

engage the labourers from neighbouring villages. The Bheels of the area did not allow the outsiders to work and chased them away on 9.8.1991. This led to resentment amongst the Patidars against the local Bheels.

On 9.8.1991 at 6.00 p.m. some Bheel boys made some derogatory remarks on four women of Patidars families who were returning from their fields. Infuriated by this, the Patidars reached the Bheel locality and opened fire. They also damaged the houses of the Bheels. In retaliation, the Bheels pelted stones. On hearing gun shots, the Police guard on duty rushed to the locality and tried to disperse them. In this incident, two Bheel Adivasis lost their lives and 15 other Bheels were injured.

The incident was reported by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Mandaleshwar to the District Magistrate Khargone on telephone at 8.00 p.m. On receipt of the information, the Superintendent of Police, Khargone reached the spot immediately. Prior to this, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Mandaleshwar and the SHO, Mandaleshwar had already reached the village. On arrival, the Superintendent of Police took control of the situation and 15 accused persons involved in the incident were arrested during the night and a case No.219/91 was registered. The injured were taken to the Mandaleshwar hospital for treatment. Police reinforcement was sent to the village alongwith SLO (Police), Barwah who is also in additional charge of Mandaleshwar Sub-Division, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Harijan Welfare Cell, Khargone and Deputy Superintendent of Police, Headquarters, Khargone.

The day after the incident, the District Magistrate, Khargone, the Indore range DIG, the Superintendent of Police, Khargone and the Sub-Divisional Officer visited the place of incident. They took a meeting of the villagers at the Panchayat Bhawan and appealed to them to maintain peace.

A sum of Rs. 10,000 each has been disbursed to the families of the two Bheels who were killed in the incident. Similarly, Rs.

500 each has been paid to the 15 injured persons in the incident. Financial assistance for reconstruction of huts have been given to the Bheels whose huts were damaged.

13.38 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to check spread of epidemics in Koraput district in Orissa and to restore compensatory allowance to medical officers working there**

[English]

SHRIK. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): Sir, gastroenteritis and cholera broke out in Koraput district after monsoon resulting in large scale deaths. The death toll continues unabated because there are a large number of vacancies in the rank of Medical Officers and Specialists of Medicine in the district. Therefore, the epidemic could not be brought under control till today. The Medical Officers along with many other officers left the district because the compensatory allowance, paid to the officers there, has been withdrawn since about two years. This allowance was paid to the officers in tribal areas in addition to the salary of the officers to encourage them to work in that area under difficult circumstances. Medical team from National Institute of Communicable Diseases visited the area and brought the sample for examination.

13.39 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I request the Health Minister to send the report early to the State Government to check the disease early.

I also draw the attention of the Minister as a long-term policy to restore the compensatory allowance early to encourage the Medical Officers to join and work there.