

**RE: ATROCITIES PERPETRATED BY
POLICE AT BAHADURGARH ON THE
VILLAGERS OF BRAHI (HARYANA)**

12.00 hrs.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: One after the other.
First, Khuranaji.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Brahi incident is a stigma on the very face of our so called society. Sir, I have read the story of the incident of Brahi village in Bahadurgarh Tehsil, in the newspapers and heard about the last week in the House. The incident appeared to be tragic and horrible. But when I alongwith Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Member of Rajya Sabha visited that village personally and heard in detail from the ladies whose tears had not dried up till then. We also saw how the child of 10 days old was snatched from her mother and how she was pulled from her hair and taken to Police Station. We also saw Kiran of one and a half years old who was also taken to police station. We also met seven years old Ajaya who also taken to police station and beaten there. Kaliram of 42 years, narrated his story as to how he was stripped and beaten with rubber shoes before his Babli and daughters-in-law Bala and Murati. When both the daughters-in-law tried to cover their faces with their hands on seeing their elderly men being stripped, they were beaten up. When the injured elderly man was forced to take round in the Police station, he fell down. When the 84 years old elderly man was narrating his horrible story. We sister Geeta, Malini Bhattacharya and Sushma Swaraj along with the gathering could not stop our tears. In the past, we have heard and seen many incidents of cruelty committed by Police. The atrocity perpetrated on blinds in Bhagalpur is considered to be the most tragic incident but Brahi incident is more

tragic than Bhagalpur incident as it has crossed all the limits of inhumanity and cruelty. Earlier also the incidents of excesses by Police have taken place. But in this incident, the innocent people of the village were humiliated and beaten up. The most tragic aspect of the incident is that the atrocities were perpetrated by the Police who have been entrusted by the Government. With the responsibility of taking action against perpetrators of atrocities. People go to police for seeking justice and they consider them as their protector. But the police-men themselves perpetrated atrocities on the villagers of Bhahi in Bahadurgarh Tehsil. One can not narrate the story of atrocities committed by Police in the Police Station. I am saying all these things only after putting aside shame and hesitation. We were ashamed to listen to the story of sufferings experienced by those mothers and sisters themselves. The whole village is in distress now. One can see even now shoes' mark on children, elderly men and women. I am not going in detail as there is a shortage of time. Other Members will describe the incident in detail. I demand that an all party committee may be constituted to conduct an on-the-spot enquiry. The police-men may be arrested after lodging criminal cases against them. Fake cases against innocent villagers may be withdrawn. The property of villagers looted by police may be restored to them with due compensation.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya and myself had been there for three hours. We went from house to house and talked with both men and women. Both of us have drafted a report which would be presented to you. It has already been prepared.

I would like to point out—some will be pointed out by Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya—that in this case we were convinced that even during the British days such a thing had never happened. Now I would not like to go into the details but would like to tell you that all the laws were violated. Women were taken to the police station. Some of them

were kept there for two nights. I must also tell you that both men and women were brutally beaten outside and inside the police station. And some of the men were stripped. In the village itself, even the cows were not spared. They are afraid to go out. They have their own demands.

A judicial inquiry was announced last Saturday. But there will be as general strike in the area. They are planning to block the highway on 12th of this month. Therefore, something should come out before that. This is very important. The people of that area are really very upset irrespective of their party affiliations.

I am sorry to say here that when the incident took place inside the police station, the Congress MLA of that area was also present. Something should be declared by Shri Bhajan Lal about the SSP. The SSP must be suspended immediately.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): He should be arrested.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): Sir, the reason why we are wanting to raise this issue in the Zero Hour is this. On the 6th of this month, a statement was made on the floor of the House by the MP of Bahadurgarh. During our visit to Barahi, we found that the reports from the affected people did not tally with the report which had been given by the MP on the floor of the House. This is a very serious matter. We have found that far from measures being taken by the police, the FIR, which was written by the villagers, had not so far been accepted by the police. The guilty party has not been arrested because in the FIR criminal cases are there. In spite of that they have not been arrested.

Not only that, the property, which has been looted, has not so far been restored. A judicial inquiry under these circumstances will be nothing but an eyewash. If the culprits are out, if they are not arrested, then what is

the guarantee that the people are not going to be terrorised. We criticise the statement that had been made by the MP in the House. It is a very grave thing that an MP, who should know about his constituency, should make such a statement in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: What part of his statement was not correct?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roseria): He was taking the side of police. *(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: They have mixed kerosene in wheat meant for the consumption of the families. If the situation is not defused, then you know it may turn into much more serious. As you have heard, they are planning a 'raasta roko' movement and they are very angry. So far, we have found them to be very disciplined and self-controlled. We should pay respect to these villagers that they have stood up against the police excesses. Their heroic resistance should be responded to by the House. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI TARA SINGH (Kurushetra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter was raised earlier also. The Member of Parliament of that constituency had said in two words that the action was taken on the same day. I am saying with confidence when the Chief Minister came to know about the incident, he transferred the whole staff of the Police Station. He transferred the D.S.P. and suspended the S.H.O. That is why... *(Interruptions)*.

The whole staff of the Police station was transferred. People are sitting on roads, it is a political game just to defame and destabilise the State Government. It is an excess on

the Chief Minister of a State. I want to ask those who have taken these people there, what was more needed to be done when an action had already been taken against the while police station?... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI JANGBIR SINGH (BHIWANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to go into this affair as well as into politics. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Home Minister that today the whole Rohtak district has been converted into a police Cantonment. The people of 360 villages of the whole area have organised a 'Panchayat' to seek justice. The Panchayat has asked one thing as to why no action has been taken against that police official who committed excesses on people, humiliated women and forced them to see their menfolk stripped and looted and damaged their property.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if this House does not take it seriously, more incidents are likely to be occurred and it would be difficult to handle the law and order situation. The Chief Minister of Haryana says that there no stripping has taken place then why all these things were going on to conceal the facts. But the fact is that inhuman atrocities have been perpetrated on the people. If anybody visits there, our hon. Members have made an on-the-spot enquiry and they could not help themselves from stopping their tears rolling down from their eyes. There is no other example of inhuman atrocity on the people in India and in the history of world. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request that an immediate action should be taken against guilty police officials. They should be arrested. They should be prosecuted. The people of that area can't be satisfied unless these actions are taken.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI. PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am sure that every Member in this House would denounce any atrocity on any peace-loving

citizen, whether it be by police or anybody else this incident is reprehensible. The entire House expresses its unanimous opinion in condemning this incident. But Sir, I do take exception to the fact that a political issue is sought to be made out of it... (*Interruptions*)... When one hon. Member representing a constituency makes a statement here, I am sorry that another hon. Member should stand up to say that the former hon. Member's statement is malafide. If the hon. Member/speaking from the other side has some objection to the statement made by the hon. Member from that particular/constituency, then that very portion should have been referred to here. Sir, we do not want certain people to make political capital out of it. If there was an incident like this, then it has to be condemned and action has got to be taken. But the forum of Parliament is not to be rocked for any incident which takes place outside, to take political advantage out of it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with Shri Bansalji's statement, that nobody is making it a political issue. The people belonging to ruling party are also saying that they feel sorry; and an action must be taken on this inhuman and evil act. There is a difference of opinion as the Chief Minister says that stripping has not taken place.

MR. SPEAKER: Sometimes it happens, so, it is not clear whether you have said it or not...

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Even photographs have been published in Newspapers showing the women covering their eyes with their hands because their husbands and other persons were being naked before them. Sir, we are raising this matter here because the place where this incident has taken place is very near to Delhi. This matter was raised a week ago in the House. If immediate action is not taken in this matter it would have far reaching consequences. People of that area are frightened and they

have held a Panchayat and demanded immediate action. They are demanding action against the police officials who have committed such inhuman and shameful act. Transfer is not enough as you have said; that concerned police officials have been transferred. Sir, I request you to direct the Home Minister that he should himself inquire into this matter. If some of the Members of the House have visited the site and have given statements regarding the incident, on that basis the police officials involved in this case should be arrested immediately and case should be instituted against them. This is the minimum demand of the House and the Government should take action accordingly.

[English]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI(Gandhinagar): Sir, I am inclined to agree with Bansalji that the forum of this House should not be utilised to raise any incidents of police excess. But he should appreciate that this is not 'any' incident...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

It is not an ordinary incident. Perhaps such cruelty cannot be seen in the history of police excesses.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: you missed what I said. I am being misquoted.

MR. SPEAKER: He has not quoted you at all.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I am not quoting you. That was the substance of what you said. We are not utilising the forum of this House.

[Translation]

I remember when an incident took place at Meham which led to political upheavals in the state, so if no action has been taken in this case also, the most of the Members of

this House may demand dismissal of the State Government and imposition of President rule. I do not want that such situation may arise and that is why it is correct if the House expresses its serious concern over the incident and demand immediate action. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think, you would have not allowed to raise it in the House had it been an ordinary incident. But all the hon. Members who have visited the site and have given the details of excesses which I think is horrible and it is astonishing whether we are living in India of 1991 and such inhuman and shameful acts on the part of police will continue in our country. Therefore, it would be appropriate that the Central Government should intervene in this matter and put pressure on the Government of Haryana to take action against the guilty police officials. Mere transfer and particularly in this case is not an action. Therefore, they should be suspended and put behind the bars. This should be done by the Central Government and by doing so the Government would respect the will of the House.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir whenever there is any case of police excesses on women and backward classes, almost all the Members of the House condemn such incidents inspite of the fact that different political parties are in power in different states. It has been the Congress culture that their Members of Parliament always try to defend such atrocities.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Rajgarh): We have not defended this incident. In fact, we have condemned it. But we condemn the points raised by them because they are trying to politicise the issue. In your wisdom, even you have said that you are going to allow a discussion on atrocities on women. When we take up that discussion, this issue also can be discussed at that time. Why should we waste the time of the House now? This issue can be discussed later. There have been a lot of atrocities on women in Uttar

Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, also.

The police officers have already been suspended. A judicial inquiry has been ordered. Now, the matter is sub-judice. How can it be discussed?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that Shri. Bansal....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: We are not supporting this. They must realise that we are not defending anyone. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say to Shri Bansal that there is nothing in withdrawing it. It is evident and whatever you are doing reflects that Shri Bansal is my good friend. Through you, I would like to say one thing to Shri Bansal, as he has said about political parties, that we also belong to a political party and we are not a group of Sadhus. It is the duty of the political parties to raise their voice in the Parliament regarding the incidents of atrocities and excesses because Parliament is the mirror of the country and whenever there is any incident of excesses that must be reflected in the Parliament. Therefore, it is not bad if somebody wants to take political mileage out of the mistakes committed by the Congress or by any State Government but such instructions should be issued from here so that nobody could do wrong.

Sir, through you, I would like to make two demands. The representatives of all political parties have already visited the site and they have expressed uniform views. Therefore, if the Government have any doubt about it, a Parliamentary team consisting of all political parties should be sent to visit the site. The site of incident is very near to Delhi.

Therefore, firstly a Parliamentary team should be sent and secondly all the police officials involved in it should be arrested and sent to jail. This is the only way to deal with such officials.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bhopur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, only last Friday, if I am not mistaken, this issue had come up and all sections of the House had expressed their serious concern that such incidents are happening. It seems that the police in different parts of the country think that they are above the law. Those who are there to protect the law and the citizens of this country are taking law into their hands and are indulging in most abominable crime against the people of this country, especially, women and the oppressed people, the adivasies, harijans, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled tribe people. That is why we said that we should react as a nation as a whole.

I know that the State police is involved and law and order is a State subject. But it is really an assault on our national honour. Assault on our women is an assault on our national honour. Therefore, we should react in that form and we want that some deterrent action should be taken.

It is a matter of concern that when a judicial inquiry commission has been appointed, the Chief Minister of the State is supposed to have said that there was no such incident. It is bound to affect the inquiry. What will be the reaction of the people if he makes the comment like that, regarding the main issue to be decided by the Commission of Inquiry? He should not have said that.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Has he said this?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): He is reported to have said that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I said

he is supposed to have said that. Let him deny it.

Sir, when we are discussing this, I find another report has come in yesterday's newspaper. "A 20 year old adivasi woman, Munnibai was gang raped by four policemen within the precinct of police station". Every day how do we get the information.

MR. SPEAKER: We do not read and quote newspaper.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am not reading it, I am summarising it. This adivasi woman has been gang-raped by policemen inside the district police station of Amravati.

Last Friday, an hon. lady Member had referred to such an absolutely condemnable incident in Midnapur. We did not object to that. It must be raised. But the difference is that in West Bengal that policeman was forthwith arrested. A case has been started against him and others are arrested. I am not referring to the fact that one of the arrested accused person belongs to Shri Digvijaya Singh group. Therefore, this is a matter which should be taken as a national issue and I request the Government of India to react properly. The Minister for Welfare is sitting here and nodding his head, let us see how the Government reacts responds to it... (Interruptions)....

[Translation]

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI (Hissar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do agree that stern action should be taken as per law against those who commit any type of atrocities on others not to talk of atrocities on women who are worthy of respect and even worship. But, Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Members of the House that a lot of improvement has taken place since the Congress Government came to power in Haryana. But earlier, during the last 3 or 4 years, the services of police were misused by the then State Government due to which considerable moral degradation

took place in police circles and it would be very difficult to bring about a quick reformation in them. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members may recall the Riwasa incident. The leader who is trying to give political colour to it did not take any action against such a heinous crime while himself being the Chief Minister of the State and the Members may also recall the Meham incident when the then State Government did not let the judicial inquiry conducted. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the first incident on which immediate action has been taken and orders issued and police officials transferred. If the accused are found guilty after the judicial inquiry, action would be taken against them, even the case would be registered. But it would be wrong to say that judicial inquiry would be affected by it. It is also absolutely wrong that the Chief Minister has made such remark as would affect the judicial inquiry.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should take measures to ensure that no excesses are perpetrated not only in Haryana but throughout the country. Judicial inquiry into the incident was ordered immediately after this incident so that such incidents do not recur in the State in future. All the concerned police officials have either been suspended or transferred. Therefore, I would like to inform the hon. Members that the Chairman of the Sanghassh Samiti resigned from his post so that the inquiry may not be affected by it and the incident may not be given political colour. My submission, to the hon. Members is that politics should not be brought into the matter and what is appropriate according to law, let it take its own course. It is not good to exaggerate and give a political colour to such incidents.....(Interruptions).....

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): A Delegation of the Congress Leaders should go there, meet the men and women and then, you should come and made a statement.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incident that

happened in Brahi, we all strongly condemn it. Nobody from the Treasury Benches or any Member of this Party holds any brief for Police. If Police commits atrocities, the Government would certainly take action. But the question is, who says the atrocities have not been committed. This is not denied so far. *(Interruptions)* please do not try to shut our mouth. When you were talking, we were silent. We have a right to speak. You want to shout now simply because we are on the Treasury Benches.

Kindly listen to us. You had your say. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: You address the Chair.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Whatever has happened, the whole House is unanimous on this issue. But the fact remains that immediately after it came to the notice of the State Government, the Chief Minister took prompt action. *(Interruptions)* He has transferred the entire staff; he has also transferred the DSP. He has ordered a judicial inquiry. Now, after the judicial inquiry, if these officers are found guilty, certainly they will be hauled up; nobody will come to their defence. If no action is taken, then the very purpose of the judicial inquiry is marred. *(Interruptions)* We do not hold any brief for the police.

During the Janata regime in Haryana, the atrocities that were perpetrated, the excesses that were committed by the police, they will be held responsible; we are not going to defend them. Now, after this judicial inquiry, action will be taken against those who will be found guilty. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY *(Jagatsinghpur)*: What has happened is barbaric. The question is that the other side does not agree with such incidents having taken place. What is the difference? The difference today is that the action taken is not sufficient enough compared with the crime that has been committed. Therefore, there is a feeling that they are trying to dilute it

because the action is not commensurate with the crime that has been committed the action is much below the crime that has been committed. So, I think my Congress friends will also agree with me. If they feel that it is a national issue and it reflects the honour of our women, in that case they should be one with us and see that such action should be taken as will never create such a situation again.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All this has been mentioned. There is no need to repeat it.

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: That is the difference. The action should be such as will give a lesson that if anybody commits such a mistake again somewhere he will be punished. Our friends there are - only by opposing this - giving the wrong message. That is our objection. Now, the whole House has expressed its concern. Our point is this is something which is beyond comprehension. Therefore, such action should be taken as will give a message to the country that further atrocities on women and poor sections will not be tolerated. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIDIGVIJAYASINGH *(Rajgarh)*: We strongly condemn this incident. There is no doubt about it. I do not know what the hon. Member, Shri Somnath Chatterjee has said. I think he was saying about Digvijaya Singh's group. I have no Digvijaya Singh's group as such as in West Bengal.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE *(Bolpur)*: I stand corrected. I meant the party.

SHRIDIGVIJAYASINGH: He says, this incident has to be condemned by everyone. There is no doubt about it. This kind of incident has been happening. That is why the hon. Members have raised this issue. And you have very kindly decided to give us some time for a discussion on atrocities on

women. Atrocities were committed in Uttar Pradesh in Sitya Village in Lalitpur where Harijan women were not allowed to offer prayer at Shankar Temple. When they raised an objection, they were beaten up and no action was taken against those persons. There are a number of issues of this nature; there are a large number of places where this thing has been happening. In Haryana also we have seen atrocities on women. In Rewarsa a real brother and his sister were made to sleep naked under one blanket. Such issues are definitely taking place. The atrocities of police are taking place everywhere. It is time that we should correct the mentality of the police in Haryana. That is why I totally agree that there should be a discussion in this House on the atrocities on women; and the earlier you take it up the better it is.

RE: ULFA TERRORISTS' ACTIVITIES IN ASSAM

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation in Assam continues to deteriorate. More than two and a half months have passed since the ULFA terrorists have kidnapped several officials and held them to ransom. Today, they have killed Shri. T.S. Raju, an engineer in ONGC and also threatened to kill the rest within 48 hours. Today, the ONGC engineers are on strike. Shrimati Sunita Mohanty the wife of Shri Mohanty has given to the hon. President of India but the Government of India is silent over it. I have raised this matter twice or thrice in the House during the last two months. A senior IAS official of the Government of Assam with 21 year's service to his credit, Shri S.K. Tiwari has also been kidnapped by ULFA terrorists, they have threatened to kill all of them within 48 hours. But the State Government is incapable of getting them released. The Central Government is silent over the matter. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is present in the House. The situation

is alarming. Therefore, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs should make a statement in the House immediately to the effect as to what measures were taken to get those senior administrative officials released and when they will be released. Besides, what action has been taken to provide security to them? Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like you to direct the hon. Minister of Home Affairs immediately to make a statement in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been attempting to catch your eyes to make a reference to the extremely disturbing conditions prevailing in the State of Assam. It is not necessary for me either to repeat what the hon. Member has just said or to recount the entire history of developments in that State or indeed to catalogue the long list of - I cannot describe it in any other fashion - wanton and uncontrolled criminality that is prevailing in that State. Some prominent landmarks, Mr. Speaker, Sir, need, however to be pointed out because just last week, the honourable Shri Advani, Atalji, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan and I took some time of the hon. Home Minister to point out the conditions prevailing in the State of Assam; and even then we referred to various aspects of kidnappings of people from other parts of the country, whether they be from Orissa, Bihar or Rajasthan. And this has now become a daily occurrence there.

Now, Sir, of course yesterday, as has been pointed out, killings had taken place. Earlier when soon after the elections, the Congress was voted into office in the State of Assam, immediately thereafter some 13 to 16 officials were kidnapped. And the response of the Congress Government after that kidnapping was to grant general amnesty to ULFA. When the general amnesty was granted, we questioned the Government, and indeed I recollect, we asked the honourable Prime Minister's is this the response of the Union Government or the Congress Party to the wholesale kidnappings of officials of the Government of India.