from the 2nd to 5th August, 1978 and it was difficult to pre-arrange police protection to maintain law and order and to control the agitation. It was the unpredictability of violence that was the basic factor in the agitation that caused so much loss and suffering to Scheduled Castes families.

111. The following preventive measures had been taken with a view to see that such incidents do not take place:—

- (i) Deployment of S.R.P.F., had been re-arranged so that movement of force could easily be done to affected places to deal with the situation.
- (ii) In villages in which atrocities had been committed on Scheduled Caste people, S.R.P.F. or Policemen had been kept to restore confidence amongst the victims.
- (iii) Serphanches and Police Patils had been warned in writing that if any trouble took place in their villages, they would be held responsible.
- (iv) Revenue Officers and police officers had been told to visit the affected villages frequently to ensure that there was no further trouble in the villages.
- (v) Peace Committees had been formed in a number of villages in order to restore confidence amongst Scheduled Caste people and create harmonious atmosphere.
- (vi) Offences had been registered in all cases of atrocities on Scheduled Caste people and investigation carried on vigorously and the process of law had been set in motion.
- (vii) The Police Sub-Inspector-in-charge of Police Stations had been instructed to visit each and every place in their

areas as quickly as possible to make a critical analysis of the prevailing situation and to ensure harmonious atmosphere between the different communities in the villages.

111A. All the police stations were not provided with telephones and wireless sets. All the police stations had also not been provided with jeeps though a number of vehicles were requisitioned to meet the developing situation. Some of the Police Inspectors owned motor cycles and they were paid motor cycle allowance. It was further stated that the proposals with regard to the strengthening of police machinery was under consideration.

112. The number of cases registered under the protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 during the period from 1975 to 1977 were stated to be as under:—

Sl.	Particulars of Cases	Year/No. of cases		
		1975	1976	1977
1.	Total No. of cases registered	27	23	58
2.	No. of cases wherein convictions obtained	2	3	6
3.	No. of cases compounded	11	3	1
4.	No. of cases of acquittals	8	5	4
5.	No. of cases of 'B' finals (Complaint found false during investigation)	5	5	5
6.	No. of cases of 'C' final (Mistake of facts)	1	1	3
7.	No. of cases pending trial in Courts . . . . .	..	6	39

113. The Government of Maharashtra had set up a Special Cell for looking into the complaints of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with an officer of the rank of Deputy Inspector General of police with the Headquarters at Bombay. A Sub-Inspector had been posted at Nanded since May, 1978. All applications were enquired into on priority basis and suitable action was taken if the complaint was found genuine. Since 1976, the Sub-Divisional Police Officer of each Division had been made responsible to visit and supervise investigations of each and every offence reported under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 immediately after it was registered.

114. A District Level Vigilance Committee under the Chairmanship of District Magistrate, Nanded had also been set up since July, 1973 with the following functions:—

- (i) To create an atmosphere in the district especially in rural

areas so that the social evil of untouchability could be eradicated.

- (ii) To advise Government in regard to the measures to be undertaken for eradication of untouchability.
- (iii) To assist administration in the proper investigation of alleged atrocities/injustices done to the Backward class people.
- (iv) To assist administration in the proper implementation of the provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.

115. This Committee keeps strict watch on the cases under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, and tries to help the Administration to promptly attend to the complaints of the Scheduled Castes people.

(vi) Meeting with Dr. Nand Kumar Deo s/o Shri Gopal Shastri Deo, House No. 1871 Shivaji Nagar, Nanded.

116. A few Member of the Study Group also visited the house of Dr. Nand Kumar Deo, S/o Shri Gopal Shastri Deo after the meeting with the District Officials. He informed the Study Group that he was a medical practitioner and also Secretary of the Janata Party, Nanded and President of Mill Mazdoor Sabha. On 8-8-1978, he alongwith his other family members went out for lunch with one of their relations. On the way, some workers of Dalit Panthers remarked against him but he did not take any notice of them. When he was returning home after lunch at about 1.30 p.m., some boys threw stones at his back in Jaibhim Nagar Colony and ran away. He ran after them and a stone was again hurled on his back from a distance and he was hurt. He was then hit with cycle chain by some miscreants and he became unconscious. The police was standing near the clerk, at about 50 ft. away from the place of incident and they did not take notice of the incident. Some persons informed his relations and they came running to the spot and took him to the Civil Hospital. He had since been discharged. He had lost his smelling power and he also could not hear properly.

117. The case was registered with the police. 10 persons of the age Group 20—25 years had been arrested and some had been released on bail. Some policemen who were on duty at that time had also been suspended.

20-9-1978

Visit to Ambajogai

118. On their way to Dharmapuri village in Ambajogai Taluka, the Study Group met the representatives of the Dalit Yuvak Aghadi at Ambajogai. They represented to the Study Group that the process of social transformation could be accelerated by the joint efforts of Dalits and Progressives in the Hindu Society and the need of the hour was to create such joint groups which would fight for Dalits. It came like a whirlwind engulfing the region leaving behind death and destruction. The centre of the agitation remained unknown and shall ever remain unknown as that represented the traditional Hindu mind. It had little relevance to the issue in question. Atrocities were committed on Dalits as the issue provided an opportunity to loot and arson and to beat and suppress Maharas who were the targets because they were the forebears of new egalitarian society. And their revolt against Hinduism could not be allowed to go unpunished. Other Dalit Castes too were warned, about their fate if they dared challenge the caste structure. Much had been said and written about this social tensions. Reservation of seats, scholarships, Protection of Civil Rights Act, unemployment and economic backwardness were said to be the causes of the disturbances. It might contain some grain of truth but not the whole truth. Why were only the Mahar Community the target demanded deeper probe?

119. The Study Group was informed that certain areas escaped communal frenzy possibly because police in those areas were active. In areas, such as Nanded etc. where the police was inactive more cases of arson and loot had taken place.

120. Asked about the rehabilitation of uprooted persons from the villages, the Study Group was informed that if normal conditions were restored, they would like to go back to their respective villages and resettle there.

(i) Visit to Dharmapuri Village

121. The Study Group was informed that the total population of the village was 4714, out of which the number of Scheduled Castes was 547. The sub-caste-wise population of the Scheduled Castes was stated to be as under:—

Mahar	379
Mang . 7	139
Chamar	3
Dhor 7	26
	TOTAL
	547

122. In the village, out of 13 houses of Maharas, some houses were damaged and some burnt. The total loss of property, according to Government estimates, was stated to be about Rs. 29,310/-. The Study Group was informed that immediately by tapping private charity, foodgrains were distributed to the sufferers. Relief, at the rate of Rs. 1.50 per day per sufferer and cash doles for clothing, utensil at the rate of Rs. 600/- per family were also given.

123. The Study Group visited the houses damaged and burnt and heard the persons who had suffered loss during the disturbances.

(I) Shri Datu s/o Sopan Mohale informed the Study Group that in Dharmapuri Village, the Scheduled Caste families were drawing drinking water from the nearby pond. As the water of the pond got polluted, the Scheduled Caste families started to take drinking water from the village common well. He stated that this was not liked by other village communities. The Study Group was also informed that during the recent election the Mahar Community of the village supported and voted for a particular candidate which was also not liked by the upper caste community of the village.

On the 31st July, 1978, a mob attacked the village. He became panicky and ran away to the fields for safety. The mob threatened to burn alive his old father, who prayed for mercy and was spared. His house and floor mill were set on fire. He suffered a loss of about Rs. 21,000/-. He had 20 bags of jawar, 20 bags of groundnuts and 10 quintals of paddy in stock and about Rs. 1,000/- in cash which he had lost in the fire. This, he stated, had been verified by the Collector.

In reply to a question, he stated that he belonged to Mahar Community. He owned 15 acres of land in the village. He was also a member of the village panchayat.

He had received Rs. 43,000 as aid from the Government including Rs. 500/- paid to him in cash on that very day.

He informed the Study Group that he had reported the matter to the police the same day and also gave them the names of those in the mob to whom he could recognise and who were alleged to be responsible for loot and arson. As per his statement, all the culprits had been arrested and later on released on bail. He was still feeling panicky lest those persons might attack them again. He pleaded for police protection. The names were also given by him in confidence to the Study Group. Those were Shri Baijnath s/o Shri Ambajee and his three brothers all belonging to Banjara Community; Shri Trimbuk s/o Shri Vithove Dahiphade, Shri Bhanu Dass s/o Shri Dasrath Phad, Shri Lahu Banudas; Shri Ram Rao Nivarati Phad; and Shri Dagra Bhamaji Phad.

(II) Shri Ganpati Saina s/o Shri Shivsagar who also belonged to Mahar community informed the Study Group that he owned a small shop of general merchandise (Kirana) in the village. He was in his shop when his shop was suddenly attacked by a mob. He was asked to come out of the shop. His shop was looted and all the goods were thrown out. His house was also set on fire. He estimated his loss of about Rs. 3,000/-. He had received Rs. 400/- as cash and goods worth Rs. 600/- from the Government as assistance.

In reply to question he informed the Study Group that he had no quarrel with anybody in the village except that he was also drawing drinking water from the village common well. Now there was no threat or fear but he was afraid of some of the persons and wanted police protection. When asked to state the names of those persons from whom he was afraid of, he also gave the same names as given to the Study Group by Shri Dattu.

(III) Shri Gopal Erappa Gowade informed the Study Group that he belonged to Mahar Community and had now accepted Buddhism. His house was also set on fire. He was staying there with his three brothers. He had 4 acres of land in the village. The land had been taken over by Government for some irrigation scheme. He had been paid Rs. 4000/- as compensation by the Government. At present, he was working in the fields of others. His one son was B.A. He

left the studies in 1976 after graduation. He was now working under the E.G.S. of the Government of Maharashtra. He estimated a total loss of Rs. 15,000 including the loss of belongings of his brothers. He informed the Study Group that when his house was set on fire, he was inside his house. The police reached there in time. The fire was extinguished with the help of police and the house was saved from total destruction. The accused ran away. He informed the Study Group that all the accused were from the village and belonged to Banjara community led by Shri Vinaik Ambaji who was their leader. He had also received Government help in the shape of some clothes and utensils.

(IV) The following other persons also reported the loss of property to the Study Group and the amount of compensation received by them from the Government as mentioned against their names:—

Name	Details of Loss	Amount of Compensation received in Cash and Kin
1. Shrimati Sahu W/o Shri Belbha Shivsagar	Rs. 2,000/-	Rs. 800/-
2. Shri Mariba S/o Shiv Sagar	House ransacked no estimate of Loss	Rs. 800/-

(ii) Meeting with Village People, Dharmapuri

124. After visiting the houses damaged and burnt, the Study Group held discussion with the village people.

(I) Shri Prabhuappa s/o Shri Mahadevappa, Sarpanch of the village, informed the Study Group that at about 8 A.M. on the 31st July, 1978, he was informed by some people of the Mahar community that they apprehended some trouble in the village and one of them also asked for protection. He immediately directed the village police patil to inform the police authorities immediately. He also informed the Tehsildar. He himself also wanted to go to the police station, but could not do so as his vehicle was not in order. As per his statement, the telephone communications had been disrupted. He was informed by the police patil, who had gone to report the matter to the Parli Police Station and found that police force had already left for their village.

In reply to a question, he informed the Study Group that there was no groupism or party politics in the village.

(II) Sarvashri Mahadev Ramlingappa Dama and Iswar Das Phad: two elder spokesmen of the village informed the Study Group that they had no quarrel with Dalits of the village. They were living together and would live together. According to them, the agitation-

was suddenly started by students who came from outside. Shri Mahadev Ramlingappa informed the Study Group that he was not there on that day otherwise he would not have allowed the things to happen. They, however, assured the Study Group that they would take full responsibility and would not allow such incidents to happen again. The villagers who had gathered there in large number also assured the Study Group with one voice that they would maintain peace at all cost and would live together.

(iii) Meeting with non-official, Beed

125. At Beed, the Study Group held discussion with the non-officials and heard the representatives of Dalits and non-Dalits.

(I) Shri Ram Linga Swamy, a freedom fighter and ex-MLA informed the Study Group that they had great respect for Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and that renaming of Marathwada University had nothing to do with the recent flare up which resulted into widespread violence in the villages. It seemed to have been motivated by some other considerations. The Dalit Panthers and Scheduled Castes were being given some facilities by the Government and their demands were increasing day by day which had caused suspicion in the minds of caste Hindus. On the other hand, the Dalit Panthers also in their morcha taken out recently shouted filthy slogans abusing Hindu Gods and Mahatma Gandhi. He also referred to some newspaper reports which had published damaging articles. He particularly referred to *Kesari*, a Pune Marathi daily and a weekly *Sadhna*.

He stated that there was no major incident reported from Beed district. The cause, according to him, of Dharmapuri disturbances was that Shri Dattu, main leader of Scheduled Castes of the village, was not behaving properly with the village people. He was a rich man. The other cause was stated to be of taking drinking water by the Scheduled Castes from the village common well.

He also alleged that false cases had been lodged by the Dalits under the Protection of Civil Rights Act implicating caste Hindus. When asked to give some specific instances, he merely stated that he himself had won some such cases in the courts.

When asked what steps would be taken to put an end to such cases, he stated that Dalits and other backward classes should be given full economic aid. They should be provided with housing and educational facilities. There should be time-bound programme to uplift them. They should be made able to compete with others. Reservations should not be there for them as this agitated the minds

of those bright boys who had put in hard work and secured good position and even then were not considered as they had no reservation.

(II) The representatives of Boudha Maha Sabha informed the Study Group that Marathwada had been an economically backward region. Before this region became part of the State of Maharashtra it was under the Rule of Nizam and remained neglected. Hindus of the region were caste-minded and they never wanted the down-trodden communities to be uplifted. Whenever the down-trodden communities raised their voice for their constitutional rights and demanded social justice, they were suppressed. They demanded that the resolution for re-naming the Marathwada University which had been passed unanimously by both the Houses of Legislature should be implemented. They alleged that the present agitation was well planned and was only to suppress the Mahar Community. At the back of the student community which started the agitation, were persons like Shri Govind Bhai Shroff and Shri Anant Balerao. In order to make the agitation successful, funds were raised, vehicles for transportation were arranged and well planned propaganda were carried out. The houses and huts of down-trodden were pulled down and burnt by pouring kerosene oil by students and villagers. They demanded that cases registered with the respective police stations for the atrocities committed on down-trodden people in the villages should in no case be withdrawn. They refuted the charge made by certain caste Hindus that provisions of Protection of Civil Rights Act had been misused. In fact they alleged, that the action now being taken to implement the provisions of the Act were not being liked and appreciated by a section of the caste Hindus.

(ii) They further alleged that due to inaction of the police, the students and villagers took law into their own hands and committed atrocities on Scheduled Castes. According to them, the police authorities had indirectly helped the miscreants. They did not take immediate preventive measures. Newspapers which had published provocative articles and editorials, such as, 'Taraun Bharat' were also stated to be responsible for the disturbances.

(iii) They pleaded that down-trodden communities who had suffered in the past in the villages and were still suffering should be rehabilitated in cities and near industrial centres.

(III) The representatives of the All India Federation of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Employees Welfare Association informed the Study Group that at many places where there were

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no trouble between two communities, the D.S.P. and Collector instigated the caste Hindus for violence and thus created trouble. They alleged that at Jalkot Police Station, a police Sub-Inspector who was protecting the life and property of Dalits was thrown into burning flames by caste Hindus. The caste Hindus smashed the photos, statues of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Lord Bouddha in urban areas as well as in villages. They alleged that Shri Anant Bhalerao, Editor of Marathwada daily was travelling in taxi and instigating the caste Hindus against Dalits. The other persons who played a leading role in recent riots were alleged to be Shri Govindbhai Shroff and Shri Narhar Kurundhkar, Principal, Nanded College. It was alleged that the Maharashtra State Government itself was interested in the riots. The police was helpless when banks, jeeps of Irrigation Department and other Government installations were being attacked and damaged in their presence.

(ii) They stated that a resolution to rename the Marathwada University had been unanimously passed by both the Houses of State Legislature. But now the Government had stated, after so much riot and disturbances, that Government would give due regard to the public opinion.

(iii) They further alleged that caste spirit was deeply rooted in Maharashtra. Even judgements of Courts were based on castism.

(iv) They demanded that the Marathwada University should be permanently named as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University. The Dalits who had suffered in the riots should be rehabilitated in cities and all expenditure on their rehabilitation should be met by Government as was done in the case of refugees from Pakistan. Adequate protection should be provided to the Dalits as the situation was still explosive. All Collectors and D.S.P. and Class I & II Officers in Marathwada region should be transferred. A Judicial Enquiry should be held to find out the conduct of these officers during riots. Cases registered against those who were found taking part in riots should not be withdrawn. Cases should also be filed against those persons and newspapers who were responsible for creating tension and riots.

(IV) The Study Group also heard other persons who more or less made the same points as were made by other speakers before the Study Group. Sarvashri N. B. Sarvade and R. V. Hazare representatives of Congress and Republican parties respectively made out a point that there should be some permanent appropriate law to deal with such cases of caste-hatred, arson and destruction. They also

informed the Study Group that they had informed the Police Station Kej on 2nd August, 1978 that the agitation was taking a serious turn and spreading to the villages. They alleged that inspite of the warning given to them the authorities did not take any preventive measures with the result that on 3rd August, 1978, the village was attacked.

(iv) Discussion with the District Officials at Beed

126. At Beed, the Study Group held discussion with the District Officials of Beed district. The Study Group was informed that the total population of the district was 12,86,121 of which the number of Scheduled Castes was 1,61,174 and that of Scheduled Tribes 4,394. The total population and population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of each of the affected villages was given as follows:—

Sr. No.	Taluka Ambjogai Name of village	Population			Sub-Castes	
		Total	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes		
1.	Parli (Ambajogai Tq.)	32889	2118	107	Mahar	1642
					Mang	453
					Chamar	424
					Dhor	189
2.	Dharampuri (Ambajogai Tq.)	4714	547		Mahar	379
					Mang	139
					Chamar	3
					Dhor	26
3.	Poos (Ambajogai Tq.)	2410	336	191	Mahar	303
					Mang	11
					Chamar	22
					Kaikadi	151
4.	Kannerwadi (Ambajogai Tq.)	1884	601	43	Mahar	531
					Mang	49
					Chamar	21
5.	Bhogalwadi (Kej Taluka)	2944	305		Mahar	185
					Mang	90
					Chamar	25
					Dhor	5
6.	Undri (Kej Tq.)	1820	552	5	Mahar	420
					Mang	75
					Chamar	40
7.	KaluIhiwadi (hamlet) (Taluka Koj)	679	100		Mahar	60
					Mang	40
8.	Gunjthadi (Manjlegaon Tq.)	848	166		Mahar	145
					Mang	21
9.	Kasari Bodkha (Manjlegaon Tq.)	1408	249			
10.	Gangamasala (Manjlegaon Tq.)	4454	558			

127. It was stated that out of the above ten affected villages, houses and huts were burnt and damaged in five villages, namely, Parli, Dharmapuri, Poos, Kanherwadi and Gunjthadi. In other villages, clashes had been reported. In Kaluchiwadi, Udri, Gangamasala and Gunjthadi standing crops were damaged by letting loose the cattle by caste Hindus.

128. Regarding allegations made by the non-officials that even after reporting the matter to Kej Police Station on 2-8-1978, no force was sent there and the village was attacked on 3-8-1978, the Collector stated that police reinforcement was sent there on the night of 2nd and 3rd August, 1978. Police had already been posted there since 29th July when a complaint was received on phone by the Police. He also refuted the charge that telephone were disconnected. According to his information, all the telephone lines were in order and he was in touch with all the police Stations. He informed the Study Group that police force was immediately sent to village Dharmapuri after the complaint was lodged.

129. The Study Group was informed that there was only one well in village Dharampuri and all persons irrespective of caste were drawing water from that well. On 31-7-1978 none of the Dalits went to that well to draw water, because on previous day, i.e., on 30-7-1978 Shri Bhanudas Dashrath Phad of the same village had informed Shri Dattu Sopan Mohale of the same village not to allow latter's castemen to draw water from that well. On 31-7-1978 at about 08.00 hours, a mob of about 300 persons from the said village, armed with sticks and axes, went to the house of Shri Mohale and set his house as well as floor mill on fire. The loss as given by Shri Mohale was to the tune of Rs. 10,000/-. On 31-7-1978 at 23.30 hours, Shri Dattu Sopan Mohale lodged complaint against Shri Bhanudas Dashrath Phad. The offence was registered *vide* Parli (R) P.S., C.R. No. 74/78 on 31-7-1978. Out of the 48 accused, 10 were arrested on 2-8-1978, 20 were arrested on 6-8-1978 and 18 were arrested on 27-8-1978. The charge-sheets were sent to the Court on 19-9-1978. The case was pending trial in the court of law.

130. The Study Group was informed that things started moving since the 26th July, 1978 at Aurangabad. With the passing of the resolution for re-naming the Marathwada University after the name of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti, Beed, launched the agitation. At that time, agitation was against the Government and public properties were their main targets and subsequently that turned against the Neo-Bouddhists. The first phase of the agitation against the Government was emotional and the second phase which

was against the Dalits seemed to be organised. Factors like reservations, personal enmities had also contributed and the agitation spread to the villages.

131. The following steps were taken by the district authorities:—

- (i) Prohibitory Orders under Section 37(1) and (3) under the Bombay Police Act, 1951 were issued and were made applicable throughout the District with effect from 27-7-1978 only.
- (ii) Control room was opened for 24 hours from 28-7-1978 to 15-8-1978 in Collector's Office to receive the information.
- (iii) Officers in the cadre of Deputy Collector were posted on 28-7-1978 as Special Executive Magistrates at all the Talukas and at prominent towns in the District Beed for taking preventive measures and handling the situation from law and order point of view.
- (iv) The strength of City Police Stations/Taluka Headquarters Police Stations was augmented by sending policemen from District Reserve. The S.R.P. was also called in advance.
- (v) Policemen were posted at all important and vulnerable points.
- (vi) All the District Officers were requested on the 28th and 29th July, 1978 to send Government vehicles for safety purposes at Police parade ground headquarters and they were also asked to make arrangements for protection of Government property.
- (vii) 52 jeeps were requisitioned and handed over to police officers and to Special Executive Magistrates. This had facilitated the officers to have quick mobility.
- (viii) Patrolling arrangements right from 27-7-1978 were made at Beed and other towns. State Reserve Police was sent to all Taluka headquarters and at Parli towns. Road patrolling was undertaken.
- (ix) At Beed town, curfew (from 16.00 hours of 29-7-1978 to 07.00 hours of 30-7-1978) was clamped. The curfew was again imposed from 2.30 P.M. of 30-7-1978 to 8 P.M. of this date. This had a salutary effect.
- (x) Meetings of members of Peace Committees and other influential citizens of all communities were called in Col-

lectorate on 28-7-1978, 31-7-1978 and 10-8-1979. Such meetings were also arranged at Taluka and Village levels.

(xi) Massive arrests were made at the following places:

(1) Ambajogai	82 (on 29th July)
(2) Beed	26 (on 29th July)
	114 (on 30th July)

(xii) Officers were sent to every village from where complaints were received from Scheduled Castes that they were being threatened. The District Magistrate, District Superintendent of Police, Revenue and other Police Officers paid visits to these villages and called meetings of both the communities and confidence was restored among the Scheduled Castes people.

132. In reply to a question, the Study Group was informed that the local Press co-operated with the local authorities. Papers which were alleged to have punished provocative articles were stated to be outside papers.

133. There was no loss of life in the district during the agitation. In Bhogalwadi where riot took place, seven Scheduled Castes were injured. They were given medical aid at Dharu Dispensary. Three Scheduled Castes at Gunjthadi and 5 Scheduled Castes persons at Kasari Bodka villages received minor injuries in clashes between caste Hindus and Dalits. The total estimated loss of property village-wise was as follows:

Name of village	Estimated loss of property
	Rs.
1. Parli (Ambajogai)	1,600
2. Dharampuri (Ambajogai)	29,310
3. Poos (Ambajogai)	100
4. Gunjthadi (Manjlegaon)	335
5. Kanherwadi (Ambajogai)	310
6. Ganga masla (M Gaon)	3,000 (Damage of standing Crops)
7. Kalulthiwadi (Kej)	1,100 (Damage of standing crops)
8. Undri (Kej)	500 (Do.)
9. Gunjthadi	1260 (Do)
Total	37,515

134. The quantum of immediate financial assistance and other relief given to the victims of the atrocities was given as under:

Name of village	Gratuitious relief distributed by Government	Relief given by local bodies i.e. Z. P. and Municipality Parli.
	Rs.	
1. Parli	810.00	Z.P. Beed has given clothes,
2. Dharmapuri	2575.00	utensils to the sufferers at the
3. Poos	100.00	rate of Rs. 600/- per family
4. Gunjthadi	680.00	to the 25 effected families
5. Bhogalwadi	1700.00	costing Rs. 15,000/-. The de-
6. Kanherwadi	200.00	tails of families village-wise
		were as under :

Village	Families
1. Dharamपुरी	12
2. Parli	5
3. Poos	1
4. Bhogalwadi	7
Total	25

Municipality Parli had given Rs. 500/- to the sufferers at Parli. Seven injured persons of Village Bhogalwadi were given Rs. 500/- each, in addition to above said relief from the Social Welfare Department. Thus Rs. 3,500/- was paid to them. Relief in shape of food-grains was also distributed costing Rs. 113/- in Dharmapuri.

Total relief given was Rs. 25,178/-

135. The Study Group was informed that police had not resorted to firing anywhere in the district during the agitation. Lathi charge was made once at Parli and once at Beed on 29-7-1978 when student mob became unruly and started uprooting the telephone poles and causing damage to electric lights. Tear gas was used at Parli on 29-7-1978 to disperse the mob.

OSMANABAD

(i) Visit to Udgir: (Taluka Headquarter)

The Study Group was led by Shri Bhausaheb Thorat, M.P.

136. The Study Group visited the Mathesri Ramabai Ambedkar Library on 21-9-1978 in Udgir town. The library was located in the heart of the business centre of the town. The President of the Library stated that the library was burnt by the mob on 1.8.1978 at about 11 P.M. when nobody was in the library. The library had 1500 books worth about Rs. 8000 and the furniture of the library. One day before the library was set on fire, he stated that he had given a written complaints to the police authorities but no action was taken by the police and the library was burnt down. The lock of the library was alleged to have been broken open by the miscreants who set fire to the library. When the news reached the Sub-Divisional Officer, he reached there by midnight and the fire was estinguished. But by the time he took this action, all the books had been burnt.

137. In reply to a question, the President of the library informed the Study Group that no compensation of any type had been given by the State authorities as on 21.9.1978.

(ii) Visit to Nalgir Village (Udgir Taluka)

138. The Study Group was informed that out of 6 villages where major incidents of burning of houses and huts took place during the agitation, the above villages was one of the worst affected villages.

139. This village had a total population of 3926 of whom 450, 250 and 75 belonged to Mahar, Mang and Chambhar castes respectively. Of the total 209 Scheduled Caste houses, 92, 102 and 15 houses belonged to Mahar, Mang and Chambhar castes respectively. Of the 92 houses belonging to Mahars, 47 were burnt, 18 damaged and like-wise of the 102 Mang houses, 5 were burnt and 5 damaged. One grocery shop was also stated to have been completely burnt.

140. The Study Group visited the Dalits basti and recorded the statements of the affected persons. They informed the Study Group that they had fled to Udgir to save their lives and had come back to the village the previous day i.e. 19.9.1978 after the incident on 3.8.1978. Except 8 to 10 affected families of the village all the remaining families were staying at Udgir the Taluka Headquarter. The Study Group was informed that at Udgir also there was an incident of attempted killing of these families but ultimately that did not materialise. It was also alleged that a son of the D.S.P. was leading the agitation against Dalits. The Study Group visited the rehabilitation work in progress in the village. The Government had supplied to the victims G.I. sheets, door frames and shutters.

The victims complained that the G.I. sheets supplied to them were of inferior quality and would not last long. The Study Group was informed that there were cases of not paying any compensation/relief to some of the affected families of this village. The affected families of Dalits who were staying at Udgir stated that they were not prepared to go back to the village and desired to be rehabilitated at Udgir itself.

141. Shri Thukaram s/o Shri Manik Rao, Sarpanch of the village informed the Study Group that he was out of the village on (3-8-1978) the date of occurrence. There were about 50 students of the village who were members of the Marathwada Students' Action Committee. All the affected Scheduled Caste families had stated that the local village caste Hindus had set fire to their houses and the Sarpanch of the village was also an active participant. They also stated that at about 9.00 A.M. on 3-8-1978, the Caste Hindus of the village had called some Scheduled Caste persons (Neo-Buddhists) and enquired from them as to why they were celebrating Dr. Ambedkar's Jayanti (Birthday) and why did not they beat drums on Shivaji Jayanti day, etc. When the discussion was going on, there was incident of alleged stone throwing. The Caste Hindus alleged that the stone were pelted on them by the Dalits and they, therefore attacked them and set fire to their houses. There were about 12 persons in the village who were injured. The legs of Shri Balro, a driver were fractured. He was taken to Bombay for treatment. The names of the caste Hindus of the village, as given to the Study Group, were (1) Shri Shaikar Sahukar Malwar s/o Rajendra Malwar, (2) Shri Pandalik Karbari Peddawar s/o Shri Mahadev, (3) Shri Venkat Karbari Valsane s/o Shri Vithoba, (4) Shri Nivruti s/o Shri Tukaram Peddawar, (5) Shri Baba Rao Venkoba Peddawar, (6) Shri Prahalad s/o Shri Manik Rao Morthale, (7) Shri Maruti s/o Shri Gowada and (8) Shri Gengaram s/o Shri Balu and others.

142. Shri Sessa Rao s/o Dhondiba Sinda a IIIrd year B.A. student of Shivaji College informed the Study Group that he was beaten by Shri Somdev Ganoba Kabse. He became unconscious. He was tied with cloth and thrown in a blazing fire. On getting heat of the fire he gained consciousness and ran away for safety. His left arm was injured and was in bandage at that time.

(iii) Visit to Dhoki Village

143. This village was located by the side of Lathur, and Miraj Highway. In this village, only one pan shop owned by a Neo-Buddhist (Shri Mahadev Kamble) was burnt down on 29-7-1978 which

was the 'Bandh' day. The Study Group was informed by Smt. Gojarabai w/o Shri Kamble, the owner of the shop that they had suffered a loss of about Rs. 490/- but were given only Rs. 200/- by the Government. All the shops owned by the other Caste Hindus in the village remained intact.

21-9-1978

(iv) Visit to Ieet Village

144. Enroute to Osmanabad, the Study Group visited Ieet village. The Study Group was informed that the total population of the village was 6,266 of which the number of Scheduled Castes was 636. There were 43 houses of Mahar, 51 of Mang and 11 of Chamahars in the Basti. Five houses belonging to Mahar community were stated to have been attacked during the agitation and set on fire, including one flour mill and Community Hall. The Study Group visited the houses burnt and damaged and heard the aggrieved persons.

(1) Shri Manik s/o Shri Bika Ahire informed the Study Group that one flour mill and house of his uncle Shri Abhiman s/o Babu Rao Ahire were set on fire by a 200 to 300 strong mob who attacked the Basti on 5-8-1978. He stated that his uncle had left for Bombay after the incident and he was not aware of the total loss suffered. He informed the Study Group that his own house was also set on fire. He was not there at that time and had fled away from the village out of fear. A day before the incident, he was informed by the peon of Gram Panchayat Office, Shri Vaijnath who also belonged to his caste, that some people would be coming from outside to attack the Basti and to set fire to the houses of Mahars. After hearing this he and other Dalit families left the village out of fear to save their lives. According to his statement other Scheduled Caste families did not leave the village and their houses and properties were also not damaged.

(2) Shri Bhim Rao Ahire s/o Shri Babu Rao Ahire, a teacher in the Zila Parishad High School informed the Study Group that he left his house with his family members on the 5th August, 1978 at about 10 A.M. when he was informed by some people of the village that a dangerous *andolan* was going to be launched against the Manars. He stated that the Basti was attacked and houses were set on fire on the 5th August, 1978, between 2 PM to 4 PM. He reported that a dangerous *andolan* was going to be launched against the machine looted and burnt. He had intimated the Collector about the loss but no compensation had been given to him upto 21-9-1978.

(3) Shrimati Maujabai wife of Shri Edba informed the Study Group that she was living there with her husband. Her three sons

were employed at Bombay. It was about 4 P.M. on the 5th August, 1978, when the Basti was attacked by a mob and houses of Mahars including the Community Hall by the side of her house, were set on fire. She had not fled away from the village as nobody informed her in advance of the proposed attack. She reported that she had lost everything she had in the house. There were clothes of her three sons and cash of Rs. 500/-. As she was also away at the time her house was attacked, she could not take out anything. As per her estimate, the total loss was about Rs. 3000/-.

(4) Shri Satyaban Agu Kalkhet, a Mahar informed the Study Group that he with his family members had fled for safety. His house and a small shop which he was running in the same building had been set on fire and everything looted. He was repairing his house when the Study Group visited that place. He stated that he was not educated enough as to give estimate of his losses but he lost everything he owned. Government had given him Rs. 300/- as cash and some wooden material free of cost for the construction of the House. Government had also promised to give him more and replace everything he had lost.

145. Shri Azinath Masa Kalkhet who also belonged to the Mahar community informed the Study Group that his house was safe but all his belongings including clothes and utensils, costing about Rs. 2500/- had been taken out of the house and burnt. They were seven members of the family. He had been given Rs. 350/- as compensation Rs. 50/- per member.

(v) Meeting with the village people Ieet, Osmanabad

146. Shri Triambukh Ganpat, Chairman of the Vigilance Committee of the village informed the Study Group that all the Scheduled Caste families of the village had not fled away as he had himself asked them not to leave the village. He stated that he was confident that such a thing in their village was not likely to happen. As per his statement the village was attacked by some students from outside who burnt the houses of some of the Mahars. Villagers tried to extinguish the first but there was no water. There was no police on that day in the village. The police came the next day. Villagers also came to know after their village had been attacked and houses set on fire. Cases had been registered against all the students involved in the agitation.

147. In reply to a question, he stated that there was no enmity between the caste Hindus and the Mahars in the village and that they were living peace-fully.

148. Shri Vilas Vinayak Rao Deshmukh informed the Study Group that Shri Vaijnath, a peon of Gram Panchayat came to him at about 11 P.M. on the 4th August, 1978, and informed him that their village was likely to be attacked by a mob. A mob had already attacked the Bhoom village and set some houses of Scheduled Castes there on fire. They were going to leave the village and as per his statement they left the village at night between 2 A.M. to 3 A.M. The village was attacked the same day at about 3 P.M.

149. Shri Anna Saheb Sarpanch of the village informed the Study Group that there was some trouble at Bhoom village and some houses of Scheduled Castes had been burnt. It was learnt that on Friday, the weekly market day of village Pargaon the village was attacked by a mob consisting of students and shops were looted. On Saturday, it was weekly market day for Ieet. There was rumour that their village was also likely to be attacked on the market day. The Police Patil of the village learnt about this and called some people so as to avoid any untoward happening. They decided not to observe that day as weekly market day. Accordingly, the shops on that day were kept closed. As per information given to him, some students had gathered on that day in front of the Gram Panchayat office and threatened to set the Government Godown on fire. He was not in the village at that time. He came to know all about the happenings in the village after it had been attacked. He informed the Study Group that some of the village people who were there at that time and alleged to be involved in inciting the people had been identified and their names given to the police.

(vi) Visit to Village Bhoom

150. The Study Group visited Bhoom village where police had to resort to firing to disperse the unruly mob and to prevent arson. The Study Group was informed by the district police officials that at Bhoom, the public property was the main target and was attacked.

151. There were two sections of the mob. One section attacked the Bus stand and Police Station. A bus standing at the stand was damaged. The Police Station was heavily stoned and was badly damaged, police records removed and destroyed. One police man on duty at the police station was injured. Some police jeeps and trucks which were parked there were heavily damaged. The other section of the mob attacked the office of Dy. Engineer, Zila Parishad and damaged the building. Subsequently, the mob attacked one tailoring shop belonging to one of the Mahars, said to be the leader of Dalit Panthers. The shop was ransacked and set on fire. Police

had arrested two persons alleged to be responsible for burning the shop. Total arrests made were stated to be fifty-one. The Study Group was informed that all these cases had been made over to the State CID for proper investigation and action.

21-9-1978

(vii) Meeting with non-officials, Osmanabad

152. At Osmanabad, the Study Group heard the non-officials and representatives of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, other organisations and local MLAs etc. Some of the important points made out by them before the Study Group were as follows:—

153. The agitation for re-naming the Marathwada University had been going on for the last one to two years. It had the support of all the political parties. The Dalit Panthers were leading the agitation, taking out Morchas and calling for strike and Bandh to get support. The agitation spread throughout the Marathwada. It was opposed by a section of students who arranged counter morchas and Bandhs. It was alleged that this counter agitation had the support of officers and high-ups in the Society. They incited the caste Hindus and raised their voice against reservations for Scheduled Castes and other facilities being afforded to them. Immediately after the Resolution to re-name the Marathwada University was passed by the Government of Maharashtra, they started violence, disrupting transport services, damaging telephone Communication etc. They attacked Dalit Panthers and their main targets were Dalit Panther teachers and students.

154. It was stated that, in the beginning, the agitation was not against Dalits but against the Government. But later on it turned against Dalits and also spread to villages. Road communications were blocked, bridges were blown up and damaged. The houses of Dalits in the villages were attacked, their properties looted, damaged and burnt. In one village, it was alleged, a mother who had given birth to a child was also not spared and harassed. A goat was burnt alive. It was alleged that all this was pre-planned and arranged. Plans were drawn up on the 2nd August, 1978 and villages were attacked on the 3rd August, 1978. The brains behind the movement were stated to be of Shri Anant Rai Bhalerao and that of Shri Govind Bhai Shroff.

155. It was alleged that at Jalkot, a P.S.I. Shri Bhure, who took active part to protect the lives and properties of Dalits, was beaten and burnt alive by the mob. Shri Narsingh Rao, President Republican Party informed the Study Group that even though the Police

authorities at Udgir were informed about the incident at Jalkot, the Police reached there about 26 hours late after the incident when the damage had been done and the mob had killed and burnt the P.S.I. there. He further stated that about the incident at Nalagir Village, the police was informed well in advance to take precautionary action. Police ensured the people that they had taken all necessary precautionary steps. In spite of that, the village was attacked and many Dalit people were injured. One of the Dalits was stated to have suffered serious injury. He had to be taken to Ambajogai Taluka Headquarters for medical treatment. There was no transport available and the police authorities, when approached to make some transport available to transport the injured person to Ambajogai, refused. Zila Parishad authorities agreed to give their truck on the pre-condition that two policemen should accompany the party lest their truck was also damaged. These two policemen were made available to them very late in the evening. This caused much harassment and suffering to the people. It was alleged that police did not take prompt action and failed to check the riots which spread to the villages. He demanded that this should be enquired into and such of the police officers who had failed in their duty should be transferred and punished.

156. In village Pargaon, it was alleged that a photograph of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was taken out, damaged and burnt. The Caste Hindus who burnt the Photograph of Dr. Ambedkar then went to a nearby stream, had a bath there as a token of purification, and then came back.

157. The Study Group was also informed that rehabilitation aid given to the victims of atrocities was not sufficient. They desired that adequate compensation should be given to all the affected families. A demand was made that those Scheduled Caste families from among the families which had fled the village and taken shelter in the towns and who did not want to come back to the villages should be permanently rehabilitated in the towns. Such of the families which had agreed to be resettled in the villages should be provided full protection. A suggestion was made that leaders from all Communities should visit the affected villages and restore confidence among the minorities.

158. Shri Narinder Bongaonkar, President, Zila Parishad informed the Study Group that no political party or local Administration was backing the agitation. The allegations made by various spokesmen in this regard were baseless. They were doing their best to

bring peace to the land. With a view to restore confidence among the Scheduled Castes, they were meeting the people of all shades and communities and holding meetings. According to his version confidence had been restored and many families which had fled away from the villages were coming back to their respective villages. He further informed the Study Group that Government had taken and were taking all necessary steps for financial assistance and rehabilitation of these persons.

159. Shri B. S. Chalukya, MLA stated that it was wrong to say that Government did not take timely action. According to him, the Administration took speedy action as soon as they came to know about the agitation and stopped it from spreading further. There were about 1400 villages in Osmanabad district and only seven to eight villages were affected. This was accordingly to him sufficient proof that Administration took prompt action in the matter and did not allow the agitation to spread at other villages. He stated that main causes of the agitation were economic backwardness of the region and frustration among the educated unemployed youth. He suggested that more industries should be set up in the region to provide employment to the educated unemployed youth.

(viii) Discussion with District Officials, Osmanabad

160. At Osmanabad, the Study Group also held discussion with the district officials. The Study Group was informed that there were 11 Talukas with 1423 villages in the district. The total population of the district was 18,96,687, out of which 2,85,320 were Scheduled Castes i.e. about 15 per cent of the total population of the district. The total population of the villages affected by the agitation and the population of the Scheduled Castes, caste-wise among them was as under:—

Name of Taluka	Village	Total population	Scheduled Caste				Total Scheduled Caste
			Mahar	Mang	Chamber	Dhar	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Udgir	Nalgir	3,296	450	350	75		875
	Navandi	1,395	250	125	..	..	35
	Jalkot	3,728	592	238	75	21	926

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Wadhona (K)	1,644	182	78	12	..	272
Kallam	Kallam	10,216	381	150	86	90	707
	Khamaswadi	5,099	250	350	60	165	825
Bhoom	Pakhrud	2,071	150	90	21		261
	Ieet	6,266	223	261	52	..	536
Osmanabad	Alni	2,664	206	126	36	20	388
	Dhoki	7,592	1,222	103	157		1,482
Ahmedpur	Hangarga	496	45	170			215
Bhoom	Bhoom	7,836					674
	Paragaon	2,771					344
	Pimplagaon (K)	1,401					13
Ahmedpur	Nalgaon	6,565					325
Tuljapur	Tuljapur	19,740	..	..	..	..	1,674

161. The Study Group was informed that the flare-up of the agitation was due to passing of the resolution by both Houses of the State Legislature regarding re-naming of the Marathwada University. Local issues also came in to play a part at a later stage. College and High School students, educated unemployed and others played a major role in sustaining the agitation at some places. Initially, Government, Semi-Government and public property were the targets of the agitators. Scheduled Caste people at some places became the target subsequently. The huts and houses of Scheduled Castes had been damaged and burnt at Nalgir, Nawandi of Udgir, Taluka, Khamaswadi of Kallan, Taluka, Ieet and Pakhrud of Bhoom Taluka. In Nalgir, Khamaswadi and Alni villages some of the Scheduled Castes had been injured as a result of sudden fracas. They had been treated in the Government hospitals. Nothing happened in Omerga, Ausa, Nilanga, Paranda and Latur talukas. Thus, it would be seen that out of 1423 villages only 16 villages in the district had been affected by the recent agitation 162. With a view to restore confidence among the Scheduled Castes, the District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police, Sub-Divisional Officers, Sub-Divisional Police Officers and Tahsildars had visited all affected areas, gave them patient hearing, listened to their grievances at length, local peace Committees were formed and adequate police

force was stationed at the affected places. Regular rounds in their jurisdiction had been and were being taken by the Revenue and Police Officers.

The total number of tenements, houses, huts of Scheduled Castes, Caste-wise in the affected villages, the number of such huts damaged and burnt and the total estimated loss were as follows:—

Sl. No.	Name of Taluka	Name of village.	Total No. of tenements huts of Scheduled Castes;		Huts of Scheduled Castes burnt.		Huts of Scheduled Castes Damaged		Estimated loss including other personal belongings.		
			Mahar. Mang. Dhor Cham-bhar	Mahar. Mang. Dhor Cham-bhar	Mahar. Mang. Dhor Cham-bhar	Mahar. Dhor Cham-bhar	Mahar. Dhor. Cham-bhar.				
1	Udgir; 2	Nalgir .	92	102	15	47	5	18	5	2,28,034-00	
2	Udgir .	Nawandi .	50	30	..	..	8	..	..	3,550-00
3	Kallam .	Khamaswadi .	40	45	30	10	2	2	..	11,917-00	
4	Bhoom .	Pathrud .	30	18	3	..	..	8	..	1,500-00
5	Bhoom .	Iect.	43	51	11	5	..	..	..	3,940-00
6	Udgir .	Jalkot .	104	14	..	4	..	..	..	80-00
TOTAL			359	260	30	41	58	13	20	13	2,49,039-00

163. The details of the other incidents and damage to Properties other than houses and huts were given as below:

No.	Name of Taluka	Name of Village	Nature of Incident	Estimated Loss /
1.	Tuljapur	Tuljapur	A violent mob damaged one Pan Shop.	200.00
2.	Osmanabad	Dhoki	A violent mob set on fire One Pan Shop.	683.00
3.	Bhoom	(i) Bhoom	A violent mob damaged one Tailoring shop.	600.00
		(ii) Iect	A mob consisting about 200/300 students set on fire to a flour mill and community hall.	2,500.00
4.	Udgir	(i) Wadhona	Some unknown persons set on fire one Pan shop.	100.00
		(ii) Nalgir	(i) During agitation singer sewing machine of one Shri Tukaram Kondiba was damaged.	550.00
			(ii) During agitation the singer sewing machine of one Shri Khandu Ananda Sonkamble was partially damaged.	100
			(iii) One Grossery shop was set on fire.	23,900.00
			(iv) A goat was burnt	100.00
5.	Kallam	Kallam	A mob set on fire one Pan Shop	835.00
6.	Osmanabad	Alni	13 Scheduled Caste persons received injuries and house-hold belongings damaged.	2,518.00
7.	Bhoom	(i) Pargaon	A procession was taken out by a mob and Photograph of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had been damaged and burnt.	
		(ii) Pimpalgaon (K)	S/Shri Purshuram and other students and persons had damaged and burnt the Photographs of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and assaulted two persons.	
8.	Ahmedpur	(1) Nalgaon	A procession was taken out at village Nalgaon by caste Hindus. The processionists pelted stones on the house of one Scheduled Caste person.	
		(2) Hingarga	Shri Tukaram Rama had constructed one small hut by making encroachment in Gairan Sr. No. 2. The said hut was set on fire. The Vegetable plants, and other material costing Rs. 210/- burnt.	210.00

164. The Study Group was informed that police had to make lathi charge in Latur, Udgir and Kallam Villages, fire teargas shells at Udgir and Kallam and resort to firing thirteen times once at Udgir and Kallam and resort to firing thirteen times once Ahmedpur to disperse the unruly mob and prevent rowdism. There was no loss of life of any Dalit during the disturbances. The number of total Scheduled Caste persons injured was 54. The details of other persons killed and injured was given as below:—

Killed	Injured		
	Officers	Police	Public
3	5	58	30

165. On asking the quantum of immediate assistance given to the victims of these atrocities, the Study Group was informed that they were given immediate financial assistance (gratuitous relief) on the following scale:—

- (a) Rs. 1.50 per day per head for subsistence. Rs. 27.50 per day per head for immediate requirements for utensils and clothing
- (b) 310 Zinc-sheets and 75 Dhotis and 75 sarees, 1 Qutl. Jowar and 12 Kgs. dal were distributed.
- (c) Persons who had become temporarily incapacitated and those who lost their moveable properties and other occupational belongings were being sanctioned financial assistance over and above the gratuitous relief, according to the latest Government orders. Total gratuitous relief so far given in cash was Rs. 40,438.00. Approximately about Rs. 25,000.00 towards loss of house-hold and occupational belonging etc. would be disbursed within a couple of days.

166. The total number of huts and houses damaged and destroyed in the district was 104. According to Government orders, the estimates required for reconstruction and repairs had been prepared within the financial limits prescribed by the Government i.e. Rs. 1500/- in each individual case, considering the scope of damage to the houses. Most of the sufferers desired to have the houses repaired constructed on the same sites. The work of reconstruction and repairs to the huts and houses damaged and destroyed was in full swing. The affected persons were provided employment on EGS works near or around the affected villages.

AURANGABAD

(i) Meeting with non-officials at Circuit House, Aurangabad.

167. At the outset, the Saudy Group had discussion with the following local MLAs/MLC:—

- (i) Shri Uttam Rao Patwari, MLA.
- (ii) Shri Baburao Thorat, MLA.
- (iii) Shri Mohan Lal, MLA.
- (iv) Shrimati Rangnekar, MLC.

168. The Study Group was informed that there was no discussion with the local representatives before the resolution to re-name Marathwada University was passed by the two Houses of State Legislature. It was done in haste and it was passed just three days before the closing of the Assembly session. It was brought as Private Members' Resolution although the Minister of Revenue moved it in the Legislative Council. A similar resolution was moved at the time when Shri Vasant Rao Patil was the Chief Minister but it was not passed during his tenure. It was also stated that they had met the Chief Minister and stressed that before passing the resolution, the matter should be re-considered from all angles but they had not opposed the resolution in the Assembly.

169. The agitation was first started by the students and all colleges remained closed for about 15 days. No leader was leading the agitation. The immediate reaction was in cities and the main target was Government property. Later on, it spread to rural areas where it appeared to be an organised one and guided and led by some organisation. In rural areas, Dalits were taking full advantage of the provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and were implicating innocent non-dalit people who were very much agitate on this score. There were also old rivalries in the villages which could also be the cause of the agitation. The reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had been provided in Services and they had also been given certain facilities with regard to admissions in technical colleges etc. These facilities were not available to other economically backward people, the MLAs desired that similar concessions and facilities should also be made available to them.

170. During the disturbances, no MLA, MLC or MP could reach their respective constituencies from Bombay for restoring peace in

their localities as trains, etc. were not then running. Had they reached, they could have explained to the people that passing of the resolution did not bind the Government to implement it as it was a recommendatory one.

171. They said certain leaders were inciting the Dalits for rehabilitation in cities. It showed that the disturbances in rural areas were not in connection with the change of name of Marathwada University but were for some other reasons.

In the end, it was suggested that a new university in the name of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar might be opened.

(I) Shri G. M. Shroff, convenor, Aurangabad Nagrik Samiti stated as follows:—

They were in favour of supporting the movement for re-naming the Marathwada University but not on communal basis. Unlike other Universities, the Marathwada University was established as a result of prolonged efforts of the people of Marathwada from 1951 to 1957. In these efforts, different organisations of the region, the Hyderabad Legislature and the popular Government of Hyderabad played an important role. Marathwada area was merged with Maharashtra State in 1956 and because of the feeling of the people residing there, the University was named as 'Marathwada University' although a number of other names were considered for the proposed University at that time.

It was also stated that Marathwada was a backward and under-developed area. Attempts and promises for accelerated development of this area had remained on paper. Even proportionate development had been denied. Naturally, employment opportunities were few and far-between and even these few opportunities were not available to the educated youth and students of Marathwada. Many of these posts had gone to persons from outside the region. In such a situation, the educated youth turned against the reservations and various concessions given to Scheduled Castes and the backward classes even though it was fact that the problem of educated unemployment was so enormous that reservations or no-reservations, made little difference. Still psychologically it worked and created tension. It was further accentuated due to the demand for filling up all available new jobs from Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and backward classes alone till their backlog was removed.

In rural areas, during the last two years after the passing of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, there had been growing number of

cases and it had become a convenient weapon in the hands of unscrupulous elements for harassing and black-mailing the villagers.

'Chappal Morchas' were also organised and paraded through main streets, abusing people who opposed the renaming, raising slogans against persons whom the people held in high esteem. Even the places of worship had been desecrated at some places. Marathwada had also been a victim of political expediency and competitive politics.

The movement against the renaming of the University had been going on for the whole of last year. It had been supported by all sections of the people. It was carried on peacefully throughout the whole of last year. The closing down of colleges last year for over fifteen days had its effect on the rural people also as many college students came from rural areas.

For the first five days from 27th to 31st July, 1978, the outburst was directed wholly against the Government. Most of the colleges and schools were closed. The markets were also closed for a number of days. All communications were paralysed and damage was done to the Government property, buses, vehicles, Railway coaches, etc. The damage was estimated to the tune of Rs. 78 lakhs. During this period, there was not a single instance where there was confrontation between Dalits and non-Dalits. Further, the movement was spontaneous and multi-centred.

When the movement reached the rural areas, between 31st July and 5th August, 1978, it got mixed up with local problems, particularly those connected with the misuse of the Protection of Civil Rights Act and mutual distrust was created. Restoration of lost trust and rehabilitation of the affected families were the matters which were to be dealt with on priority basis.

At the end, he stated that the movement was against the renaming of the University and not against Dalits, as could be seen from the fact that not a single untoward incident took place after the 5th August, 1978 in response to the assurance given by the Chief Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar, that the resolution of the Legislature was recommendatory, that the Government had not taken any decision thereon and that no decision would be imposed on the people of Marathwada.

(II) Shri C. D. Chaudhary, Member of the State Executive, C.P.I. stated as under:—

The present State Government was fully aware of the strong passions which had aroused hardly nine months back when the issue

of renaming the University was first debated and they should have found a consensus before moving with the matter. Though conflict erupted on the issue of renaming the University, the desire of the Youth who led the movement was to resist any further concession to Dalits and to get the existing concessions and reservations annulled or diluted.

The number of educated, both Dalit and non-Dalit, had expanded rapidly in the last decade and the employment had not kept pace. Economy was stagnant and jobs and services in Government establishments were the only avenues. The Marathwada Youth had risen in revolt against these concessions once before in 1974, but the whole movement then had focussed its attention on ending regional disparities and demanding rapid development of Marathwada.

The root cause was to establish the traditional caste domination disturbed and challenged by the Buddhist Youth who asserted his social rights. There was selective attack on Buddhist bustees in such villages where tensions had earlier built up on the issue of rights of Scheduled Castes. Prosecution under the Civil Rights Act was the issue most resented.

It was suggested that full compensation should be paid for property destroyed both movable and immovable. While it was correct to advise that the Dalits should go back to their old villages, where confidence had been shaken and the people were not ready to go back, they should not be penalised and denied aid as happened in some cases but treated with sympathy and helped.

Rehabilitation should include assured livelihood and adequate grant should be given to enable them to make a fresh start of their trade or profession. Work under the E.G.S. should be started in order to provide work to them. Surplus land should also be allotted to them.

There was great pressure on the Government to withdraw all cases. The Government should not succumb to this pressure and withdraw cases where offences against the Dalits had taken place. It should, however, be ensured that no innocent person was harassed.

Concessions at present being enjoyed by the Dalits should not be withdrawn or diluted. Concessions to the economically weak should not affect the priorities for the Dalits. There were no reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the private and cooperative sectors. Reservations should also be provided for them in these sectors.

In spite of the provisions of the Civil Rights Act, the practice of untouchability and social discrimination continued. The abuse of these provisions in some cases should not be made a ground for diluting the Act.

There should be complete restructuring of the social and economic system with means of livelihood so as to ensure full employment and means of livelihood for all.

At the end, it was suggested that a befitting memorial to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar at the national level would go a long way in restoring confidence among the Buddhists.

(III) The representatives of Students' Council stated that the movement of naming Marathwada University was started in the beginning of the last academic year. In the beginning, it was the demand of some organisations of students and consequently the Executive Committee of the said University passed the Resolution and recommended to the State Government to name it after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Since then, all through the year, the movement was kept up in a democratic way and nothing untoward happened.

When the Government headed by Shri Pawar came into power, they in the first session put the proposal for discussion and it was unanimously decided in both the Houses that the name of the University should be changed as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University. The decision was broadcast on A.I.R. on 27-7-1978 at 7 p.m. and soon after, the riots started all over Marathwada. The rioters started moving in groups in the cities destroying public and Government properties. For first two or three days, the attention of rioters was towards the public properties but after it took a different turn. They started burning and destroying the houses of neo-Buddhists and Mahars and statues of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. It seemed that the attacks on the Mahar community were pre-planned and before the attacks, all the means of communications were cut off. The roads to the villages were blocked.

During all these incidents, police force was quite insufficient and whatever force was available was quite inactive to control the mob. On the contrary, they acted as mere spectators. Even the representatives of the people from the region did not try to stop the riots.

During the period of riots, Mahars and Neo-Buddhists were greatly terrorised and they found themselves insecure. Some of

them ran away leaving behind their belonging and sought refuge in cities and the neighbouring States.

Certain persons belonging to high castes were wounded and publicity to it was given beyond imagination. They were taken in a special Government plane to Bombay for treatment. On the other hand, people from the depressed classes were killed but no publicity was given.

It was stated that riots started because of the educational facilities and reserved seats in Government Services provided for the Backward Classes. There was reservation of 34 per cent for these classes and on that account, the chances of other communities were being marred. But keeping in view the present population in the region, the present percentage was insufficient.

After riots, Kruti Samitis were formed and the leaders of these Samities were leaders of different political parties. Their demand was to set free the persons who had been arrested during the riots. It was demanded that these persons should not be set free as they were responsible for burning the houses and killing people belonging to the depressed communities. Last year, when about 200 students at Udgir resorted to Satyagrah, they were brought to Aurangabad which is about 250 miles away although the Satyagraha was peaceful and was in a constitutional way. That happened on Dipawali Day and many of them had lost their chance of appearing in examination. But at that time no leader came forward and pleaded to set those students free.

(IV) The Representatives of Youngman's Buddhist Association stated that on the evening of 26th July, 1978, when the news about renaming of the Marathwada University reached Aurangabad, atmosphere turned tense. On 27-7-1978, a protest procession by students was taken out from Saraswati Bhavan Education Society's College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Aurangabad. The students of Government Medical College, Aurangabad also took out a procession. One student of Government Medical College, Aurangabad broke a photo of late Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar which was displayed in the medical college. Immediately, Marathwada Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti (Marathwada Students' Action Committee) at Marathwada level was formed under the leadership of Shri Chandrashekhar Rajurkar. The students from Saraswati Bhawan Colleges of Arts, Science & Commerce, students of Deogiri College of Arts, Science and Commerce, People's College, Nanded and Yeshwant College, Nanded were running the Marathwada Kruti Samiti.

During riots, the Collectors and police officials of five districts of Marathwada acted as spectators and unimaginable atrocities had been committed in the Buddhists, Dalits and particularly Mahars. The innocent country-side Buddhists and Dalit had nothing to do with the renaming of Marathwada University and even there they had been attacked.

They demanded that safeguards which had been provided for the Scheduled Castes should also be given to Buddhists, and the reservations in services should be in proportion to their population in the country. There was no representation of Buddhists in the Assemblies and Parliament in proportion to their population in the country.

The compensation which was given to the victims by the Maharashtra Government in the recent disturbances was not commensurate with the loss sustained by the Buddhists. The amount of compensation should, therefore, be increased.

The offenders should be brought to book in order to avoid repetition of such atrocities.

In the end, it was suggested that the resolution which had been passed by the two Houses of State Legislature unanimously over renaming of Marathwada University after the name of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar should be implemented.

(V) The representatives of Dalit Panthers' Marathwada region, stated that the riots took place in Marathwada region from the 27th July, 1977 onwards and the houses and articles of backward class people were burnt by high castes Hindus with great cruelty. The backward classes people from Scheduled Castes were surprised as to how the riots had started simultaneously. It only showed that they were pre-planned as similar acts had been committed everywhere. No person from the high caste Hindus had come at that time to protect their lives and properties. The Government's machinery had actually failed in Marathwada region and even there were instructions that serious action should not be taken against the culprits by the police.

It was suggested that the resolution passed by the two Houses of State Legislature with regard to renaming of Marathwada University should be honoured and necessary legislation in that regard should be passed by the State Legislature. It was also stated that Leaflets had been circulated without any signatures or name of the press from where printed.

Judicial Enquiry should be ordered on the riots, atrocities and other incidents of serious nature like murders, rapes, burning of houses and properties and human lives of the Mahars, Mangs and Buddhists as well as the Government. The incidents should be investigated and offences should be registered on the lines of evidence which would be laid or tendered before the Judicial Enquiry Commission.

The sufferers in the riots should be granted compensation as per the market rates and the cases for damages against the culprits should be instituted.

In the cases of murders, the families of deceased should be given compensation to the extent of Rs. 10,000/- alongwith monthly pension of Rs. 1100|- p.m.

The sufferers should not be forced to settle in the same places and should be allowed to settle at the places of their free will as they were apprehending danger to their lives and properties if they were asked to settle in the same places. The sufferers from villages Akola, Apegaon, Niklak and Golatgaon should be rehabilitated at Aurangabad. The sufferers should be provided with employment and they should be allotted government accommodation for running shops, etc.

The officers who could not control and maintain peace and watched the situation as on lookers should be placed under suspension and enquiries should be held against them.

The Government had not taken any action against the persons responsible for the disturbances. The cases should be instituted against them and the cases already instituted against them should under no circumstances be withdrawn. Flying squads should be set up in the Marathwada region to protect the lives of weaker sections especially of Mahars, Mangs and Buddhists. Special courts should also be set up for the quick disposal of these cases.

The landless persons should be allotted Government Gairans (Grazing lands) and Parampok lands for cultivation and the lands which had been taken by the landlords should be given back to them.

Arms should be provided to all Dalits in the State.

(VI) Shri Nanasahab N. Shinde stated that the movement of renaming the Marathwada University in Marathwada started on

the 27th July, 1978 and it turned into communal riots. There was a great loss of human life as well as property of Scheduled Castes, especially of Mahars. The communal-minded Caste Hindus had burnt huts and pucca houses as well as valuable articles of Scheduled Castes and Buddhists. They had taken revenge against the Mahars and Buddhists due to age old social and religious prejudices. At some places, atrocities on Dalits had been committed in the presence of police officials and at some other places, the police tried to protect the properties of Scheduled Castes but they were unsuccessful to maintain law and order.

It was suggested that the persons apprehending danger should be allowed to settle according to their free will and should be given all assistance. Wherever possible, grazing and forest lands should be allotted to such persons by relaxing the rules and they should be allotted land in compact blocks.

The hutment dwellers should be given pucca houses having minimum built up area of 400 sq. ft. and it should have a bathroom and latrine attached to the House. The persons whose built up houses costing more than Rs. 3,000/- or above had been demolished, burnt or destroyed should be given the cost of house according to the present market rate. The Government should set up factories in the area to provide employment to the sufferers.

The real culprits had not been arrested and were moving freely. They were creating bad atmosphere. Necessary action should be taken against them.

(VII) Shri Moin Shakir stated that the involvement of the trading class in a big way in the Marathwada agitation was on account of the decision of the State Government to revive the cotton procurement scheme. The extent of atrocities in the major cotton producing and marketing districts was markedly high in comparison to other districts. The trading class in Nanded liberally financed the activities of the Students Action Committee which consisted of sons of the traders, big officials, landlords and prominent political leaders.

The landlords had been agitating regarding the assertiveness of the landless labourers particularly Mahars who had refused to perform the traditional functions.

The spread of education among the Dalits coupled with a few employment opportunities opened by farming, irrigation projects and industrialisation led to the desire of higher wages and better

living by Dalits and the poor. Migration of Dalits to the towns and sites of public projects caused reduction in the labour force at village or farm level and they were demanding higher wages which was causing annoyance to the landlords.

Before the enactment of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, the cases against the high Caste Hindus were not registered by the Government. The Dalits were at the mercy of Caste Hindus as they did not have social status, political power and economic strength. The enactment of the Protection of Civil Rights Act had compelled the administration to take note of the offences and act accordingly.

By and large, the teachers of the University and colleges did not play any role. They were all silent and most of them expressed their views for or against the agitation in private in the beginning but majority of them supported the agitation and atrocities on Scheduled Castes.

In the end, it was suggested that the guilty should be punished accordingly to the law of the land, the misgivings that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had cornered large share of scholarships, admissions and jobs should be dispelled and expeditious measure should be taken to implement minimum wages and Employment Guarantee Scheme. Armed licences of all landlords should be cancelled immediately.

(VIII) Prof. S. T. Pradhan, President, Republican Party of India (Gawai) (Marathwada Region) stated that the Buddhists/Dalits had been badly affected in the riots in Marathwada in connection with the renaming of Marathwada University. Their houses were burnt, demolished and their properties looted and many of them had left their villages. Many Dalits who had fled away from their villages were not willing to go back because they were afraid of their lives and limbs.

The riot affected Buddhists/Dalits might be rehabilitated at Taluka or District places or suitably rehabilitated in villages where they were confident of security. The villages which were not riot-affected but where the Dalits felt insecure might also be treated as riot-affected for rehabilitation purposes. Alongwith huts of Dalits, pucca houses had been demolished. At many places, shops and flour mills were destroyed. Loans free of interest should be given to the riot-affected people in order to start small business.

The decision of Government to rename the Marathwada University should not be changed.

(IX) Shri D. L. Pathak, President, Citizens Rights Protection Committee stated that the disturbances in Marathwada region were started by the Students immediately after hearing the decision of Government to change the name of Marathwada University. This demand for the change of name of the University was from 10 per cent of population and 90 per cent of the population stood in opposition. The Government should have been consent of the majority section of the public before arriving at such a decision.

The hasty decision of the Government was the main cause of riots in the region. The solution lay in setting a new university after the name of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

(X) Shri Ashok R. Patil and others of Marathwada Vidyarthi Yuwak Samanvaya Samiti stated that the demand for renaming of the Marathwada University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was made by Dalit Panthers and Scheduled Caste leaders. They posed from the very beginning that this demand was only of and for the Dalit people and the other castes were not at all concerned with their demand. Such attitude made it purely one-sided issue and created a kind of apprehension that this was based on casteism.

The moment it was made known that the resolution to rename Marathwada University had been passed by the two Houses of State Legislature, a sort of initiation swelled up and people came on the streets to their contemptuous rejection. The people of Marathwada showed their anger against the State Government.

Marathwada was a neglected region since long. Earlier it was a part of Hyderabad State and it was neglected during that period. After the States Reorganisation, the region was merged with Maharashtra State. The development of the area had not been accelerated.

The Government was trying to suppress the agitation and many people were arrested unnecessarily. Firing was resorted to by police officials.

It was a practice that complaints were lodged under the Protection of Civil Rights Act against the prominent persons in the villages and they were punished due to false cases against them. This had erupted at that juncture and the rural people broke anger against the Government.

In many villages, high caste people had helped and protected the Dalits and even then these people had not been shown any sympathy.

In the end, it was suggested that the name of Marathwada University should be changed.

(XI) The representatives of the Progressive Teachers' Forum stated that the turn with which the issue of re-naming the Marathwada University took was unexpected and shocking. Everyone concerned with social justice and human values was stunned at the outburst of the people of this region. The people of this region had never before deviated from the tradition of peace, mutual understanding, democratic tolerance of each other's views and respect for humanity as a whole.

In order to create healthy and unified society, it was suggested that a net work of educational centres be spread throughout India for humanitarian education among the people. This could be done by introducing moral education in schools and colleges which would guide the students and younger generation in the right direction and make them aware of eternal human values. The proposed adult education centres throughout the country should also be entrusted with the task of training the adults in moral and ethical education.

Separate colonies for Scheduled Castes and Caste Hindus should be avoided either in cities or in villages. Caste offences of any kind, especially against Scheduled Castes, should be dealt with firmly and deterrent punishments should be given to the offenders.

Voluntary social organisations in society should be given additional incentives for taking up the cause of Scheduled Castes and down-trodden people. Such organisations should be encouraged to initiate anticaste agitations.

The educational curriculum should include the balanced teachings of all major religions, especially in primary schools.

(XII) The representatives of freedom fighters stated that communal disturbances that engulfed Marathwada for almost a fortnight from the 27th July, to 10th August, 1978 were unique in their character. There had been instances of communal disturbances in India after Independence but they were all localised in a town or a few surrounding villages. In Marathwada, the backward class community was singled out for the wrath of the majority community and a number of them were beaten, wounded, their houses were razed to the ground and the fields were destroyed. The picture and statues of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Lord Buddha were broken into pieces.

One of the human rights, i.e. freedom of worship was violated and this went on in hundreds of villages in Marathwada for a fortnight and those who were incharge of maintaining peace and order never intervened in it. They played the roles of passive spectators. This passivity on the part of police had emboldened the perpetrators of atrocities on them and encouraged all to participate.

Those who had sponsored the agitation against the change in the name of the Marathwada University subsequently declared that their movement was against the Government and not against Scheduled Castes for first 4 days and later on took a communal colour.

Some agitators tried to white-wash communal character of the disturbances by holding out that these were the Students' demonstration for making available to them the same concessions as were available to the Backward classes.

Going into the History of the movement started for changing the name of the University, it was stated that in 1957, when the Committee appointed by the Government of Maharashtra to report on the need of a University in Marathwada, a number of witnesses had pleaded before the Committee for naming the University after Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, but as no University at that time was named after an individual but only after a town in which it was situated, the proposal was not considered seriously. After 1962, 3 Universities in Maharashtra had been named after individuals and only two years back, a Government Medical College situated in Ambejogai had its name changed to Swami Ramanand Theerth Medical College. Having seen these precedents, Scheduled Caste Students and many progressive people in Marathwada felt that it would be ideal to initiate a movement for naming the University after Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar who in March, 1972, began the movement for emancipation of the Scheduled Castes by a Satyagraha at Mahad. This demand was approved by the University Executive Council and even by the Students Committee. When a meeting of the leaders of the Scheduled Castes and non-Scheduled Castes of Marathwada was held at Bombay, excepting a person who later on became the leader of the anti-change movement which resulted in untold sufferings to the Scheduled Castes, others were in favour of the change of the name of the University to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University.

(XIII) The representative of Maharashtra Sahitya Sammelan, a literary body of Maharashtra stated that they supported the move for changing the name of Marathwada University. There had not been a single untoward incident during the last year when movement

for the change of name was going on and when it appeared that the Government was likely to support the move, the preparations were started and plans made for opposing the move by all means. This explains how, as soon as the resolution was passed by the Assembly on the 27th, well-built bridges were blown, roads were blocked, etc. This was followed by attacks on the Bustees of the Scheduled Castes.

(XIV) The representatives of the Students Citizens Committee, Marathwada, gave the following reasons as to why there was opposition to the change of name of Marathwada University:—

- (i) The down-trodden (Dalits) would have an upper hand in the University and education field generally.
- (ii) They feared that they would hang on walls Certificates bearing Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar's name.
- (iii) The challenge thrown by the Dalits by organising themselves.
- (iv) Newspapers and leadership of the region which were in the hands of reactionary upper classes who wanted to retain the leadership by fermenting communal and separatist tendencies.

The following reasons were advanced as to why the name of Marathwada University should be changed:—

- (i) Social and cultural cohesion.
- (ii) Fraternity and national integration.
- (iii) Preservation of parliamentary democracy and giving social justice to Dalits,
- (iv) For destruction of communal forces of the country and for meeting urges and promoting new thoughts amongst the Dalits,
- (v) For not surrendering to anti-social leadership which was out to destroy the bustees of Dalits,
- (vi) Any decision when changed by surrendering to violence would only increase violence.
- (vii) Madras University has been renamed Ramaswami Naicker University after one hundred years; Madurai University has become Kamraj University and if the name of Marathwada University was changed after Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar, the exploited and down trodden people would withstand the fight.

(XV) The representatives of the Mass movement made the following suggestions to the Study Group:—

- (i) Compensation should be paid at the rate of Rs. 6,000/- for loss of property.
- (ii) Those who had left villages due to fear should be rehabilitated in separate settlements in cities.
- (iii) Stern action should be taken against those who encouraged and participated in the Commission of atrocities.
- (iv) Action should be taken against the police officials who did not act in the matter.

(XVI) Shri Uttamrao Shinde, Secretary-General, Congress (I) and others alleged that the recent atrocities took place with the support of the State Administration. They made the following suggestions to the Study Group in this regard:—

- (i) The victims of riots should be adequately compensated and resettled in cities. Those who committed and abetted riots should be punished.
- (ii) The newspapers which encouraged riots should be brought to book.
- (iii) The Dalits who had migrated from villages should be given protection and settled in cities.
- (iv) Cases instituted against the agitators should not be withdrawn.
- (v) Scheduled Caste employees should be transferred from villages to cities.
- (vi) The decision to change the name of Marathwada University after the name of Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar should not be changed.
- (vii) Judicial Enquiry should be instituted into the incidents.

(XVII) The representatives of the Boudh Yuvak Sangh made *inter alia* the following suggestions to the Study Group:—

- (i) The children of riot-affected families should be granted special scholarships.
- (ii) Newspapers which gave exaggerated reports about the incidents and thus helped the riots should be punished and they should not get any official patronage.

(iii) Separate courts should be set up for the protection and preservation of rights of the Dalits.

(iv) Police officers who were found to be guilty of dereliction of duty should be dismissed.

(XVIII) The Chairman, Yashodhara Mahila Mandal made *inter-alia* the following suggestions to the Study Group:—

(i) The riot-affected persons should be rehabilitated in cities or in a village consisting of people from a group of villages.

(ii) The women from backward classes should be given grants to start small industries in their houses.

(iii) The youngmen from the riot affected families should be provided with Government and semi-Government jobs.

(iv) Government should grant permission to start Balvadis at various places and give them grants for the purpose.

(v) Steps should be taken to ensure that the riots did not take place in future.

(vi) The decision to rename Marathwada University should stand.

(XIX) Shri Ram Detonde of Dalit Yuvak Aghadi, Aurangabad made the following suggestions to the Study Group:—

(i) Enquiry should be made into the role of police and action should be taken against those who were negligent in their duty.

(ii) The persons who were caught in the act of rioting should not be let off.

(iii) Collective fines should be imposed in villages where riots took place.

(iv) Some ways and means should be found to stop the use of newspapers media in such riots.

(v) The text books of schools and colleges should get rid of material which contained ideas of blind faith, religion and inequality.

(vi) Mobile courts should be set up to try cases of atrocities.

(ii) **Meeting with the Divisional Commissioner and other officials at Aurangabad on 23-9-1978.**

172. At the outset the Study Group was informed that the movement to change the name of the Marathwada University in memory of Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was started by the Dalit Panther leaders at Aurangabad in the first week of June, 1977. In a meeting, they decided to start agitation for bringing about the change in the name of the University. On 19-7-1977, the Republican Party of India, Aurangabad Branch, under the leadership of Shri Babulal Pandit decided to support the demand of changing the name of Marathwada University after Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar. On the same day i.e. 19-7-1977, at a public meeting organised by the Dalit Panthers, it was declared that if the name of the University was not changed after Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar, they would meet the foreign visitors coming to Aurangabad and inform them about the atrocities committed on the Dalits in this country. They also decided that they would visit the Embassies and inform them of the atrocities committed on the Dalits in the country. On the 22nd July, 1977, a seminar was organised at Aurangabad by newly created Muslim Janata Forum. Shri S. M. Joshi, leader of the Janata Party, was also one of the invitees. During the course of deliberations held at the party meeting, Shri S. M. Joshi supported the demand of changing the name of the University after Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

173. In a meeting of the Dalit Panthers held on 24-7-1977, Shri Pritam Kumar Shegaonkar had declared that if the name of the University was not changed, the Dalit Panthers would start agitations in Marathwada from 1-8-1977. On the 26th July, 1977, the Dalit Panther leaders organised a morcha and presented a memorandum of their demands to the Divisional Commissioner. In the memorandum, they had demanded that the name of the University should be changed after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and enquiry be conducted in all the incidents on the atrocities committee on the Dalits and culprits be punished. On 30-7-1977, a Morcha was organised by the Dalit Panthers from the campus of the Milind College and procession passing through the main streets of Aurangabad terminated into a public meeting at Bhadkal Gate wherein it was demanded that the name of the University be changed after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. On 2nd August, 1977, a morcha of 3000 Dalit Panthers under the leadership of Gangadhar Gade and Pritam Kumar Shegaonkar was taken out to the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Aurangabad and among the various other demands, the demand of the change of the name of Marathwada University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was the foremost. The Dalit Panthers and the students from the

various districts of Marathwada and also from Buldhana and Chandrapur districts had participated in this morcha. On the same day, one delegation of Dalit Yuvak Sanghatana under the leadership of Shri Uttam Pawar met the Vice-Chancellor of the Marathwada University and submitted a memorandum demanding the change of name of the University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

174. On 5-8-1977, Hartal was observed in the localities of Bhausingpura, Jaisingpura and Begumpura of Aurangabad city to protest against the demand of changing the name of the Marathwada University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. The Dalit Panther leaders led by Gangadhar Gadhe visited the above localities and requested the people not to observe Hartal but they did not get much response.

175. Meetings/Morchas to support the demand for change of the name of the University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar were also organised by the Dalit Panther leaders at Vaijapur on 8-8-1977 and by Shri Ramrao Ratnaparkhe on 12-8-1977 at Jalna. A Morcha of 300 persons was taken out to the Subedari Guest House by the Dalit Panthers and delegation led by Pritamkumar Shegaonkar met the Chief Minister of Maharashtra to press the demand of changing the name of the University. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra had called a meeting of social workers from Aurangabad to discuss the issue of changing the name of the University on 8-9-1977. The said meeting was attended by Shri Gangadhar Gadhe, Pritamkumar Shegaonkar, Bajranglal Sharma, Govond Bhai Shroff and other social workers of Aurangabad.

176. From 12-9-1977, College students started boycott of attending the classes in compliance with the call given by the Mahavidyaleen Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti sponsored by the students council members of the various colleges. This decision of Mahavidyaleen Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti was taken by the students council members of various colleges at a private meeting convened at Saraswati Bhavan College, Aurangabad. On 11-9-1977, the Mahavidyaleen Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti had decided to give call to observe indefinite College Bandh from 12-9-1977 if their demands were not conceded to. Prominent among the demands was that the name of the Marathwada University should not be changed. The students of Vasantrao Naik College, Dr. Ambedkar Commerce College, Dr. Ambedkar Law College, Milind Science College and Milind Arts College did not take part in the deliberations of the Mahavidyaleen Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti. These developments polarised the demand "not to change" and the demand "to change" the name of the University respectively between two groups of the Colleges. The demand for changing the name of the University was supported by

the Educational institutions run by the Peoples Education Society, whereas the demand was opposed by the students belonging to the institutions of Saraswati Bhuvan Education Society and the Marathwara Shikshan Prasarak Mandal respectively.

177. In pursuance of the call given by the Mahavidyaleen Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti, all the Colleges except the Vasantrya Naik College and the Colleges belonging to the Peoples' Education Society remained closed from 12-8-1977 onwards. The students belonging to Mahavidyaleen Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti started chain hunger strike at Gulmandi in Aurangabad city from 15-9-1977 in support of the demand not to change the name of the University. In response to the call given by the Mahavidyaleen Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti, Marathwada Bandh was organised on 19-9-1977, and all the shops and City Buses, auto-rikshaws remained closed that day. Similarly, all the colleges except those belonging to the Peoples' Education Society and Vasantrya Naik College remained closed. A Morcha of 1500 students was taken out to the Collectorate, Aurangabad and a memorandum of the demand submitted. Chain hunger strikes were also started by the students at Kannad, Paithan and Ambad.

178. During the period of agitations launched by the Mahavidyaleen Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti, the Dalit Panther leaders also conducted meetings demanding the change of the name of the University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. On 23-9-1977, one Morcha was organised by Dalit Yuvak Aghadi supporting the demand for changing the name of the University and Magas Virgiya Sudhar Mahasabha started chain hunger strike to press their demand of changing the name of the University. Mahila Aghadi Sangh of Dalit Panthers also started chain hunger strike at Kranti Chowk in Aurangabad to press their demand of changing the name of the University. One major development which took place on 23-9-1977, was setting up of a Nagrik Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti under the Chairmanship of Shri M. B. Chitnis, Ex-Principal of Milind College and also the Ex-Registrar of Marathwada University. Bapurao Jagtap of Vasantrya Naik College and Baba Dalvi of the 'Lok Mat' were nominated as Karyadhyakshas of the Samiti and Subhas Lomte of Yuvak Kranti Dal was nominated as Sanghatak. Among the other members from cross sections of the Society were Sarvashri F. M. Shinde, Taki Hussain, D. L. Hivarale, Prakash Vangikhar and Dr. Shashikant Ahankari. This Nagrik Kruti Samiti took upon the task of creating cordial atmosphere at Aurangabad between the various communities and creating public consensus to change the

name of the University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. The inaugural meeting of this Kruti Samiti was attended by the leader of the C.P.I., R.P.I., Dalit Panthers, Janata Party, Congress, Y.K.D. and the lecturers of the Colleges and others. On 23-9-1977, a silent morcha was organised by the Dalit Yuvak Aghadi and taken to the Office of the Divisional Commissioner wherein a memorandum was presented listing various demands. One of the demands in this memorandum was to change the name of the Marathwada University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. The demand for changing the name was also supported by Magas Vargiya Sudhar Mahasabha at a Public meeting organised on 17-9-1977 wherein Sarvashri M. B. Chitnis, Pravin Wagh and Chimne gave speeches.

179. On 29-9-1977, an attempt was made by the Dalit Panthers to disrupt the public meeting organised at Aurangabad, by the Janata Party in which the Janata Party President, Shri Chandrashekhar and Member of the Parliament, Dr. Bapusaheb Kaldate were also present. On 2-10-1977, morcha under the leadership of Sarvashri Pritamkumar Shegaonkar and Gangadhar Gadhe was taken out in Aurangabad to the Office of the Collector. Prominent among the Dalit Panthers in the Morcha were Khandagale, Daulat Kharat etc. They presented a memorandum to press their demand to change the name of the University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. In a Satkar Samarambha organised at Nagsennagar on 10-10-1977. Dalit Panthers indicated that if the name of the University was not changed by Government through peaceful agitations launched by the Dalit Panthers, they would have to aggravate their agitations. On 20-10-1977, Dalit Panthers organised public meeting of 5,000 supporters under the chairmanship of Ramesh Khandagale. Prominent persons who attended the meeting were Baburao Kadam, Digambarrao Gaikwad, Daulatrao Kharat, Anil Gondane, Pritamkumar Shegaonkar and Gangadhar Gadho. At this meeting, it was decided to launch Satyagraha to stop State Transport buses from 21-10-1977. On 21-10-1977, Dalit Panthers launched Satyagraha to change by Fovernment through peaceful agitations launched by change the name of the University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar by stopping State Transport buses at Aurangabad. 153 Satyagrahis were restrained by the Police under section 59 of the Bombay Police Act and later released. On 16-10-1977, a meeting of the Mahavidyalen Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti was held at Shivaji High School wherein it was decided to call meeting of the students from all the districts of Marathwada egion on 25-10-1977. The demand for changing the name of the University was publicly given support by Shri R. K. Tribhuvar, an R.P.I. worker and Chairman of the Social Welfare

Committee of the Zilla Parishad, Aurangabad at a public meeting convened by Matang Samaj on 25-10-1977, at Dhorkin Village of Paithan taluka.

180. On 24-10-1977, Dalit Panthers led by Pritamkumar Shegaonkar and Gangadhar Gadhe organised Satyagraha at Marathwada University Gate to prevent the students and employees from entering the University. The Dalit Panthers entered the University and gave a call to the University students to come out and close University. They raised slogans in support of their demand to change the name of the University. The Dalit Panthers were restrained by the Police and later released. Speeches at the University Gate were given by Gangadhar Gadhe and Pritamkumar Shegaonkar and they gave a call to organise Morcha to protest against the meeting of the Marathwada University Senate which was to take place next day. They also decided to aggravate their agitation from 1-11-1977. On 28-10-1977, the Dalit Panthers under the leadership of Sarvashri Gangadhar Gadhe and Pritam Kumar Shogaonkar offered Satyagraha at the City Chowk of Aurangabad to press their demand to change the name of the University by obstructing traffic. They were restrained by the Police under Section 69 of the Bombay Police Act and later released. On 27-10-1977, the Dalit Panthers offered satyagraha by obstructing traffic at the mill corner and in the cantonment area of Aurangabad. On 28-10-1977, the Dalit Panthers took out morcha to press their demand to change the name of the University to the Tehsil Office at Paithan. Similar morchas were also organised by the Dalit Panthers in support of their demand at Aurangabad on 31-10-1977 and at Jalna on 1-11-1977.

181. On 3-11-1977, a public meeting was organised at Shahgunj in Aurangabad by the followers of Mass Movement. Among the various speakers who addressed the gathering was Raja Dhale from Bombay. The Speakers pressed their demand for the change of the name of the University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. A Memorandum demanding the change of the name of the University was presented to the Chief Minister on 16-11-1977 at the Chikalthana Aerodrome by the members of the Vidyarthi Nagrik Kruti Samiti. Shri Rajabhau Khobragade, R.P.I. leader visited Aurangabad on 14-11-1977. He supported the demand for the change of the name of the University at a Press Conference. On the same evening Shri Khobragade had a public meeting at Shahganj in which he supported the demand for changing the name of the University. Later in the evening, he addressed another meeting at Sindhi Bazar at Jalna wherein he again supported the demand for changing the name of the University.

182. there was a comparative lull in the agitational approach of the Dalit Panthers between December, 1977 and June, 1978. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra visited Aurangabad on 25-6-1978 and 26-6-1978. During the camp at Subedari Guest House on the evening of 25-6-78, the Dalit Panthers led by Pritamkumar Shegaonkar and Gangadhar Gadhe along with others met the Chief Minister to press their demand for change of the name of the University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. They were informed by the Chief Minister that the Cabinet had taken a decision not to change or rename any University in Maharashtra. After being informed of this decision, the Dalit Panthers organised a meeting and declared their intention to intensify their agitation. On 2-7-1978, Vidyarthi Nagrik Kruti Samiti took out a Morcha from Paithan Gate to Shahgunj. A public meeting was organised at Shahgunj. The prominent speakers were Prof. Bapurao Jagtap, D. L. Hivarale, M. M. Shinde, Subhash Lomte and Prof. S. T. Pradhan. They condemned the decision of the Government not to rename the University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and attempted to burn an effigy of the Chief Minister. On the same day in the evening the Dalit Panthers organised morchas which terminated into a public meeting at Gulmandi wherein Sarvasbri Gangadhar Gadhe, Pritamkumar Shegaonkar, Anil Gondane and Nichale Guruji addressed gathering wherein they pressed their demand for change of the name of the University and decided to intensify their agitation to achieve their demand. Similar morchas were organised by the Dalit Panthers at Jalna and at Lasur Station on 9-7-1978. Republican Party of India had also organised morchas at Vaijapur on 20-7-1978 and at Jalna on 22-8-1978 to support demand to change the name of the University.

183. After the new Ministry came into power, the Chief Minister announced on 21-7-1978, that he would move a Resolution in the Assembly and also in the Council to change the name of the University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. On 24-7-1978, the Mahavidyaleen Vidarthi Kruti Samiti organised a private meeting of 200 persons in the Shivaji High School at Gulmandi to finalise their agitational programme against the Government's decision of tabling the resolution before the Legislature to rename the Marathwada University. Prominent leaders present were—Prashuram Vakhure, Bhagwan Kadam, Pradip Jogikar, Mohan Deshmukh, Shivaji Dhage, Satish Patki, Lecturers—Sheshrao Mankape surse and Eknath Pathrikar. They decided to call all the leaders of the Kruti Samiti from all over Marathwada Region Aurangabad by sending telegrams to finalise their agitational programme. They also decided to take out morcha on behalf of Kruti Samiti on 26-7-1978. They

also decided to convene a private meeting after the morcha to select the delegates for sending them to Bombay to meet the Chief Minister. Mahavidyaleen Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti took out morcha after conclusion of their meeting at Shivaji High School, to the Office of the Ajanta and Marathwada Newspapers and Samachar News Agency requesting the Editors to give wide publicity to their agitational programme. On 25-7-1978, 125 students followers of Mahavidyaleen Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti assembled at the Shivaji High School at 20.00 hours and took out a morcha passing through main streets of Aurangabad. At Gulmandi, the leaders appealed to the masses to participate in large number in a morcha to be taken out on 26-7-1978 to the Collectorate.

184. On 26-7-1978, morcha of about 2000 students led by Suresh Avchar and Badri Narayan Zhumbro, Satish Patki, Kriti Kumar Deliwala, Secretary of the Janata Yuvak Aghadi, Ajit Shelke, President of Youth Congress Block Begumpura, Sheshrao Mankape Lecturer Deogiri College and Parshuram Vakhure teacher of Shivaji High School, was taken out on behalf of Mahavidyaleen Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti from Saraswati Bhavan College ground to the Collectorate. A delegation comprising of 18 student leaders called on the Collector and submitted a memorandum opposing the renaming of the University. The Morchaists informed the Collector of their intention to organise Aurangabad Bandh on 27-7-1978. On 26-7-1978, order under section 37(1) of Bombay Police Act was promulgated by the District Magistrate.

185. On 27-7-1978, Aurangabad Bandh was organised and 95 per cent of the shops and establishments remained closed. Groups of students opposed to the change of the name of the University were moving around the city. The All India Radio in its regional news-broadcast at 19.00 hours gave an information that a Resolution of change of the name of the University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University was passed in the Assembly and in the Council. After hearing the news, students started gathering at the Gulmandi, Saraswati Bhavan, Kranti Chowk, Paithan Gate, etc. and further started moving about in the town, pelting stones at the street lights and putting road-blocks etc. Disturbances in Aurangabad city thus began just after 19.00 hours on 27-7-1978 after hearing the news in A.I.R.

186. The incidents which took place in Aurangabad district from 27-7-1978 onwards might be grouped in 3 categories. The first category related to the incidents which were directly connected with the agitations launched by the Mahavidyaleen Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti to protest against the decision of the renaming of the Uni-

versity. These incidents by and large occurred within the local limits of the Municipal towns of Aurangabad, Jalna, Paithan, Vaijapur, Kannad. Khuldabad and Gangapur. The incidents which occurred in these urban centres took shape of morchas and unlawful assemblies by the students and their supporters. This group of students expressed their displeasure towards the Government decision by attacking damaging the properties belonging to various Departments of State and Central Government, local bodies like Zilla Parishad and Municipal Councils. The mobs in these urban centres pelted stones on Government buildings, State Transport buses, Government vehicles, damaged road-signs and puck-up sheds of the State Transport, set fire to milk booths and attempted to burn Government offices and Post Offices. The second category of incidents were in connection with the acts of mischief done by miscreants in felling down the telephone poles, destruction of culverts and bridges on the high-ways, destruction of Railway property in order to disrupt transport and communications in the region. The third category of the incidents pertained to the incidents of attacks made on the house-holds of Neo-buddhists and desecration of the objects of worships of neo-buddhist community.

187. It was also stated that some of the following factors had also played an important role not only in the urban areas but also in rural areas in the eruption of disturbances:—

- (i) Cases registered under the Protection of Civil Rights Act against caste-Hindus on minor incidents like uttering caste-names, trifling disputes, etc.
- (ii) Unauthorised encroachment by or unpopular allotment to Dalits of gairan lands in villages and cultivation of the same.
- (iii) The consequences of implementation of the Land Ceiling Act which resulted in the distribution of excess lands to the landless Scheduled Caste people.
- (iv) Employment opportunity having been marred for the caste-Hindus as percentage of posts have been reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, etc.
- (v) Policy of marked preference and concessions in admissions to educational institutions.
- (vi) Economically backward classes do not get all the facilities that are enjoyed by the backward class people.
- (vii) Preferential treatment in the matter of entry into and promotions in service.
- (viii) The generally offensive behaviour of Dalit Panthers.

188. In reply to a question, the Study Group informed that all District Magistrates were sending reports direct to the Secretary, Home Department, Government of Maharashtra and copies thereof were endorsed to the Commissioner and D.I.G. of Police. Monthly reports were also sent by the respective D.I.Gs. to the Inspector General of Police with copies to the Secretary, Home Department. Part I of these reports related to crimes and Part II related to political affairs. When it was pointed out that the son of one of the D.S.Ps. was found leading the agitation against the Scheduled Castes in Osmanabad District recently, it was stated that the matter was being looked into.

189. When it was pointed out that for the first 3 or 4 days of the agitation, the agitators made Government|Semi-Government property their main target, and properties belonging to Railways and State Irrigation Department and city buses were burnt, it was stated that there was no precise or general information as to the scope and magnitude of disturbances which could be expected. The disturbances were fairly wide spread and were of severe nature. The general strategy to deal with the situation was to guard all vital installations so that essential services such as water supply, electricity, telephones, milk supply, etc. were not affected. All feasible protection was also given to the trains and State Transport buses and these services were restored at the earliest possible time. The violent mobs were dealt with promptly with effective use of force by enforcing Section 144 Cr. P.C. and such other prohibitory orders. Since it was not feasible to post policemen in a large number of villages, care was taken to rush police help where any report was received. In most cases, even senior officers rushed to the places of incidents. This was done in all districts. This helped not only to deal with the situation promptly but also created confidence all around.

190. With regard to the role of Police Patils, it was stated that Police Patils had failed to perform their duties at a number of places. These cases were being looked into and action was being taken against them. Some of the Police Patils had already been suspended.

191. In order to control the situation and restore the confidence among the members of Scheduled Castes, it was stated that in all villages where assaults were committed on Scheduled Castes or where the houses were burnt or damaged, the Executive Magistrates and the Police Officers were rushed to control the situation, verify the losses caused to the properties of Scheduled Castes and to render immediate relief for their shelter, food and clothings. Dakshata

Samitis and each Committees were formed in all affected villages and efforts were made to create atmosphere of communal harmony in those villages. Special police force was kept in the affected villages to restore confidence among the Scheduled Castes of these villages. About 100 vehicles were requisitioned for maintenance of law and order in Aurangabad District. Adequate protection was provided to the statues of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Lord Buddha in all areas.

192. As regards the relief measures, it was stated that the people affected by disturbances were given immediate assistance by way of gratuitous relief as was given to the persons affected by natural calamities. They were given relief at the rate of Rs. 1.50 per head per day for a maximum period of 15 days. Besides Rs. 27.50 per head were given to all the victims for purchase of clothing and utensils.

193. For reconstruction of huts, the Study Group was informed that it had been decided that reconstruction of houses should be such as would have minimum life of 10 years and the financial assistance admissible by way of subsidy for repairs/reconstruction should be limited to the actual expenditure not exceeding Rs. 1500/- for each house. Option was given to the affected persons either to have the houses on the same site or on the well planned new sites proposed by the local authorities.

194. Transit camps were set up and the affected families had been brought there. In village Akola, 5 families were affected by arson committed by miscreants but 21 families were brought to the transit camp set up at village Badnapur for their safety. Out of these 21 families, 16 families moved into Aurangabad after staying at Badnapur transit camp for 19 days demanding rehabilitation at Aurangabad. They had, as a special case, been provided transit accommodation at village Harsul, about 3 KMs from Aurangabad. Similar transit camps had been set up at other places also. The affected families were being persuaded to go back to their villages.

195. When pointed out that the assistance which had been provided for occupational rehabilitation including repairs/reconstruction of damaged shops, etc. to the affected families was meagre, it was stated that the question of rendering further relief to the victims of agitation in Marathwada region was under consideration of the State Government. It had recently been decided by the State Government that in cases where requirements of the sufferers could not be met from the subsidy of Rs. 500/-, loans to the extent of Rs. 5,000/- in each case could be sanctioned by the Collectors and

where loans exceeding Rs. 5,000/- were required, such cases were to be referred by the Collectors to the State Government for sanction. These loans were recoverable in 10 equal annual instalments and the rate of interest was at 7 per cent per annum.

196. When the Study Group pointed out that Dhotis, Sarees and utensils were supplied to the victims of disturbances just one or two days before the commencement of the visit of the Study Group, it was stated that these articles were being distributed by Zilla Parishad out of their funds. Foodgrains were distributed to the victims out of private contributions.

197. As regards the strengthening of police stations, it was stated that some of the police stations had neither telephones nor wireless sets. They had also not been provided with vehicles. The proposals with regard to setting up of new police stations and also to strengthening the existing police stations had been sent to the State Government for their sanction.

198. When enquired as to whether any action had been taken against the persons who had issued objectionable leaflets, the Study Group was informed that no action had so far been taken against them. It was suggested that necessary investigations should be made into such cases and suitable action should be taken against the persons concerned.

199. At the end, it was enquired as to whether the local administration was ready to meet the situation in case the agitation was restarted from the 2nd October, 1978 or so. It was stated in reply that the situation was being closely watched and it would be possible for them to meet any eventuality with confidence.

BOMBAY

(i) Meeting with non-officials

200. The Study Group held discussion with non-officials at SAHYADRI STATE GUEST HOUSE, Malabar Hills, Bombay on 24-9-1978 from 15.00 to 19.30 hrs. The following were the chief spokesmen:—

(I) Shri R. S. Gavai, President, Republican Party of India stated that he had visited riot affected places in Marathwada twice—firstly from the 4th to 13 the August, 1978 and then from 4th to 9th September, 1978 and assessed the situation. The agitation started after the resolutions to rename the Marathwada University as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University were passed by both the Houses of State Legislature on the 27th July, 1978. While visiting the affected areas, he found that most of the houses and properties belonging to Buddhist persons had been burnt and destroyed in the riots.

Having studied the post agitation situation in Marathwada region, he felt that Government should institute judicial enquiry in the riots of Marathwada region. The relief and rehabilitation work undertaken by the Maharashtra Government was meagre and was also going slow. The persons fully and partly affected were not sanctioned aid for their rehabilitation on equal footing.

During visit of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra to Aurangabad after the riots, he declared that a Fact Finding Committee of the officers had been appointed by the Government and report of the Committee had been received by the State Government. He doubted whether the findings of the Committee would consist of the supporting aspects behind the riots, as it was neither a Committee of Social workers of all parties nor it was a Legislature Committee.

The demand for renaming the Marathwada University was being made since last two years and was being backed and supported not only by the organisations of Scheduled Castes and Buddhists people but also backed and supported by the Organisations other than the Scheduled Castes and Buddhists people. The Executive Council of the University itself had also passed such a resolution. At the time of the Lok Sabha Elections held in March, 1977, the Janata Party was strongly supporting this cause in the public meetings. There was no untoward incident noticed against this move and the

two Houses of State Legislature passed the resolutions unanimously on 27-7-1978. This showed that not only the Dalits and their organisations had supported the change in the name of the Marathwada University but also the other organisations and the Political parties had supported the change. Of course, such caste Hindus like Govindbhai Shroff, Anant Balerao and their followers in Marathwada had strongly opposed the change of the name of the Marathwada University. Some professors belonging to Hindu Community in Marathwada had stated in the past that if the name of the Marathwada University was changed, there would be bloodshed.

The Chief Minister of Maharashtra had announced in the Legislative Council the decision to change the name of Marathwada University on the 21st July, 1978 and the persons who were opposing the decision of changing the name of the University since last two years, had started replanning the strategy to oppose as soon as the Chief Minister had announced in reply to a Call Attention Notice to change the name of Marathwada University. The riots were started in the Marathwada immediately and the target was Government property from the 27th to 30th July, 1978. That the riots were systematically managed with skill was evident from the fact that telephone wires were cut off and concrete bridges were blasted and cars and motor cycles were used for transporting the rioters to several places.

After destroying the means of communication of the District and taluk places and the main cities, etc., the rioters had turned their target towards setting fire to the houses of Buddhists, destroying their properties, causing loss and danger to their lives, etc. There was similarity in the technique of destroying communications and the technique of setting fire and destroying houses of the Buddhists.

The Action Committee and the supporters and the leader of the Committee were indirectly encouraging the rioters instead of pacifying them. The news about the riots in Marathwada and the Circular letter of the leaders appeared on the front page of the Marathwada newspaper and an appeal was also made therein to join the agitation. Thousands of letters carrying mischievous propaganda had been sent to several areas of Marathwada from Aurangabad. Bangles were also sent through envelopes suggesting that they should be worn. The technique of propaganda was adopted everywhere as a chainwork. This created enmity between the castes. The role of spectators adopted by the Police under wrong verbal instructions issued by the Government resulted in getting the situation out of control and worsening of the situation.

It was also stated that if the Marathwada University was named as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, then, in that case, the Vice-Chancellor of the University would be a Boudha person permanently. The degree certificate to be issued by the University would bear the photograph of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Boudha prayers would be recited in schools and colleges.

The role of spectators adopted by the police, inadequate security arrangements (from the 27th July to 4th August, 1978) and the fact that the said agitation was treated as a political agitation by the Government instead of taking it as a communal riots, led the worsening situation out of control. On the contrary, during the Morcha taken out at Nagpur by the followers of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in protest of the riots in Marathwada, "shoot-at-site" orders were issued promptly by the Government for keeping the situation under control even though the situation during the protest morcha at Nagpur could have been brought under control by using lathi charge or tear gas.

The stand taken by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra in this respect was discouraging. The Chief Minister made an appeal to the people for maintaining the peace after the out-burst of violent agitation. He stated that the resolution which was passed by the State Legislature would not be carried out without consultation with the concerned and had never stated that the violence would be dealt with iron hands.

At the end, he stated that the State Government was hesitating to shoulder the responsibility of Government in sanctioning full relief and carrying out complete rehabilitation work of the affected persons in Marathwada region.

(II) The Registrar, Marathwada University stated that the issue regarding change of name of the Marathwada University was considered for the first time by the Executive Council of the Marathwada University at its meeting held on 18th and 19th July, 1977. The Executive Council considered several representations and decided that it was in favour of changing the name of the University as "Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar University". While the Council was in session, a group of students and teachers led by Principal of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar college of Law, Aurangabad entered the room of the Executive Council. Among those who gheraoed the Executive Council were Principals of the Milind College of Arts and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar College of Arts and Commerce and Saravashri S. T. Pradhan, Gangadhar Gadhe and Ram Gaikwad. After making arguments with the Executive Council for a few hours, they insisted that the decision in the matter must be given on the same day. The Council informed them that it would discuss the issue

the same day and try to give the decision. The group of students and teachers then left the room of the Executive Council demanding that the decision must be given on the same day, otherwise they would not leave the University premises. They again flocked in the Executive Council room at about 7.00 p.m. and demanded the decision to be given. In the circumstances, the decision in favour of changing the name of the University as 'Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar' was taken.

The Council further decided that the demand for changing the name as 'Maulana Azad University' should not be granted. The Council also decided that the decision of the Executive Council be placed before the Senate and that the matter alongwith the decision of the Senate be forwarded to the State Government for their consideration.

Soon after the decision of the Executive Committee was announced, the University received several representations from different parts of Marathwada appreciating the decision of giving the name of the University as 'Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar University'.

Immediately after the decision of the Executive Council was announced, a large group of students from Aurangabad called on the Vice-Chancellor demanding that the name of the University should not be changed. They were informed by the Vice-Chancellor that their views would also be put before the Senate when it considered the question. These students also saw to it that the Colleges remained closed in protest against the decision of the University.

The Executive Council, at its meeting held on the 4th October, 1977, after considering several representations in this regard, resolved that the question relating to the change of name of the University might be placed before the Senate.

Two days before the meeting of the Senate fixed for the 31st October, 1977, certain representatives belonging to those in favour of changing the name of the University saw the Vice-Chancellor and requested him to see that the consideration of question before the Senate was postponed. As the mover of the resolution was absent, the resolution could not be moved at the meeting of the Senate and as such it dropped according to the rules of the debate of the Senate.

Incidentally, the Marathwada University Committee appointed by the Government of Bombay in 1957, in its Report that was submitted to the Government on 1-12-1957, considered the question of naming the proposed University.

The Committee was of the opinion for naming the proposed University as 'Marathwada University'.

(III) Shri N. S. Chavan, Vice-President, Janata Party stated that he was not aware of the facts in Marathwada except what had appeared in the newspapers. He suggested that Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe should be educated in such a way so that they could protect their rights. They should also be rehabilitated separately so that they did not become victims of untouchability.

(IV) Shri R. A. Khani, MLA, stressed that judicial enquiry should be ordered into the incidents in Marathwada region so that culprits could be brought to task. Suitable measures should also be taken by the State Government so that confidence is created amongst Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people.

(V) The representatives of CP(M) Group stated that the proposal to change the name of the Marathwada University was accepted at the meeting of MLAs/MLCs and others from Marathwada region with the Chief Minister of Maharashtra on the 22nd July, 1978. There was organised out-burst in Marathwada immediately after the news of the passing of the Resolution unanimously for renaming the Marathwada University was announced on the All India Radio on the 27th July, 1977 at 19.00 hrs. It was preplanned and it was also clear that there was organised support behind these incidents.

They visited the affected areas from the 12th to 14th August, 1978 and found that only Scheduled Caste people were affected. They stated that at Khurd village, 8 to 12 huts were completely destroyed. In that village, the village sarpanch was Scheduled Caste and his sons-in-law and nephew were doctors and were having good standard. The High Caste Hindus did not like the standard in which they were living. At Kushnoor village, 71 houses were burnt on the 3rd August, 1978 and the remaining houses of Scheduled Castes were burnt on the next day. The police did not enter the village upto 5th August, 1978.

At Dalegoan, 82 houses were burnt. The houses of Scheduled Castes were scattered but they were selected and burnt.

On the other hand, in Parli village, the police was there when the agitation started on the 7th August, 1978 and created a wall between the morcha people and the villagers and no houses were allowed to burn in that village.

In Nasik Road, the police had to resort to cane charge to disperse the violent-mobs on the morning of 4th August, 1978. On the next morning, a serious case of rioting took place at village Vaduer Dhumala when a mob of 50 persons (caste Hindus) armed with

Lathis and sticks attacked the houses of Scheduled Castes in the village. They ransacked the houses damaged property and set some of the houses on fire. It was stated that the houses of Scheduled Castes were only burnt. On some houses, it was written that these were not the houses of Scheduled Castes but of Maratha and those houses were not touched.

The rich peasants were responsible for the riots in the villages. Monopoly Cotton purchasers were behind this agitation. Sarpanch and police patils were quiet in the villages.

The local administration failed to check the agitation for the first 2 or 3 days. It was a political awakening and imposition of punitive fines in villages was no solution. Police protection should be given to all villagers. The police machinery in the area should be overhauled.

Backwardness of Marathwada area was responsible for the agitations in the area. Agriculture could not sustain the growing population, while there was no new industry to absorb the thousands of jobless both educated and illiterate who crowd the employment market every year. It was felt that the renaming of Marathwada University was one more concession in favour of Dalits and it had to be resisted. The discontentment against the reservations given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the matter of admissions in the Engineering and medical colleges and in Government and semi-Government Departments was waiting for an outlet and the question of naming the University provided the nodal point of explosion.

(VI) Prof. R. K. Sonagra and Prof. V. D. Pansaray stated that they visited the affected areas in Marathwada from the 9th to 14th August, 1978 and had prepared a report on the devastation of Dalits in Marathwada region.

(VII) Shri Patne Gangadhar Mahalappa, MLA, stated that there was controversy among the sub-caste of Mahars and Scheduled Castes with regard to change of name of Marathwada University and nothing should be done which was against the Scheduled Castes.

Mahars were allotted land by Government in villages. They were selling the land and were claiming their rights on those lands on the plea that these lands were non-transferable. It was alleged that local leaders were inciting Mahars to occupy Government land and advised them to construct huts there. They were accepting rents from them in the name of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and advised them to break a photograph of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, if any authority came to lodge complaint against them and file a case against such person under the Protection of Civil Rights Act.

The benefit of reservations in service was going only to the people of certain castes and so the reservations in services should be done away with on caste basis.

In the end, it was suggested that a Bill to change the name of Marathwada University should be passed by the State Assembly early.

(VIII) Sarvashri Kailash Patil and Ashok Patil stated that the demand of resettlement of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in urban areas was politically motivated as they would vote in their favour. On the contrary, Marathas were apprehending that if the people belonging to low caste moved from the villages, they themselves would have to work as labourers and thus classes would again be created amongst Marathas and so they were resisting migration of Scheduled Castes from villages. The aim of the Action Committee was that there should be classless society.

It was also alleged that the candidates who had lost Assembly elections took lead in Beed. As regards the members of Janata Party, they were divided according to their castes.

(IX) Shri Abdul Aziz, MLA stated that no MLAs, MLCs, or M.Ps could reach the disturbed area in Marathwada region before 5-8-1978. Earlier meetings were held in Aurangabad when the demand for the change of name of the Marathwada University was made it also caused disturbances in other areas.

BOMBAY

(ii) *Meeting with Chief Minister, Ministers and officials of State Government of Maharashtra at Mantralaya, Bombay.*

201. The Study Group held discussion with the Chief Minister, Ministers and State Government officials of the Government of Maharashtra at Mantralaya, Bombay on the 25th September, 1978.

202. At the outset, the Study Group was informed that Marathwada University was established at Aurangabad in 1958 and its jurisdiction extended to the five districts of Marathwada, viz. Aurangabad, Beed, Nanded, Osmanabad and Parbhani. The question of establishing a University for the region was examined by a Committee appointed on the 27th April, 1957 by the former Government of Bombay under the Chairmanship of Shri Justice S. M. Palnitkar. The Committee had received various suggestions for

naming of the new University, such as, Marathwada, Aurangabad, Paithan, Pratisthan, Daulatabad, Deogiri, Ajantha, Shivaji Ambedkar, Ramanand Teerth etc. However, taking into consideration feelings of the people in the region as a whole, the Committee recommended to name it as Marathwada University and accordingly in the Bill establishing the University, it was so named.

203. The agitation for renaming the University after Dr. Ambedkar was of recent origin. On 1st May, 1977 at a function held at Mehad (Kulaba district) to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the historic Satyagraha launched by Dr. Ambedkar on the 20th March, 1927, after unveiling the statue of late Dr. Ambedkar, the then Chief Minister Shri Vasant Rao B. Patil announced that an institution to be called Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Smata Vidyapeeth would be established in Maharashtra to undertake research and study of the problems of Scheduled Caste community and to foster equality.

204. On 10th-11th July, 1977, the Executive Committee of Dalit Panthers which met in Bombay, took a decision to organise a State-wide agitation to secure the demand for the renaming, as well as, to secure extension of concessions enjoyed by Scheduled Caste people to Neo-Buddhists. During the period July—October, 1977, a number of morchas, public meetings, hunger strikes, bandhs, etc. were organised to press their demand for renaming the University. Against this, there was also a counter-move by students belonging to non-Scheduled Castes to oppose the renaming and they instead urged that a new institution might be established and named after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

205. A proposal for renaming the University was considered by the Executive Council of Marathwada University at its meeting held on 18th-19th July, 1977. About 200 students favouring the renaming of the University had entered the premises where the meeting was in progress. Resolution as follows was passed:

"The Executive Council is in favour of the suggestion to name this University after late Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar."

206. This resolution was to be placed first before the Senate of the University and after taking into consideration the opinion of the Senate, the matter was to be referred to the State Government. The Resolution, however, did not come up before the Senate meeting scheduled on 31-10-1977 since the mover of the resolution was not present at the meeting and no one else came forward to move the resolution.

207. In the first week of August, 1977, outside Marathwada, the Dalit Panthers and others seeking change of the name also organised a number of Morchas/demonstrations, particularly in Nasik, Chandrapur, Nagpur, Thane, Yeotmal etc. On August 12, a morcha (10,000) was also organised and taken to Mantralaya in Bombay to press the demand when over 990 persons courted arrest. Later during the visit of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra to Solapur on the 20th August, 1977, local Dalit Panthers took out a morcha (250) and staged black-flag demonstration in support of the agitation to rename the University.

208. A number of representations on the subject were also received by Government from different bodies. Taking into consideration feelings of the people of the region, the agitation launched in support of the demand as well as counter-agitation opposing the move, the then Chief Minister (Shri V. B. Patil) convened a meeting on 8-9-1977 in Bombay for consultations with representatives of several educational/social organisations and some prominent citizens from the region. At the end of the deliberations, the Chief Minister announced that he would ascertain further the views of those who were opposed to the change in the name of the University and a decision would be taken later.

209. Thereafter, the question of renaming more or less remained dormant till May, 1978 although there were moves by Dalit Panthers/Neo-Buddhists to organise morcha in Aurangabad (January, 1978), a chain hunger strike in front of the University (March, 1978) and some form of Satyagraha (March, 1978).

210. The adoption of the Resolution by the Maharashtra Legislature that the Marathwada University be named as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, could be regarded as immediate cause for the outbreak of disturbances on the 27th July, 1978 and the disturbances started immediately after the news of the passing of the resolution had been broadcast in the All India Radio's news Bulletin at 19.00 hours.

211. For the first three days viz. 27th to 29th July, the disturbances were restricted mainly to cities/towns and Government property especially S.T. buses and railways and police personnel were main targets of attack. The first incident of burning of huts of Scheduled Castes took place on the 29th July, 1978 in Parali town (district Beed) and first such incident in rural areas took place on the 31st July, 1978.

212. Having regard to the development of the agitation on the renaming of the Marathwada University and the course of disturbances, the Study Group was informed that the passing of the resolution by the Legislature led to an emotional outburst on the part of those opposed to the renaming and this was expressed through attacks on public property, etc. A few days thereafter, symbols of worship and veneration of Scheduled Castes and their property became targets of attack. In some cases advantage was taken to settle some old grievances/disputes in certain places, such as those arising from the implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, land disputes, etc.

213. Two statements showing the estimated damage to property and Loss of Life/Injuries during the Marathwada disturbances, as furnished by the Government of Maharashtra, is at Appendices V and VI.

Another statement showing the loss of Railway property in Marathwada region during the disturbances is at Appendix VII.

214. On enquiry, it was stated that it was the strategy in Marathwada region to destroy public property during agitations. When 4 or 5 years back, there was an agitation there, public property like railway lines and telephone wires were destroyed and the same practice was repeated this time also. When enquired as to whether it was pre-planned, it was stated that it was not pre-planned though it was a fact that only one community was affected. When the Study Group enquired that, in view of the previous background, why no preventive measures were taken, it was stated that all necessary preventive measures had been taken but they never expected that the people would react on such a large scale and disturbances would spread like a wildfire.

215. It was also stated that the State Government were aware of the situation which was developing in the Marathwada region from time to time and had recorded all incidents/agitations in favour of and against the renaming of the Marathwada University. Dalit Panthers and others seeking change in the name of the University had sought to exert considerable pressure on the Government to reconsider its earlier decision and to rename the Marathwada University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Around 10th/12th July, 1978 when it was known that a compromise formula proposing change of the name of the Marathwada University to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University had been evolved, there were no significant reactions from these opposing the change till

after 21st July. Even between 21st to 27th July (evening), the Bandhs organised by the students opposed to the change of name at Parbhani, Osmanabad, Udgir, Aurangabad and Nanded were generally peaceful.

216. When the Study Group again reiterated to know the reasons as to why effective and timely measures could not be taken by the State Government to prevent mass scale killings, arson and rioting which spread from Aurangabad to many of the smaller towns and villages in the entire region, it was stated that it was not correct to say that there were mass killings in Marathwada area. Two persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and one caste Hindu were killed during the disturbances. As regards arson and rioting for the first 3-4 days, the attack was mainly directed against Public property in urban areas. A few incidents of burning huts/houses of Scheduled Castes took place on the 31st July, 1978. On 1st August, 1978 except for 4-5 stray incidents in Nanded district, there were no incidents of burning of huts in other districts. It was only on the 2nd August, 1978, that wide-spread incidents of this nature took place at several places in Marathwada. Timely and effective measures were taken to meet the developing situation. As early as on the 29th June, D.I.G. (Intelligence) had sent a message by way of precaution to all S.Ps. of Marathwada region and some other districts outside the region alerting them of the intention of NAGRIK VIDYARTHI KRUTI SAMITI to start a severe agitation to secure their demand for the renaming of the Marathwada University. Later, taking into account *inter alia* reactions to the announcement made by the Chief Minister on the 21st July, 1978, bandhs organised by the students in Osmanabad and Udgir and a morcha in Parbhani, D.I.G. (Intelligence) on 25th July sent another message alerting all S.Ps. in Marathwada. They were warned of the reactions among supporters and opponents of renaming the Marathwada University and were asked to maintain vigilance and to take adequate measures to deal with the developing law and order situation. On 26th July, 1978, D.I.G., Aurangabad in consultation with D.I.G. (Intelligence) issued detailed instructions warning S.Ps. of the likely targets of attack by those opposed to the renaming of the University. They were also advised in detail about tactical effective re-deployment of the force available to them. Following the alertness from D.I.G. (Intelligence) on 25th July and in the light of their appreciation of the likely law and order situation in cities/towns, several S.Ps made requests for additional force. These requests were promptly and fully met. Subsequently requests for additional strength were also similarly met.

217. On 30th July, in the light of the reports of incidents on 27th, 28th and 29th, the Inspector General of Police, Maharashtra State, sent a message to all S.Ps in Marathwada. Taking into account the possibility of trouble spreading to rural areas, they were asked to intensify patrolling in sensitive areas under supervision of senior officers. They were also directed to give special attention to places having history of Scheduled Castes and non-Scheduled Castes conflicts and rivalry between factions. It was because of the timely and effective measures taken at various levels that the authorities were successful in containing the disturbances at the earliest.

218. The Study Group then enquired as to what were the relations between the Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhists on one hand and the Caste Hindus on the other hand in the affected districts of Marathwada prior to the disturbances. In reply, it was stated that in Aurangabad City, there was a certain degree of polarisation among the two communities over the question of renaming of the Marathwada University. The demand for changing the name was generally supported by the students, professors, etc. belonging to the educational institutions run by the Peoples' Education Society (established by Dr. Ambedkar) and by other Scheduled Caste leaders from Aurangabad City. On the other hand, the demand was opposed by large majority of students belonging to other institutions including Saraswati Bhuvan Education Society, the Marathwada Shikshan Prasarak Mandal etc. In general, this demand for not changing the name was put forward along with other grievances relating to grant of educational concessions, job reservations, etc. It was urged that similar concessions should be extended to economically backward non-Dalits as well.

219. In Parbhani, the demand for the change of name of the University was put forward by Dalits generally as one of the demands along with other local demands such that the backward classes and Neo-Buddhists be given priority in services and in the allotment of fair price shops to Backward Class persons; rate of scholarship should be increased as per price index; surplus lands should be distributed impartially to the Scheduled Castes etc. There was no agitation only on account of the renaming. Similarly, counter-agitations also included the demand for not naming of Marathwada University as one of the demands, along with others, such as, granting of increased seats in Engineering Colleges to Marathwada only, sanction to a Thermal Station to Gangakhed, criteria of income limit for economically backward classes to be raised to Rs. 4000/- per annum, etc.

220. In rural areas in general, relations between Scheduled Castes and Caste Hindus were normal. In certain pockets, relations between the two communities were some times under strain on account of local situation. However, it could not be said that there was any general simmering widespread hostility between the two sections in the Marathwada region.

221. It was, however, stated that especially during the last two years, Dalit Panthers and Mass Movement followers had been more active and vocal in Marathwada, and at times had displayed disrespect towards symbols of religion and worship of a section of the community and indulged in provocative, abusive languages during morchas and demonstrations.

222. Some illustrative incidents which occurred in last one year or so in various places in Marathwada region and which might throw light on some happenings which took place during the course of the disturbances were stated to be as follows:—

- (i) In Umri (Nanded District) on 12-9-1977, a Nav-Boudha performed 'Arati' on Hanuman idol with his chappal and challenged the Maratha community to a fight.

During the recent disturbances there were incidents of violence at Umri.

- (ii) In Kallam (Osmanabad), there was a scuffle at the time of Ganapati festival in 1977. One idol was reported damaged due to stone pelting by Dalits.

During the recent disturbances there, Budhwada was attacked and in a serious incident of stone pelting, 29 persons, including 3 policemen were injured. The Police had to open fire.

- (iii) In Nanded town, there were clashes involving Dalit and Non-Dalit students in August-September, 1977.

During the disturbances huts in the MIDC area in Nanded were damaged/destroyed.

- (iv) At Parli (Beed), Dalit Panthers had threatened to burn an effigy of Shree Ram on Dassehra day in 1977.

Five Scheduled Caste huts had been burnt in recent disturbances at Parli.

- (v) At Udgir (Osmanabad), an office bearer of Dalit Panthers was alleged to have kidnapped son of a Superintendent of a Seed/Agricultural Farm.

His native village is Nalgir, where on 3rd August, 85 Dalit huts/houses were damaged/destroyed.

(vi) In Pennur (Nanded), in the case of a murder of a Dalit, Caste Hindus were initially shown as suspects. During the course of investigation, it transpired that there was a *prima facie* case against the son of the Dalit.

In the recent disturbances, Dalit huts/houses had been destroyed/damaged.

(vii) A scuffle occurred on 20th July, 1978 in Nanded town between Neo-Buddhists and Muslims over the mis-conduct of a drunk person.

During the disturbances, Dalit huts were attacked by Muslims in one locality of Nanded town.

(viii) At Dharmapuri (Parbhani) on 4-4-1978, four Hindus demanded a kettle drum belonging to Neo-Buddha while he was having meals. As the latter refused, there was an exchange of words followed by a scuffle in which the Panchsheel flag was damaged and an electric bulb was broken.

During the recent disturbances, there was an incident of attack of Dalits at this village.

(ix) At Kaij (Beed) on 24-4-1978, some unknown person smeared the photographs of Buddha and Dr. Ambedkar with cow-dung.

There was an incident of rioting during recent disturbances at Kaij;

223. To a question as to what precautionary steps had been taken to see that such incidents did not take place elsewhere in Marathwada, the Study Group was informed that O.I.G.P. (Intelligence) C.I.D. had already sent an alert signal on 25th July. On the following day on 26th July morning D.I.G.P., Aurangabad Range flashed another signal to all Superintendents of Police in Marathwada. The D.I.G.P., Maharashtra State also sent an alert on 27th morning at 08.40 hours asking all Superintendents of Police to take precautionary measures and maintain vigilance. Accordingly, mobile patrolling had been organised by Superintendents of Police, pickets were mounted to sensitive places, arrangements were made to guard statues of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi at several places in cities/towns. Prohibitory orders under section 144 Cr. P.C. and Section 37 of the Bombay Police Act were issued.

Additional force, especially, S.R.P.F. had already been made available to several districts as per their request between 25th and 27th July. This was immediately reinforced after the outbreak of disturbances in response to the request received from the Superintendent of Police.

224. The following type of precautionary measures were also taken:

- (i) A number of officers of the rank of Deputy Collectors were empowered as Special Executive Magistrates.
- (ii) Preventive arrests were made.
- (iii) Visits by members of District Vigilance Committees were arranged.
- (iv) Peace Committees were formed at various levels.
- (v) Senior officers were directed to visit sensitive areas.
- (vi) Joint mobile teams consisting of officials, non-officials and representatives of Dalits were organised in many places, to visit sensitive villages.
- (vii) Sarpanches and Police Patils were made responsible for maintenance of order in their villages.
- (viii) Control rooms were set up at various places, additional vehicles were utilised and additional wireless stations were set up to facilitate quick communication.
- (ix) Arrests were made in substantive offences as early as possible.

225. A statement, as furnished by the Government of Maharashtra, showing the precautionary steps taken by the police to avoid incidents in Marathwada region is at Appendix VIII.

Another statement showing the number of time the police had to resort to firing/tear gas/lathi charge etc. to control the situation is at Appendix IX.

The Committee then desired to know what steps were taken to send police reinforcement when the developing situation necessitated it. In this connection, it was stated that even prior to the outbreak of disturbances, on request of various S.Ps. and in the light of the alert sent by the D.I.G., C.I.D. (Intelligence) on 25th July,

the following additional force was made available to the districts by the evening of 27th July:—

Aurangabad	. . . 3 SRPF companies.
Parbhani .	. . . 1 SRPF company
Nanded ;	. . . 2 SRPF companies (these had already been sent in connection with apprehended breach of the peace among the local factions of Sikhs).
Beed	. . . 2 SRPF Platoons.
Osmanabad	. . . 1 SRPF company.

226. This force was considerably reinforced on 28th and 29th July and on subsequent dates. Details of the additional force made available to each district were stated to be as follows:—

	SRPF Co's Policemen from outside	Officers				
		SP	Dy. SPs	PIs	PSI	
Aurangabad	. . . 5-2/3	100	..	2	3	10
Parbhani	. . . 3	100	1	1	4	11
Nanded	. . . 6	..	2	4	2	4
Beed . . .	. . . 3-2/3	100	..	1	3	6
Osmanabad	. . . 5	100	2	1	2	6

227. In addition, 1 officer of the rank of D.I.G. was sent each to Nanded and Osmanabad. Moreover, D.I.G.(Rly.) and D.I.G. (SRPF) were sent to Aurangabad soon after the outbreak of disturbances.

228. To a question as to how far instructions issued by the State Government from time to time had been implemented by the District authorities, it was stated that a Committee headed by the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra had already been appointed to look into these matters and the report was awaited.

229. The Study Group then enquired as to why Section 144 of Cr.P.C. and Section 37 of the Bombay Police Act were not promulgated in Manded District, which was the worst affected district, from the beginning. In reply, it was stated that curfew was imposed from day to day according to the exigencies of the situation.

230. With regard to the role played by Police Patils during the disturbances, it was stated that Police Patils at some places had failed and some of them had instigated atrocities on Neo-Buddhists and some had failed to report the cases to their respective police stations. It was stated that the whole procedure with regard to the appointment of Police Patils was being looked into. A number of Police Patils had already been removed. It was, however, suggested that in order to attract good people for the post of Police Patils, wide publicity should be made in the villages.

231. As regards the failures of the State Intelligence machinery, it was stated that many senior posts in C.I.D. Department were lying vacant and those vacancies were to be filled first, and the re-organisation of the Department would also be undertaken.

232. The Study Group then enquired whether in deference to the Prime Minister's assurance that District Magistrates should be made responsible in the case of atrocities on Scheduled Castes/Tribes, any action had been taken against the District Magistrate, Nanded. In reply, the Study Group was informed that the District Magistrate, Nanded had already been transferred and further action was also contemplated against him. The orders of the Prime Minister in this regard were communicated to all District Magistrates in the State on the 18th February, 1978.

233. When pointed out that a number of objectionable leaflets were circulated in the affected areas without disclosing the identities of printers, it was stated that action would be taken to find out the names of such persons and suitable action against them would be taken.

234. On enquiry as to what was the policy of the State Government in the matter of renaming the Universities, it was stated that there was no policy in that regard as such. Decisions were taken on *ad hoc* basis. Some Universities had been named after some cities like the University of Bombay, Poona and Nagpur while some derived their name from certain distinguished persons, as in the case of the Shivaji University, Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapith, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Krishi Vidyapith etc.

235. In reply to a question, it was stated that Government were anxious to provide both immediate assistance in cash and kind to the victims of atrocities and also to take adequate measures to rehabilitate and to protect the Scheduled Castes from atrocities. To provide the requisite administrative support for various measures, a meeting of concerned Ministers and Secretaries was held on 7th

August, 1978. A Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary was also constituted to co-ordinate the implementation of the relief and rehabilitation measures. An Officer on Special Duty of the rank of Secretary to the Government was also appointed on 8th August, 1978 to implement, co-ordinate and supervise the Marathwada area for the speedy implementation of the programme pertaining to rehabilitation and to promote speedy restoration of normalcy. In three badly affected Talukas of Nanded District, posts of Additional Tehsildars were created for the same purposes. Similarly, a senior Deputy Collector was drafted to Nanded district to assist the same purpose. Various orders had been issued by Government to promote furtherance of the rehabilitation programme. A series of Government Resolutions and Orders were issued as a result of various decisions taken to promote relief, rehabilitation and normalcy, and the gist of these orders was briefly mentioned as under:—

- (a) Shelter was provided both to those who had left their villages as a result of damage/destruction of their houses or due to fear and also to those who were victims of atrocities and remained in the villages. This temporary accommodation was provided either in the villages itself or in the Talukas, towns or other places where the persons affected had moved, and temporary structures were put up where necessary.
- (b) Immediate financial assistance at Rs. 1.50 per head per day for subsistence and Rs. 27.50 per head for immediate requirements of utensils and clothing was sanctioned. The cash amount distributed in each of the 5 districts of the Marathwada is indicated herein below:—

	Nanded	Parbhani	Osmanabad	Aurangabad	Beed
No. of village affected.	52	15	6	16	5
No. of families affected	777	181	110	93	12
No. of huts/houses damaged/destroyed	737	141	110	30	15
Immediate relief in cash	227,460	48,247	40,438	10,595	496

Donations both in cash and kind to supplement the aboves, were organised and Dhotis, Sarees, Chaddars, Wooden ballies, financial assistance etc. distributed at many places.

- (c) Orders were issued that employment guarantee works must be started at or near the affected villages even though the response on such works may not be such as would have otherwise justified the commencement of a new work. This had been done with the intention to provide employment at or near the affected villages to the affected persons to facilitate them to earn their livelihood.
- (d) Orders were issued on 8th August, 1978 to provide relief to those who had died or have been incapacitated. Family of an earning member killed or permanently incapacitated was paid Rs. 2000/- and a non-earning member Rs. 1000/- while an earning member temporarily incapacitated was paid upto Rs. 500/- and a non-earning member temporarily incapacitated upto Rs. 250/- depending upon the period of incapacitation.
- (e) Orders had also been issued providing relief upto Rs. 500/- per family in respect of loss of movable property and other belongings in a house damaged or destroyed, restricted to the actual damage.
- (f) Persons who had left the village were encouraged to return to the villages and frequent visits were organised both at the official and non-official level to restore normalcy. The Peace Committees also visited these villages. Soon, all the persons who had left the villages and moved out of the towns, returned back to their villages except some families from Akola and degaon villages of Aurangabad District, who continued to be provided temporary shelter on the outskirts of Aurangabad.
- (g) A massive programme of reconstruction/repairs had been undertaken in respect of houses damaged or destroyed during the disturbances. A grant equal to the amount required for reconstruction limited to Rs. 1500/- had been sanctioned in respect of each house damaged or destroyed. In addition, funds under the Employment Guarantee Scheme was utilised to clear the debris and to make payment for the unskilled component of the reconstruction/repair work. In addition, the Collectors had been authorised to use Government trucks for the transport of various materials required for the repairs

and reconstruction. The amount available by way of grant to each affected family had thus exceeded Rs. 1500/-. The repairs/reconstruction had been undertaken with the active cooperation of the persons affected. For this, material like timber had been arranged from the Forest Department and G.I. sheets for roofing purposes, had been centrally purchased and moved to the concerned villages. The technical machinery extending to various departments had been geared and involved in the programme to complete the reconstruction within the shortest possible time. The houses constructed were designed to have a minimum life of 10 years. Where a new lay out was planned, appropriate amenities were being provided through various schemes of Zila Parishads.

- (h) Orders of subsidy for occupational rehabilitation had also been issued. The subsidy extended upto Rs. 500/- in the case of traders whose shops had been damaged or destroyed. Likewise, the Collectors had been authorised to sanction loan upto Rs. 5000/- while requirements for larger assistance were considered by Government.
- (i) To supplement the Government efforts, voluntary contributions were being mobilised, and the same would be credited to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and utilised to promote the relief and rehabilitation of those affected by the disturbances.

236. When the Study Group pointed out that the Government of Andhra Pradesh had introduced a scheme in 1975 to provide monetary relief ranging from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 2,000/- to the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who had become victims of the atrocities and in the case of U.P., they had agreed to give relief to the extent of Rs. 5,000/-, the representative of the Statement promised to review the position. In reply to another question, the Study Group was informed that no security was taken from these victims who had been given subsidy upto Rs. 1500/- and security was demanded only from those who had been sanctioned loans for occupational purposes. Total relief to the extent of Rs. 8.83 lakhs had been sanctioned upto 24-9-1978.

237. In connection with the suggestion for imposition of collective fines in the villages in which atrocities had been committed, it was stated that Section 51 of the Bombay Police Act, 1951 provided for imposition of a tax on inhabitants of a disturbed area and the amount of tax so collected to be paid as compensation to the

sufferers in that area. Section 50 of the Act provided for deployment of additional police force in the disturbed area and the cost of such additional force to be recovered from the inhabitants, or a section of inhabitants of that area. Experience of the operation of these provisions had, however, shown that such fines were not easily realisable but often recovery of such collective fine became a source of trouble and led to embittered relations between the two communities. It was, therefore, not considered advisable to impose collective fine.

233. The Study Group then took up the question of expeditious investigation and registration of cases in the affected areas. It was stated in reply that immediately after the suspension of agitation, police machinery was mobilised for registration and investigation of offences. Upto 13-9-1978, 721 cognisable offences had been registered; the District-wise detailed information of which was as follows:—

District	No. of cognizable offences registered	No. of persons arrested
Aurangabad	240	682
Parbhani	127	543
Nanded	237	1,636
Osmanabad	66	362
Beed	51	507
TOTAL	721	3,730

239. Action for charge-sheeting and further prosecution was in progress.

240. The Study Group as suggested by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes proposed that the quantum of help to the persons rendered almost destitute should be increased, that effort should be made to help them in their proper economic rehabilitation, that the amount of Rs. 1500/- for construction of a house be increased to Rs. 5000/- and that immediate steps should be taken to construct temporary sheds for providing accommodation until the houses were repaired/reconstructed. In reply, it was stated that suitable temporary accommodation had been provided to all those who desired or needed the same. The immediate financial

assistance was augmented by voluntary contributions. The amount of Rs. 1500/- per house sanctioned as grant for repairs/reconstruction was further augmented by nearly Rs. 300/- representing the unskilled labour component under the Employment Guarantee Scheme in removal of the debris and for reconstruction. Further, in cases where the reconstruction involved an expenditure of more than the grant, the Collector had been directed to sanction loans upto Rs. 4000/- per house. In cases where the restoration involved an expenditure exceeding the grant and the loan component within the powers of the Collectors, the cases were referred to the Government, but such cases would be few. The policy of the Government was to provide durable houses which would have a life of at least 10 years. By and large, the persons affected had desired reconstruction at the old sites and that were accordingly being done with their active involvement with the assistance of the Government machinery. Where the affected persons had desired properly laid out plots, free grant of land in a suitable locality in the village was utilised for the construction of new houses and appropriate services were being provided. The work of reconstruction and repairs had been undertaken with the utmost speed and had been well progressed and even completed at many places. In addition, an amount upto Rs. 500/- per family had been sanctioned for replacement of the movable assets which might have been lost or destroyed. This was in addition to the amount of Rs. 27.50 per individual sanctioned as immediate relief for clothing and utensils. Orders for relief in respect of loss of stock in trade or business including machinery had been issued. The above measures were being supplemented by voluntary contributions. A sub-account of the Chief Minister's Relief Fund had been opened for providing additional relief and assistance to the affected persons. Already, an amount exceeding Rs. 1.50 lakhs had been received in this sub-account and further large contributions had been promised. This was in addition to the voluntary assistance and contributions marshalled at the local level. The Employment Guarantee Scheme works had been opened at or near the villages which had been affected or where temporary accommodation had been provided, so that the affected persons might immediately find gainful employment adequate at least to earn their livelihood. Every effort was being made and would be made by the Government not only to provide suitable durable houses to all persons affected, but also to promote their proper economic rehabilitation.

241. In reply to a question as to the nature of preventive and punitive measures taken or proposed to be taken with a view to

see that such incidents did not recur, the Study Group was informed that a number of measures had been taken in that regard. These included *inter alia*:—

- (1) A number of offences had already been registered and were being investigated. About 20 serious offences had been handed over for investigation to the State, C.I.D. (Crime).
- (2) Pickets of S.R.P.F. had been posted in villages which were affected during the disturbances or villages in which Dalits apprehended danger. Police mobile patrolling had been intensified particularly in affected areas.
- (3) A number of Police Patils who had been negligent during the disturbances, had been placed under suspension. Revenue and Police Patils in villages had been given warning in writing that if any trouble took place in the villages they would be held responsible.
- (4) Revenue and Police Officers had been asked to form teams and move about in affected areas in order to re-establish harmonious relations between different sections of people.
- (5) Peace Committees had been established at district headquarters, taluka headquarters. Non-official members of these committees, members of Zila Parishad, as well as other social workers had been requested to visit affected villages and assist the Administration to restore peace and harmony.

242. Police force had been appropriately re-deployed and provided with additional vehicles, wireless sets etc. as required.

243. The Study Group was informed that the State Government had accepted the proposal to establish a Samata Vichar Peeth to be named as 'Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Samata Vichar Peeth'. A provision of Rs. 1 lakh had been made for this scheme in the current year's budget. This was in pursuance of the policy of celebrating the 'Samata Varsha' (2nd October, 1977 to 30th September, 1978). An announcement about the Samata Vichar Peeth was made by the former Chief Minister at Mahad on 1st May, 1977 at a function held at Mahad (Kulaba District) to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the historic satyagraha launched by Dr. Ambedkar on March 20, 1927. The Chief Minister had also announced a grant of Rs. 50,000 from the Chief Minister's Discretionary Fund for the purpose.

244. The salient objectives of this Vichar Peeth were stated to be as under:—

- (i) To maintain and develop the Samata Peeth as a Research and Training Institution.
- (ii) To conduct research into the various spheres of "Social Equality" with a view to finding out how and in what manner the concept of "Social Equality" could be achieved and could be made more effective.
- (iii) To train young people for improving their knowledge in all spheres of social sciences with a view to acquiring sound and professional expertise and facilities for exchange of views and ideas relating to "social equality".
- (iv) To establish and maintain at convenient places in Maharashtra, units to study principles of "Social Equality".
- (v) To provide and arrange for a co-operative study and investigation of such principles and for exchange of ideas and experience and for promotion of a better understanding among the various sections of the society.
- (vi) To establish and maintain centres for research into problems of "Social Equality" and to conduct scientific research in different spheres of national life so far as it relates to social equality and justice.
- (vii) To undertake, organise and facilitate study courses, conferences, lectures, seminars, symposia and the like to promote aforesaid objects.
- (viii) To undertake and provide for the publication of books, journals, periodicals and research papers in furtherance of the avowed objects.
- (ix) To encourage the activities of approved institutions and organisations formed for the furtherance of like objects.
- (x) To issue appeals and applications for money and funds in furtherance of the aforesaid objects and to raise or collect funds.
- (xi) To institute, offer and grant prizes, awards, scholarships, stipends in furtherance of the objects of the society.

245. In the initial stages, it was stated that the said Peeth would undertake course of studies on the following subjects:—

- (1) Social Stratification.
- (2) Equality of Opportunities.
- (3) Equality before Law.
- (4) Economic Equality.

- (5) Political Equality.
- (6) Role of Social reformists in bringing about Social Equality.
- (7) Research Methodology.

246. In the scheme included in the budget for this year, it had been proposed to appoint the following staff for the Peeth; one Director, two Professors, two Assistant Professors, one Registrar, one Librarian, one Clerk, and Typist and 6 peons.

247. Although the scheme had been accepted and financial provision made therefor, it was stated that it would be necessary for the Government in the Social Welfare Department to consider carefully how best to execute this scheme so as to achieve the best results out of the project. The basic function of the Directorate of Social Welfare was to provide services and benefits to the weaker sections of the society either directly or through recognised social welfare institutions. It had, therefore, *inter alia* to be ensured that the establishment of an academic institution like the proposed Vichar Peeth did not at any time lack the expertise for the conduct and management of the institution. A view had been expressed that a better course perhaps might be to persuade major universities in the State to set up separate 'chairs' for instruction on 'special equality' or to establish such an institution through an already established academic body like the Tata Institute of Social Sciences with financial assistance from Government for various purposes. This was being examined by the Social Welfare Department in consultation with the Education Department in pursuance of the objective to utilise the funds in a manner best calculated to achieve the intended objectives.

248. The Study Group then enquired as to what machinery had been set up to implement the provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 at State and also at District levels. In reply, the Study Group was informed that so far as the Police Department was concerned, the machinery for detection, registrations and investigation of offences under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, had been strengthened at all levels as under:—

- (i) In Mantralaya a Cell has been created in the Home Department since November, 1977 to look into the complaints of harassment/atrocities on the members of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the Society. This Cell looks into the complaints received by Government. The Joint Secretary in the Home Department supervises over the working of this Cell.

- (ii) A Cell under a Deputy Inspector-General of Police with ancillary staff has been created in the office of the Inspector-General of Police, Maharashtra State at Bombay in December, 1977. The officer designated as Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Protection of Civil Rights functions as "watch dog" unit and is responsible for supervision over the implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act at the District and Range levels. He enquires into complaints of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Deputy Inspector-General of Police himself enquires into the complaints of serious nature.
- (iii) At each of the 6 Police Range Headquarters, a Unit consisting of one Police Inspector, two Police Sub-Inspectors, two Head Constables and four constables had been established since December, 1977. They work directly under the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Protection of Civil Rights and enquire into the serious complaints of harassment/atrocities on members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- (iv) At the District level, the special arrangement by way of Task Forces which were created for implementation of total prohibition and the Local Crime Branches.

The working of these arrangements are reviewed from time to time by a Committee consisting of the Chief Minister, Minister (Home) and Minister (Social Welfare).

The new Machinery had been working for the last 8 months and a comprehensive review was at present under way and a detailed set of revised instructions for the working of this machinery at various levels was under preparation.

Copies of the Protection of Civil Rights Act had been made available to all Police Stations in Marathi as well as in English.

All District Magistrates had also been instructed to give extensive publicity to the provisions of this enactment through the local newspapers and by other means in the villages, particularly in areas where such offences were suspected to occur frequently. The co-operation of Zilla Parishad officials upto Block Level for the purpose was also being taken for the purpose.

At the end, in reply to a question, the Study Group was informed that there was no proposal to appoint a Judicial Enquiry Commission to enquire into the recent incidents in Marathwada area.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Genesis

249. The question of establishing a University for Marathwada region was examined by a Committee appointed on the 27th April, 1957 by the former Government of Bombay under the Chairmanship of Shri Justice S. M. Palnitkar. The Committee had received various suggestions for naming of the new University, such as Marathwada, Aurangabad, Daulatabad, Deogiri, Ajantha, Shivaji, Ambedkar, Ramanand Teerth, etc. and the Committee, after taking into consideration all aspects of the question, recommended to name it as Marathwada University and accordingly Marathwada University was established at Aurangabad in 1958 and its jurisdiction extended to the five districts of Marathwada, viz., Aurangabad, Beed, Nanded, Osmanabad and Parbhani.

250. The agitation for renaming the University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar is of recent origin though the demand for naming the University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was there from its inception since 1957. On 1st May, 1977, at a function held at Mahad* (Kulaba district) to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the historic Satyagraha launched by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar on the 20th March, 1927, the then Chief Minister, Shri Vasant Rao B. Patil, while unveiling the statue of late Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar announced that an institution to be called Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Samata Vidyapeeth would be established in Maharashtra to undertake research and study of the problems of Scheduled Caste community and to foster equality.

251. On 10-11th July, 1977, the Executive Committee of Dalit Panthers which met in Bombay, took a decision to organise a State-wide agitation for the renaming of the Marathwada University as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, as well as, to secure extension of concessions enjoyed by Scheduled Caste people to Neo-Buddhists. During the period July—October, 1977, a number of morchas, public meetings, hunger strikes, bandhs, etc. were

*Mahad Satyagraha was launched by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar on 20-3-1927 to obtain the rights of use from 14 water tanks by Scheduled Caste people.

organised to press their demand for renaming the University. Against this, there was also a counter-agitation by students belonging to non-Scheduled Castes and non-Buddhists.

252. A proposal for renaming the University was considered by the Executive Council of the Marathwada University at its meeting held on 18-19th July, 1977. The following resolution was passed at the meeting—

“The Executive Council is in favour of the suggestion to name this University after late Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.”

This resolution was to be placed first before the Senate of the University and thereafter the matter was to be referred to the State Government. The resolution, however, did not come up before the Senate meeting held on the 31st October, 1977 since the mover of the resolution was not present at the meeting and no one else came forward to move the resolution.

253. In the first week of August, 1977, outside Marathwada, the Dalit Panthers and others seeking change of the name organised a number of Morchas/demonstrations, particularly in Nasik, Chandrapur, Nagpur, Thane, Yeotmal etc. On August 12, 1977, a morcha was also organised and taken to Mantralaya in Bombay to press the demand when more than 990 persons courted arrest. Later, during the visit of the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra to Solapur on the 20th August, 1977, local Dalit Panthers took out a morcha and staged black-flag demonstration in support of the agitation to re-name the University.

254. A number of representations on the subject were also received by the State Government from different bodies. The then Chief Minister (Shri V. B. Patil) convened a meeting on the 8th September, 1977 in Bombay which was attended by the representatives of several educational and social organisations and some prominent citizens from the region. At the end of the deliberations, the Chief Minister announced that he would also ascertain the views of those who were opposed to re-naming the University and a decision would be taken later.

255. Thereafter, the question of re-naming of the University more or less remained dormant till May, 1978 although there were moves by Dalit Panthers/Neo-Buddhists to organise morcha in

Aurangabad (January, 1978), a chain of hunger strikes in front of the University (March, 1978) and some form of Satyagraha (March, 1978).

256. On the 21st July, 1978, in connection with a Calling Attention Notice in the Legislative Council, the former Deputy Chief Minister (Shri N. K. Tirpude) stated that the previous Government had already taken a decision on this issue at that time and wanted to take the approval of the Assembly. The new Government was, however, going back on that decision. The Chief Minister clarified that he was aware of the decision and the intent to bring forward a resolution acceptable to all during the current session itself.

257. Following that statement, the Chief Minister convened a meeting of M.L.As and M.L.Cs and others from Marathwada region on the 26th July, 1978 to consider the question of re-naming the Marathwada University. The meeting was attended by over 100 representatives and other Cabinet Ministers. At that meeting, there was a concensus that the name of Marathwada University might be changed to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University. Subsequently, a Resolution with regard to re-naming of Marathwada University was passed unanimously by both the Houses of Maharashtra Legislature on the 27th July, 1978 and was broadcast by the All India Radio in its News Bulletin at 1900 hours on that day.

258. As a sequel, wide spread disturbances in an organised manner took place in the various parts of Marathwada Region and the main thrust of the disturbances in the beginning for 4-5 days was against Government and public property. Later on, these disturbances spread to rural areas and the main targets were Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhists.

259. The attention of Lok Sabha was drawn towards the disturbances and resultant atrocities committed on Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhists and a full-fledged discussion took place in the Lok Sabha on the 14th August, 1978 and the following motion was adopted:—

“This House, having considered the situation arising out of the reported large scale disturbances and some killings in Marathwada in Maharashtra State expresses its great concern and directs the Parliamentary Committee

on the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, to investigate into the causes of these incidents and to identify those who are responsible for such incidents, and suggest remedies to meet the present situation as well as to suggest such other remedies to prevent recurrence of such incidents in any part of India in future."

260. Accordingly a Study Group of the Committee visited Marathwada for on-the-spot study and investigation of the situation. They toured some of the worst affected villages in all the five districts of Marathwada Region. They also took evidence of victim of atrocities and village officials, etc., at Aurangabad, Parabhani, Nanded, Beed and Osmanabad. They also held discussion with the representatives of various associations, organisations, etc. at all these places. At Bombay, they also had discussions with the Chief Minister and other Ministers of the Government of Maharashtra, Chairman of Maharashtra Legislative Council, a number of local M.L.As. and M.Ps. The Study Group also met representatives of various political parties, organisation, associations, etc.

261. The information given to the Committee is voluminous. Although the feeling of discontent had been brewing for some time past on account of *inter alia* socio-economic causes, the Committee feel that the immediate provocation for the disturbances that took place in Marathwada region was due to the passing of Resolution with regard to renaming of Marathwada University by the Maharashtra State Legislature on the 27th July, 1978 and its broadcast by the All India Radio in its News Bulletin at 19.00 hours on that day.

262. During the course of discussion with local M.L.As., M.L.Cs. and other Public representatives as well as representatives of educational institutions, the Study Group at Aurangabad was informed that there was no prior discussion with the local representatives before the resolution to re-name Marathwada University was passed by the two Houses of State Legislature. They further said that the resolution was passed in haste and it was brought as a Private Members' Resolution in the Assembly although the Minister of Revenue moved it in the Council. The Study Group was also informed that they had met the Chief Minister and stressed

that before passing the resolution, the matter should be re-considered from all angles but they had not, however, opposed the resolution in the Legislature.

263. The Committee note that the disturbances were not sporadic but were systematically planned and organised as is evident from the fact that all communication media were damaged, telephone wires were cut off, concrete bridges were blasted and railways were immobilised.

264. It may be mentioned here that from 27th July to 31st July, 1978, the movement was directed against the public and Government property and was confined to urban areas. In the first phase of the movement, on the first day, most of the schools and colleges were closed in Marathwada region. *Bandhs* were observed throughout Marathwada for several days. Roads and all approaches were blocked and the traffic was paralysed. Municipal property like street lights were broken and the Government and public property like telegraph wires, Government vehicles, offices, buses and railway coaches and stations were attacked.

265. In the second phase, i.e. from about 1st August, 1978 onwards, while the above movement continued in urban areas, it spread to rural areas also. Houses and huts of Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhists were burnt and razed to the ground in villages. The four talukas of Nanded District and two adjoining talukas of Parbhani District were the worst affected. Consolidated attacks were made on the Scheduled Caste and neo-Buddhists and looting started. The rioters not only set the houses of Scheduled Caste and neo-Buddhists on fire at various places but also damaged the statues/photos of Lord Buddha and of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. A peculiar feature of the agitation was that even sacred precincts of Buddha Viharas were defiled and statues of Lord Buddha were broken into pieces. The animals were let loose in the fields belonging to Scheduled Caste and neo-Buddhists and the entire crops were destroyed. It has also been reported that one of the sons of a D.S.P. was found leading the agitation against Scheduled Castes and neo-Buddhists in Osmanabad District.

According to the information furnished by Government the estimated loss, in all the five affected districts, to public, semi-Government property was to the tune of Rs. 48,59,065, that of Railway property of Rs. 8,01,937, loss to private non-Dalits property was of Rs. 43,465 and that of Dalits was of Rs. 27,69,390. This information appears to be on the low side as compared to information gathered

by the Committee. The number of persons killed was seven and number injured was 366.

265. It is surprising that Government has nowhere mentioned in their statement to the Committee about any cases of molestation and rape although such cases were brought to the notice of Committee at Nanded.

266. The Committee note that Members of the Students Action Committee (Mahavidyalayeen Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti) and its supporters like Sarvashri Govind Bhai Shroff and Anant Bhalerao, Editor of Dainik Marathwada Aurangabad spear headed the agitation and participated therein. They also abeted the rioters to let loose the reign of terror. They issued a circular letter which appeared in the front page of 'Dainik Marathwada', a local Marathi Daily newspaper of Aurangabad containing appeal to join the agitation. Thousands of letters carrying mischievous propaganda were sent to several areas of Marathwada from Aurangabad. Bangles were also sent through envelopes suggesting that those who did not want to join the agitation should wear them. This only helped in further accentuating the situation.

267. The Committee note that during the disturbances, no M.L.A. | M.L.C. or M.P. could reach their respective constituencies and the places of disturbances so as to help diffusing the situation as the buses, trains etc. had been cancelled and their movement was paralysed.

268. The Committee note that the State Intelligence was unable to assess the correct situation then prevailing in Marathwada and was therefore caught unawares when the disturbances took place. Even after the disturbances had started, the authorities could not deploy enough Police force to control the situation. Most of the Police Stations in the rural areas were devoid of any communication facilities like telephones, wireless sets, jeeps with the result that they could not communicate among themselves and deploy adequate force at the places of disturbances in time. The Committee are distressed to note that at most of the places, police were mere spectators to the incidents and did not move in the matter to prevent or quell disturbances.

In fact, many of the Sarpanches and Police Patils instigated atrocities on Scheduled Castes and neo-Buddhists during disturbances and did not report the cases of arson, loot or burning of houses, etc. to the local police stations or the higher authorities in their respective areas.

269. The Committee note that the Students Action Committee (Mahavidyalayeen Vidyarthi Kruti Samiti) suspended the movement in response to the statement of the State Chief Minister that the Assembly Resolution was only recommendatory and that the Government had not taken any decision and that no decision would be imposed upon the people of Marathwada.

Recommendations of the Committee

270. The Committee would like to suggest that to prevent such recurrences in future, the following measures need immediate attention.

•••

- (1) Steps should be taken to strengthen the intelligence machinery of the State Government upto taluka level so that any incidents which could lead to widespread disturbances and any advance preparations therefor are anticipated and appropriate steps taken to prevent any large scale violence.
- (2) As and when any information is received about any likely disturbances, the law and order machinery should be immediately geared up and deployed to control the situation and ensure normalcy.
- (3) In rural areas, the police stations should be strengthened both in man and material viz. telephones, wireless sets, motor vehicles, etc.
- (4) Police Patils or Police officials particularly those posted in rural areas should be instructed to bring the reports about atrocities or any matter of a sensitive nature, particularly those concerning Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to the notice of higher officers promptly so that necessary preventive measures are taken before the situation takes a violent turn.
- (5) Local Police Force, Police Patils, Home Gaurds should be adequately represented by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. One of the Key Posts in a village should be manned by Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes person.
- (6) Whenever disturbances take place, assistance of voluntary organisations should be taken to inspire a sense of confidence in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

- (7) Administrative machinery at the district level should be strengthened to ensure prompt and effective investigation of all offences involving members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and prompt redressal of their grievances.
- (8) Special machinery, at the State level, to deal exclusively with all aspects of caste|communal riots should be set up. Scheduled Castes/Tribes should be adequately represented therein
- (9) A High Power Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister in each State/Union Territory should be set up to give appropriate directions in matters of caste|communal riots and implementing constitutional safeguards in favour of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- (10) Special courts for the quick disposal of cases involving Scheduled Castes/Tribes should be established.
- (11) In case of disturbances, punitive fines should be imposed on persons living in the areas which are scenes of disturbances and the amount so collected should be paid as compensation to the victims of disturbances.
- (12) Responsibility should be fixed on District Magistrates, Superintendents of Police, Deputy Superintendent of Police and Panchayat officials concerned or any other official for the out-break of disturbances in Marathwada and suitable action taken against them.
- (13) Panchayats should be made accountable for their failures to prevent atrocities on the weaker sections in their areas. Social workers and voluntary organisations should be involved to supplement the efforts of administration for bringing about normalcy and restoring confidence among the victims.
- (14) Whenever any person belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe is dispossessed of his land through unfair mean, Government should take steps to secure possession of the land from the person concerned by taking the same action as they take in case of Government land unlawfully occupied by any person.
- (15) Use of force to deprive Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of their land should be made a cognizable offence so that the police can immediately intervene in such cases.

- (16) Wherever any disturbances occur, the licences of fire arms of persons living within that area should be cancelled and all lethal weapons should be confiscated.
- (17) Police Patils should be given proper training to take them aware of their duties and responsibilities.
- (18) Relief given to the victims of atrocities in Marathwada is much below the actual loss incurred by the Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhists. Concerted efforts are called for proper economic rehabilitation of all the victims of disturbances for which adequate funds should be provided. They should be fully compensated and completely rehabilitated. The amount of Rs. 1,500|- sanctioned for the construction of a house is too meagre for the purpose and should be increased to at least Rs. 5,000|-.
- (19) In a family where an earning member has lost his life, another member of that family should be provided with employment immediately. Those Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhists whose crops have been damaged or the cattle etc. killed, should be provided with enough relief at least to sustain them till the next crops can be sown and harvested. They should also be provided with necessary inputs for the purpose.
- (20) Any newspaper, periodical, magazine or any other published document which incites hatred and violence against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the society or propagates or encourages untouchability should be prosecuted forthwith and, if necessary, suitable law in this regard should be enacted. All the newspapers which published inflammatory material and editorials in Marathwada should be prosecuted immediately.
- (21) No enquiries have been conducted into printing and circulation of inflammatory leaflets without giving the names of printers and publishers during the period of agitation in Marathwada. Such cases should be investigated by C.B.I. and culprits should be prosecuted.
- (22) The information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra pertaining to loss of property and crops is

on the low side as compared to actual loss incurred by the victims of riots as gathered by the Committee. The Committee feel that proper assessment of actual loss incurred by the victims should be made quickly and full compensation paid to them for the loss of property and crops.

271. With a view to inspire confidence and credibility in the public about the fairness and impartiality of the Administration, there should be an automatic judicial inquiry into the cases where there is a large scale arson, looting, murder and indiscriminate firing by the Police involving Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

272. It is a matter of common knowledge that in addition to economic disabilities there is a simmering discontent which leads to occasional out-break of caste/communal violence and flare-ups as a result of non-implementation of measures in regard to various matters. The problem of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not a mere problem of law and order and has not to be looked into and tackled in isolation. An integrated approach has to be applied for their overall socio-economic upliftment with a view to make them stand squarely and properly in the framework of the society. With this end in view various measures as detailed below have to be taken for their upliftment.

Land Reforms

273. The Committee need hardly emphasise the imperative need of initiating and implementing land reforms in order to improve the socio-economic status of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who constitute the major portion of the landless agricultural labourers. The Committee have received complaints from almost all parts of the country that land generally allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is barren or rocky and as such is unfit for cultivation. The Committee strongly feel that the land should be fully developed by Government at their expense or Government should pay charges to the allottees for its reclamation and development. Government has also to devise adequate checks to ensure that in no case the land allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is alienated. Suitable steps should also be taken to confer permanent ownership rights on them.

Lack of implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.

274. The Committee feel that the rigorous implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act is a *sine qua non* for eradicating the

evil of untouchability. All cases of untouchability must be faithfully registered, investigated, charge-sheeted and processed in the courts within the minimum possible time. Special courts, if necessary, should be set up for the purpose. Deterrent punishment has also to be given to all those persons responsible for perpetuating or propagating untouchability.

Lack of educational facilities

275. The Committee feel that the question of rapid spread of education among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes merits serious consideration. Education has not only to be made free for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes upto University level but it has also to be ensured that all Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students actually attend the schools/colleges. Rates of scholarships both pre-matric and post-matric have also to be enhanced considerably so as to help them meet their expenditure. The restriction for awarding scholarships only to two children should be removed and income limit of parents/guardians for award of scholarships should be enhanced suitably.

Reservation in services

276. Another problem that has to be tackled on war footing, is the provision of adequate employment opportunities to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Concerted efforts are called for for providing the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with jobs at least according to the quotas as reserved for them as per the directives issued by Government from time to time. Each of the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe who has passed matriculation or any higher examination or is I.T.I. qualified should be provided jobs on crash programme basis till such time the quotas for them are filled up. Side by side, a comprehensive scheme for encouraging Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to set up cottage and small scale industries should be prepared and implemented. The intake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the I.T.Is. should be augmented so that more and more Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students acquire the necessary skill for different fields.

277. At the end, the Committee would like to mention that the Committee has also examined in depth the question of atrocities on

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in general and have presented their report to Parliament. They have made number of recommendations to tackle this problem of atrocities in its varied aspects and have suggested various remedial measures to prevent occurrences of such incidents on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in general.

NEW DELHI;

RAM DHAN,
Chairman,

April 28, 1979.

*Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled
Castes and Scheduled Tribes.*

Vaisakha 5, 1901 (Saka).

APPENDIX I

(Vide para 40 of the Report)

Tour Programme of Study Group II of the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which Visited Marathwada, Bombay and Nagpur during 18th to 28th September, 1978.

18-9-1978 (Monday) . 11.00 hrs. Assembly New Delhi, Parliament House Annexe and Informal Discussion.

19-9-1978 (Tuesday) . 06.10 hrs. Dep. Delhi (Palam Airport) for Aurangabad by IC 491.
09.35 hrs. Arr. Aurangabad.

20.00 hrs. Visit to the affected villages viz. Golatgaon, Badnapur, Akola, Kandari Buzak and Kandari Khurd etc.

[Night Halt at Aurangabad]

At Aurangabad, the Study Group was divided into two Groups:—

Group A visited Beed and Osmanabad;

Group B Visited Parbhani and Nanded;

Group A was further divided as A-I and A-II

[For detailed programme and compositions of Study Groups from 20th to 22nd September, 1978, please see annexures at pages 7—9 & 3-4 respectively].

23-9-78 (Saturday) . 15.00 hrs. Meeting with non-officials re. disturbances in Marathwada.
15.00 to 18.00 hrs. Discussion with local officials.

20.00 hrs. Dep. Aurangabad for Manmad by Road (106 Kms.)

23.35 hrs. Arr. Manmad.

24-9-1978 (Sunday) . 00.40 hrs. Dep. Manmad for Bombay by Bombay Exp.

06.30 hrs. Arr. Bombay.

19.30 hrs. Discussion with non-officials re. disturbances in Marathwada.

[Night Halt at Bombay]

- 25-9-1978 (Monday) . 11.00 to Discussion with State Government with regard to Marathwada Disturbances.
14.00 hrs. and;
14.30 to
16.00 hrs.
22.10 hrs. *Dep.* Bombay for Nagpur by Howrah Express.
- 26-9-78 (Tuesday) 15.00 hrs. *Arr.* Nagpur. [Night Halt at Nagpur]
- 26-9-1978 (Tuesday) . 09.00 to Visit to affected localities.
14.00 hrs.
15.30 to Meeting with non-officials *reg.* Disturbances in Nagpur.
21.30 hrs. [Night Halt at Nagpur]
- 28-9-1978 (Thursday) 09.00 to; Discussion with local Officials.
12.30 hrs.

Tour programme of Group-A of Study Group of Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes which visited Marathwada Area of Maharashtra and Nagpur from 20-9-1978 to 22-9-1978.

- 20-9-1978 (Wednesday) 18.00 hrs. *Dep.* Aurangabad for Beed by road (120 Km.)
10.30 hrs. *Arr.* Beed.
11.00 hrs. *Dep.* Beed for Ambajogai by road (90 Km.)
13.00 hrs. *Arr.* Ambajogai.
[At Ambajogai Group-A was further divided in two Groups viz; A-I and A-II]
- Programme of Group 'A-I'*
- 14.00 hrs. *Dep.* Ambajogai for Dharmapuri by road (34 Km.).
16.30 hrs. *Arr.* Dharmapuri & visit to the Village.
18.00 hrs. *Dep.* Dharmapuri & for beed by road (124 Km.)
19.30 hrs. *Arr.* Beed.
20.00 to Meeting with non-officials regarding disturbances in the
22.30 hrs. the area.
22.30 to Discussion with local officials.
23.30 hrs. (*Night halt at Beed*).
- 21-9-1978 (Thursday) 08.00 hrs. *Dep.* Beed for Osmanabad (112 Km.) by road. Visit to the affected Villages viz. Jeet & Bhoom enroute to Osmanabad.
14.45 hrs. *Arr.* Osmanabad and Join Study Group 'A'
16.30 to; Discussion with non-officials regarding disturbances in
18.30 hrs. the area.
18.30 to; Discussion with local officials.
20.00 hrs. (*Night halt at Osmanabad*)

22-9-1978 (Friday) ; 07.00 hrs. *Dep.* Osmanabad for Aurangabad by road (230 Km.)
12.30 hrs. *Arr.* Aurangabad.

(*Night halt at Aurangabad.*)

Programme of Group 'A -ii'

20-9-1978 (Wednesday) 14.00 hrs. *Dep.* for Udgir by road.
17.00 hrs. *Arr.* Udgir and visit to Nalgir village.
19.30 hrs. *Dep.* Nalgir village for Udgir by road.
20.00 hrs. *Arr.* Udgir.

(*Night halt at Udgir*)

21-9-1978 (Thursday) 08.00 hrs. *Dep.* Udgir for Osmanabad by Road.
14.30 hrs. *Arr.* Osmanabad and joined Group. 'A'

Tour Programme of Group-B of Study Group II of the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which visited Parbhani & Nanded from 20-9-78 to 23-9-78.

20-9-1978 (Wednesday) 07.30 hrs. *Dep.* Aurangabad for Parbhani (200 Kms.) by road.
12.30 hrs. *Arr.* Parbhani.
14.30 to 20.15 hrs. Visit to affected villages Nawaki and Dagaon and return to Parbhani.

(*Night halt at Parbhani*)

21-9-1978 (Thursday) 08.00 to 14.30 hrs. Visit to village Sirsam and return to Parbhani (70 kms.)
15.30 to 17.45 hrs. Meeting with non-Officials at Zila Parishad Hall.
18.00 to 19.45 hrs. Meeting with local official regarding disturbances in the area.
20.15 hrs. *Dep.* Parbhani for Nanded by road (80 Kms.)
22.15 hrs. *Arr.* Nanded.

(*Night halt at Nanded*)

22-9-1978 (Friday) 08.00 to 13.30 hrs. Visit to the affected villages Surgaon, Kushmur and Temburni and return to Nanded.
16.30 to 18.15 hrs. Meeting with non-officials regarding disturbances in the area.
18.30 to 20.30 hrs. Discussion with local officials.

23-9-1978 (Saturday) 00.58 hrs. *Dep.* Nanded for Aurangabad by Train (551 Ajanta Express).
07.00 hrs. *Arr.* at Aurangabad.

APPENDIX II*(Vide para 4 of the Report)*

Composition of Study Group II of the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which visited Marathwada are of Maharashtra and Nagpur during September, 1978.

-
- (A) 1. Shri Ram Dhan—*Chairman*
 2. Shri Suraj Bhan—*Convener* (Group A)
 (B) 3. Shri Purnanarayan Sinha—*Convener* (Group B)

MEMBERS*Lok Sabha*

4. Shri B. C. Kamble
 5. Shri Somjibhai Damor
 (C) 6. Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai
 (D) 7. Shri Amar Roypradhan
 (E) 8. Shri Rama Chandra Mallick
 9. Shri Bhausahab Thorat

Rajya Sabha

10. Shri Prasenjit Barman
 11. Shri Sriman Prafulla Goswami
 12. Shri S. Kumaran
 13. Shri P. K. Kunjachen
 14. Dr. (Smt.) Sathiavani Muthu.

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri H. L. Malhotra—*Senior Legislative Committee Officer.*
 2. Shri V. P. Marwaha—*Leg. Committee Officer.*
 3. Shri K. K. Ganguly—*Leg. Committee Assistant.*

(A) Left the Study Group II(B) at Parbhani on 20-9-78 and rejoined at Aurangabad on 23-9-78.

(B) Left the Study Group at Nagpur on 27-9-1978.

(C) Left the Study Group II(B) at Parbhani on 21-9-78 and rejoined at Bombay on 24-9-1978.

(D) Joined the Study Group at Bombay on 24-9-78.

(E) Left the Study Group at Bombay on 25-9-78.

4. Shri P. N. Mishra— Jr. Stenographer.
5. Shri N. C. Mathur—Stenographer.

Composition of Group A of Study Group II of the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which visited Beed and Osmanabad from 20th to 22nd September, 1978.

Lok Sabha

1. Shri Suraj Bhan—*Convener*
2. Shri Bhausahab Thorat
3. Shri Somjibhai Damor
4. Shri Rama Chandra Mallick

Rajya Sabha

5. Shri Prasenjit Burman
6. Shri S. Kumaran
7. Dr. (Smt.) Sathiavani Muthu

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri V. P. Marwaha, Legislative Committee Officer
2. Shri N. C. Mathur, Stenographer

GROUP A-I

1. Shri Suraj Bhan (*Convener*)
2. Shri Somjibhai Damor
3. Shri S. Kumaran
4. Dr. (Smt.) Sathiavani Muthu

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri V. P. Marwaha, Legislative Committee Officer.
2. Shri N. C. Mathur, Stenographer

GROUP A-II

1. Shri Bhausahab Thorat (*Convener*)
2. Shri Rama Chandra Mallick
3. Shri Prasenjit Burman

Composition of Group 'B' of Study Group II of the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which visited Parbhani and Nanded from 20th to 23rd September, 1978.

Lok Sabha

- (A) 1. Shri Ram Dhan—*Chairman*
 2. Shri Purnanarayan Sinha—*Convener*
 3. Shri B. C. Kamble
- (B) 4. Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai

Rajya Sabha

5. Shri Sriman Prafulla Goswami
 6. Shri P. K. Kunjachen

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri H. L. Malhotra—Senior Legislative Committee Officer.
 2. Shri K. K. Ganguly, Legislative Committee Assistant
 3. Shri P. N. Mishra, Jr. Stenographer

-
- (A) Left the Study Group at Parbhani on 20-9-78 and re-joined Study Group II at Aurangabad on 23-9-78.
- (B) Left the Study Group at Parbhani on 21-9-78 and re-joined Study Group II at Bombay on 24-9-78.
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APPENDIX III

(Vide Para 101 of the Report)

Statement showing the details of Police firing resorted to, teargas shells used and lathi charged during the recent disturbances in Nanded District over renaming of Marathwada University.

Sl. No.	Date	Place	Teluka	No. of persons killed in firing		No. of persons injured in firing		Weapons used and No. of round	Brief description of circumstances in which firing resorted to.					
				Govt. Servant	Other Civilian	Govt. Servant	Other Civilian			Instru-ment round fired.				
				3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	28-7-78	Mukhed	Mukhed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2.	29-7-78	Loha	Kandhar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3.	31-7-78	Mukhed	Mukhed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

1 Unruly mob started stone throwing on S.T. Buses and indulging in violent activities to disperse the unruly mob fire opened.

10 To protect the Police outpost and to disperse violent mob.

3 Unruly mob tried to set on fire Jeep of Soil Conservation Deptt. pelted stone on Police-men. SIPOL ordered Lathi charge.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8. 4-8-78	Nagloor	Nagloor	Nagloor	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	To disperse the unruly mob who were pelting the stone.
9. 5-8-78	Umari	Umari	Bhokar]	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	Unruly Mob set fire to Backdoors of Police Station & cut off Telephone line. Fire opened to disperse them.

Statement showing the details of Tear Gas shells used during the recent disturbances over remaining of Marathwada University.

Sl. No.	Date	Place	Taluka	No. of	Details of tear gas used				Casualty	Civilians	Brief description of circumstances in which tear gas used.	
					Short range	Long range	Grenade	Govt. dca				Scheduled caste.	Other	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1.	2-8-78	Sarafa	Nanded	11	12	To disperse unruly mob who indulged in pelting of stones blocking of roads in Sarafa, Gadipura area of Nanded city.

2.	2-8-78	Turpa	Nanded	1	..	..	..	..	To disperse the unruly mob who was attempting to destroy/Culvert on Nanded Degloor road.
3.	3-8-78	Degloor	Degloor	—	1				To disperse unruly mob who indulged in pelting of stones on policemen.
4.	4-8-78	Nanded	Nanded	—	1				To disperse unruly mob who indulged in pelting of stone on Municipal Tower & tried to set fire to tower.
5.	4-8-78	Degloor	Degloor	1	4	3			To disperse unruly mob who indulged in pelting of stones on policemen.

Lathi Charge

No.	Date	Place	Taluka	No. of times Lathi-charge resorted to	Casualties				Brief description of circumstances in which lathi charge resorted to	
					Govt. Servants	Sch. Caste	Others	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1.	28-7-78.	Mukhed	Mukhed	1	Unruly mob attempted to set fire to Panchayat Samiti & indulged in violent activities to disperse the mob.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	29-7-78.	. . . . .	Kandhar	1					To disperse unruly mob who attempted to burn out Post Loha. Lathi charge resorted to.
3.	31-7-78.	. . . . .	Kinwat	1	..				To disperse unruly mob who indulged in pelting of stones on Government Offices.
4.	31-7-78	. . . . .	Mukhed	3			0	..	To disperse unruly mob who indulged in violent activities.
5.	2-8-78 .	. . . . .	Degloor	1	..				To disperse unruly mob who indulged in stone pelting on Tahsildar.
6.	4-8-78	. . . . .	Degloor	1				..	To disperse unruly mob who indulged in pelting of stone on Policemen.

APPENDIX V

(Vide para 101 of the Report)

Statement showing total No. of persons killed and injured during the recent disturbances and No. of Scheduled Caste among them in each village/area in Nanded District

Sl. No.	Place	Date	Cause of injury to person	No. of persons killed			No. of persons injured				
				Govt. Servant	Sche- duled Castes	Others	Total	Govt. Servant	Sche- duled Caste	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Mukhed	. . . 27-7-78	Stone throwing	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
2	Bhokar.	. . . 29-7-78	Stone throwing	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2
3	Loha .	. . . 30-7-78	Stone throwing	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	8
4	Kalambar	. . . 31-7-78	Stone throwing	..	..	..	..	2	..	3	5
5	Kinwat	. . . 31-7-78	Stone throwins	..	..	..	..	14	..	..	14
6	Shornboli	. . . 2-8-78	Stone throwing	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
7	Degloor	. . . 2-8-78	Felting of Stone	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	5
8	Sugaon .	. . . 4-8-78	Attack	..	1	..	1	..	55	..	55
9	Tembhurni	. . . 4-8-78	Attack .	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
TOTAL . . . . .				..	2	..	2	31	55	6	92

1. No. of Persons killed: Scheduled Caste 2.

2. No. of Persons injured :

(a) Government Servant : 31

(b) Scheduled Caste : 55

(c) Others : 6

TOTAL

92

Statement showing total number of tenements/huts/houses of Scheduled Castes, caste-wise, in the villages/towns damaged/Burnt during the recent disturbances in Nanded District.

Sl. No.	Taluka	Number of Villages	Total number of Huts etc. Caste-wise										Houses Damaged Caste-wise					
			3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	9	10	10	11	12	12	13	14	15
			New: Budha:		Mahar: Mang:		Chambari Scheduled Tribes:		Total		New: Budha:		Mahar: Mang:		Chambari Scheduled Tribes:		Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	9	10	10	11	12	12	13	14	15
1	Degloor	5	..	323	163				486			43	29	..	..	..	..	72
2	Mukhed	..	..	198	172	7		377	..	..	44	75	..	..	..	..	..	119
3	Biloli	15	380	80	174	..		634	190	38	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	233
4	Nanded	..	10	687	5	159	..	853	162	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	170+3 other
5	Kandhar	..	..	689	..	244	2	5	940	143	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	148
6	Bhokar	..	..	1	..	16	10	..	26	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
TOTAL		58	1756	622	922	9	5	3314	495	127	122	..	..	..	..	..	..	744+3 other

Statement showing Loss of private Properties in Nanded District

Sl. No.	Taluka	No. Loss of Houses		Loss of Crop		Loss of Moveables		Loss of professions		Any other Loss		Total Loss			
		Vil- lage	No. Loss (in Rs.)	Area	Loss (in Rs.)	Nature	Losses (in Rs.)	No. of person	Nature	Loss	Nature		Loss		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Nanded	17	1	173	275020										
2.	Bhokar	2	..	2	1262			Clothes kitchen material	2,07,997	1	Shops Hotels and	240	Agri: imple: ments. etc.	24,224	5,06,581
3.	Degloor	6	..	72	165543	3896	..	Do	165	1	Processional material	15	..	..	1,402
4.	Biloli	22	1	233	171049	3644	15691	Do.	47,310	26	Do.	22861	Agri. impl.	33845	34,770
5.	Kandhar.	35	..	148	137219	10500	39396	Do.	3,23,389	16	Do.	6239	Do.	1300	8
6.	Nukhed	5	Nil	119	314899	2129	4886	..	72,108	..	..	..	..	34919	20,242
									1,22,718	5	..	8045	..	..	..
		87	2	747	1064998	166669	62678		17,72,787	49	..	36900	..	94288	20,31,651

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1. Mukhed i.Eklara ..	86	2,50,000	10.20	4386	Clothes kitchen material	71,860	4	Shops Hotel —1	37403	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,33,676
2. Bhatapur ..	23	43,576	11.09	500	Do.	35,690	1	Carpentry material 0	615	..	..	..	..	..	..	80,381
3. Jambik ..	6	10,670	..	..	Do.	11,145	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,815
4. Wadgaon ..	3	10,153	..	..	Do.	3,723	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,876
5. Salgara ..	1	500	..	..	Do.	300	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	800
TOTAL ..	119	3,14,899	21.29	4,886	..	1,20,718	5	..	8,045	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,50,548
Kandhar I																
1. Dhawari ..	2	1153	..	..	Cloth. & Food	603	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,756
2. Chikhali ..	1	915	19.10	1450	Do.	575	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,940
3. Jashi-sangvi ..	6	5709	..	..	Do.	4574	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,773
4. Shriradhan ..	3	6220	..	..	Do.	5602	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,042
5. Nil ..	10	615	..	..	Do.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	615
6. Marshivadi ..	3	2375	..	..	Do.	2050	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34,425
7. Dagadagon ..	3	14096	..	..	Do.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5684
														Agri-imp- fement	5684	23,417

8. Kurala . . . 2	1076	Do.	149	..	Do.	995	3,220
9. Harasad . . . 3	165	Do.	132	..	..	..	297
10. Londh-Sangvi . . . 31	36100	Do.	17250	..	Agri. Imp-lement.	4150	57,500
11. Kivala . . . 18	8766	Do.	2915	..	Do.	1421	13,002
12. Matala . . . 10	7436	Do.	3900	..	Elc. Meteretc.	140	11,476
13. Dhanara Mq. . . 1	215	Do.	155	..	..	..	370
14. Panoor . . . 2	1800	Do.	1000	..	..	..	2,800
15. Shewadi . . . 23	25083	Do.	14479	..	Currency Orna-ments & Agri. Imp.	5335	44,897
16. Sonkhed . . . 21	17750	Do.	6828	1	Kirana shop	11905	36,773
17. Porgaon Kowala . . . 9	7985	Do.	3135	1	Do.	600	11,970
.. 148	1,37,219	H-19 R-10	1450	..	..	1320	31,340
			67,044	2	..	..	2,38,573

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18.	Kandhar	..	..	..	..	..	..	Cloth etc.	490	..	..	..	Currency	900	1390
19.	Laharala	..	..	..	..	9'00	1350	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1350
20.	Mangrul	..	..	..	..	13'09	3010	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3010
21.	Barli	..	..	..	..	2'00	400	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	400
22.	Pui	..	..	..	..	2'00	4000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4000
23.	Malakali	..	..	..	..	12'00	2500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2500
24.	Jashisangvi	..	..	..	..	..	..	Cloths & grain	4574	..	..	..	Agri.Im.p.	490	5064
25.	Hipparga Sha.	..	..	..	..	0'20	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
26.	Risangaon	..	..	..	..	29'00	4525	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4525
27.	Hipparga Chit	..	..	..	..	5'00	235	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	235
28.	Laha	..	..	..	..	81'00	9749	..	..	..	..	..	Cattleshed	1650	11399
29.	Marar Sangvi	..	..	..	..	39'00	5750	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5750
30.	Shakapur	..	..	..	..	41'30	4400	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4400
31.	Golagaon P.N.	..	..	..	..	9'20	950	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	950

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	8.	Kushmer	..	51	7740	0.60	720	Do.	30070	..	..	..	Agril.equi- pments	600	391
	9.	Sawali;	..	10	10195	..	..	Do.	14295	..	..	..	..	..	24490
	10.	Pach- pimpri	..	6	1792	3.50	2200	Do.	21840	..	..	..	..	..	25832
	11.	Aurala	..	29	35400	3.22	1800	Do.	28650	..	..	..	..	..	65250
	12.	Koklegaon.	..	3	2850	..	..	Do.	9250	..	..	..	..	..	12100
	13.	Izatgaon	..	24	3860	2.00	2000	Do.	22600	..	..	..	..	..	28460
	14.	Mangarga.	..	12	2100	..	..	..	22725	..	..	..	..	..	24825
	15.	Namji	..	2	800	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	800
	16.	Bosla	..	..	..	..	..	Household articles.	24918	..	..	..	..	..	24918
	17.	Pangri	..	..	..	..	..	Do.	27904	..	..	..	..	..	27904
	18.	Rampur Majara.	..	..	..	3.20	1350	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1350
	19.	Godam- gaon.	..	..	..	1.60	421	..	850	..	..	..	..	..	1271
	20.	Dongaon Kd.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	Kirana- shop	..	9034	..	3034
	21.	Naigaon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	Tailor- shop article shop	..	205	..	205
	22.	Samrala	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1000	..	1000
TOTAL: 1 233 171049 36.44 15691 .. 323389 16 6239 .. 6239 1900 5,17,668															

3. Nanded .										
1. Sugaon .	1	53	118221	..	..	Personal belonging	95441	..	..	213662
2. Balirampue ..	84	85763	..	..	..	Cloths Utensils foodgrains etc.	55223	..	looted	23740 164726
3. Wahagaon ..	7	46365	..	..	..	Do.	33925	..	..	80290
4. Pimpal- gaon (n.).	..	1	4590	..	..	Do.	3435	..	..	8385
5. Pokharni .	..	1	7090	..	..	Do.	4880	..	Arpil. impl.	11970
6. Shemboli ..	1	561	..	..	..	Do.	486	..	Do.	75 1122
7. Archapur. .	1	320	..	..	..	Do.	150	..	..	470
8 Andura .	..	5	3000	..	..	Do.	150	..	..	3150
9. Vishnu- puri. .	..	10	4500	..	..	Do.	6799	..	..	11299
10. Karbala .	..	10	4250	..	..	Do.	..	..	..	4250
11. Khupsar- wadi. .	..	..	..	..	..	Do.	200	..	..	200
12. Pimpal- gaon Mahadeo.	..	..	..	..	..	Do.	..	1	Sewing machine	240 240
13. Pi,pal gaon Rohi. .	..	..	..	..	..	Do.	..	591	..	591

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
14. Barad									Do.}	575			April.	409	984	
15. Sidhnath-puri.}								Do.}	2640						2640	
16. Ihonora								Do.	102						102	
17. Jawla Murar								Do.}	2500						2500	
4 Degloor				46	1,25,060				Cloths, Kitchen etc.	1,29,586		12	One studio & carpentry furniture.}	1,46,145	Currency 31,500	2,32,291
2. Rampur				14	24,845	1,80	1705	Do.		12,772	7	7	Carpentering & animal	1,230	41,662	
3. Wasargal.				6	7,989			Do.		3,962	3	3	Sanai & Hall.	550	12,501	
4. Tamloor				3	5,814			Do.}		155	4	4	Hotel Tirana.	745	11,270	
5. Takali Zari.				3	1,841			Do.		895				Currency	370	3,046
6. Kedar kunta.							2,76	1000								1,000
				72	1,65,549	3,96	2,705			47,310	26		22361		39,845	2,71,777
5. Bhojar 1. Chinchja P.U.	2								Cloths wooden	Kitchen	165					1427
Additional 2. Umari												1	1	Panahop	15	
TOTAL:	1	175	276282							207262	2		255		24224	508023

APPENDIX V
(Vide Para 212A of the Report)
Statement of Estimated Damages to property and Loss of Life/Injuries in Marathwada Disturbances.

District	Damage to Property				Killed		Injured			
	Public/ Semi Govt.	Private		Dalits	Private Scheduled Cast.	Others	Police/ Public Servant	Private		Police/ Public Servant.
		Non- Dalit	Dalits					Scheduled Castes	Others	
Aurangabad.	18,89,718	1,06,961	1,06,961	1,06,961	..	..	..	18	5	..
Parbhani..	6,51,742	1,000	3,11,928	..	Police firing at Purna	2	..	31	15	44
Nanded.	14,44,329	..	20,31,651	..	Sugaon (1) Tambhurni(1)	2	..	55	6	91
Osmanabad.	5,76,232	23,210	2,81,335	2	(Police firing (P.S.I. at Ahmedpur (1) Jalgot). Kallam(1)* *In stone throwing.	1	..	54	30	63
Beed.	3,03,044	12,750	37,515	..	..	..	..	15	..	..
TOTAL :	48,59,065	49,455	27,69,990							

*Subject to check and verification.

APPENDIX VI

(Vide Para 212 A of the Report)

Statement showing information on damage to Scheduled Castes' huts/houses in Marathwada region.

District	Total No. of Towns/villages	Total No. of Villages affected during disturbances	No. of villages in which incidents affecting Harijans took place	No. of houses/huts destroyed/jamanged.	Damage caused to pro-		Total Loss to Dalit property.*
					Dalits	Immovable Movable*	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Aurangabad	.	.	14	14	32,885	14,076	1,06,961
Parbhani	.	.	42	42	29,765	2,82,163	3,11,928
Nanded	.	.	87	87	10,64,998	9,66,653	20,31,651
Osmanabad	.	.	16	16	45,018	2,36,317	2,81,335
Beed	.	.	10	10	31,655	5,860	37,515
TOTAL	.	.	169	169	12,04,321	15,65,069	27,69,390

*Subject to check and verification.

APPENDIX VII
(Vide Para 212A of the Report)

Incidents on Railways Districts during the agitation in Marathwada in which damage was caused to property.

Ac. No.	District and place	Date	Incident	Estimated damage in Rs.
1	Sailu, Parbhani	28-7-78	Mob set fire to a bogie of Manmad-Kachiguda, Passenger.	5,00,000
2	Umri, Nanded	28-7-78	Felting stones on train.	200
3	Chudwa, Parbhani	28-7-78	Mob set fire to a bogie of Manmad-Kachiguda Passenger.	55,000
4	Khoki, Osmanabad	29-7-78	Pelting stones on a train	5
5	Palsap, Osmanabad	29-7-78	Removal of fish plates and creating obstacles on the track.	25
6	Bhokar, Nanded	29-7-78	Bogies were set on fire.	1,10,000
7	Rotegaon, Aurangabad	30-7-78	Damage to Railway gate and telephone wires	350
8	Dharmabad, Nanded	31-7-78	Damage to Station building	1,000
9	Mukhed, Nanded	1-8-78	Set fire to Railway Station Building	15,000
10	Satana, Parbhani	1-8-78	Damage to cabin glass, tube-lights, etc.	700
11	Parsoda, Aurangabad	2-8-78	Set fire to Railway Station Building	20,000
12	Her, Osmanabad	2-8-78	Damage to Railway Station Building	657
13	Georai, Aurangabad	2-8-78	Set fire to Railway Station Building	50,000
14	Satana Parbhani	3-8-78	Set fire to Railway Station Building	19,000
15	Naudapur, Parbhani	3-8-78	Set Fire to Railway Station Building	30,000
TOTAL				8,01,937

APPENDIX VIII

(Vide Para 223A of the Report)

Statement showing precautionary steps taken by the Police to avoid incidents.

Sr. No.	District	Nature of order	Duration of prohibitory order	Places/Locations at which enforced.
1	2	3	4	5
1	Aurangabad	Order under section 37(1) of Bombay Police Act banning carrying of arms, cudgels, etc.	27-7-78 to 26-8-78	Whole District.
		Order under section 144 Cr. P.C. banning assembly of 5 or more persons.	27-7-78 to 11-6-78	Aurangabad Municipal and Contonment limits.
		Do.	Do.	Pathan, Kannad, Gangapur, Jalna, Vajapur and Lasur.
		Order under section 33 (c) of B.P. Act to regulate Assemblies processions.	24-7-78 to 7-8-78 and 14-8-78 to 20-8-78	Whole District.
		Order under section 37(1) of B.P. Act banning carrying of arms, cudgels etc.	7-8-78 to 20-8-78	Do.
		Order under section 144 Cr. P.C. banning assembly of five or more persons.	1-8-78 to 7-8-78	Parbhani town.
		Do.	28-7-78 to 17-8-78	Manwat
		Do.	25-7-78 to 2-8-78	Sailu
		Do.	29-7-78 to 2-8-78	Pathri

	Do.	28-7-78 to 31-7-78 and 4-8-78 to 7-8-78	Gangakhed
	Do.	1-8-78 to 3-8-78	Bamat
	Do.	31-7-78 to 14-8-78	Hingoli
	Do.	3-8-78 to 6-8-78	Purna
Nanded	Under section 37(1) Bombay Police Act.	27-7-78 to 9-8-78	In whole of Nanded District.
	Under Section 37 (3) Bombay Police Act.	27-7-78 to 5-8-78	Deolloor, Billoli, Ardhapur, Pharnabad, Kandhar, Kinwat and Hadgaon.
4 Osmanabad	U/s. 37(3) B.P. Act,	27-7-78 to 5-8-78	
	U/s. 144 Cr P.C. (Gurfew)	30-7-78 to 4-8-78	Osmanabad City.
	U/s. 144 Cr. P.C.	29-7-78 to 31-7-78	Lature.
	U/s. 144 Cr. P.C.¶	29-7-78 to 30-7-78	Osmanabad.
5 Bhilr	U/s. 37(3) B.P. Act. Sec. 144 Cr. CP..	Promulgated upto 07-00 hrs. of 30-7-78.	In Bede Twon (Municipal Limit).
	U/s. 144 Cr. P.C.¶	30-7-78 to 7-8-78	Beed Town Do.¶

(Subject to check and verification)

APPENDIX IX

(Vide Para 223 A of the Report)

Statement showing firing/tear-gas/lathi-charge by Police DURING Marathwada disturbances

Sr. No.	District	Date	Place	No. of cane charge	No. of time Tear gas shells used.	No. of times opened fire.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Aurangabad	27-7-78	Aurangabad City	5	One (2 Shells)	..
		28-7-78	Aurangabad City	7	..	..
		28-7-78	Bidlin	1	..	..
		29-7-78	Paithan	2	..	..
		29-7-78	Jalna	1	..	..
		30-7-78	Paithan	2	1 (one shell)	..
		1-8-78	Gadli jalgaon	..	1 (12 rounds of 303)	..
		2-8-78	Aurangabad City	3	..	..
		2-8-78	Badnapur	1	..	..
			Paithan	1	..	..
			Aurangabad City	1	..	..
2	Nanded	28-7-78	Mukhed	1	1 (1 round of 303 rifle)	..
		29-7-78	Loha	1	1 (10 round of .410 musket and 12 rounds of .455 revolver).	..

31-7-78	Kinwat	1	..	..
	Mukhed	3	3 (3 rounds of .410 musket)	
2-8-78	Degloor	1	1 (1 round of 303 rifle 3 rounds of .410 and 3 rounds of .455 revolver)	
	Sonkhed	..	..	1 (2 rounds of .410 musket)
	J. Tuppa	1	1 (3 shells)	1 (1 round of .410 musket)
3-8-78	degloor	1	1 (5 shells)	1 (6 rounds of .410 musket)
2-8-78	Landed	..	..	..
4-8-78	Nanded	..	1 (23 shells)	..
	Degloor	1	1 (1 shell)	..
5-8-78	Umiri	1	1 (8 shells)	1 (1 round of .410 musket).
28-7-78	Kallam	..	..	1 (7 rounds of .410 musket).
31-7-78	Jatur	1	1 (One round)	..
	Ahmedpur	..	..	6 times (19 rounds)
1-8-78	Dadgir	1	1 (6 shells)	..
	Jalkot	..	..	2 times (9 rounds)
3-8-78	Dhoom	..	..	1 (39 rounds)
4-3-78	Kallam	1	1 (20 shells) 8 Granade	3 time (4 rounds)
29-7-78	Beed	1	..	..
	Purli	1	1	..
3 Beed				

3 Osmanabad

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	Parbhani	28-7-78	Parbhani	1	..	..
		29-7-78	Gangakhed	2	2 (12 shells)	
		30-7-78	Manwath	1	1 (4 shells)	..
		1-8-78	Basmati	1	..	..
		2-8-78	Hivgoli	1	..	..
		3-3-78	Purna	..	..	1 (three rounds)
		Do.	Jawla Bazar	..	..	1 (One round).