

12.29 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Certain Irregularities and Transitions in Banks and Other Financial Institutions

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): Mr. Speaker Sir,

The events that have unfolded in the last few months in the financial sector of the country have caused grave anxiety to me and the country at large. The ramifications of this matter have to be thoroughly probed and effective measures taken so that the basic integrity of the financial institutions of the country is not jeopardised and the new economic initiatives taken by the Government to strengthen and accelerate the economic growth are in no way inhibited. My Government has been taking concrete and effective steps at every stage in the last few months as required in the circumstances. The inquiry by the CBI and action by the Special Court will be pursued and whatever is required to be done as a consequence thereof, shall be done.

While this aspect is being fully attended to, I feel that there is need for a comprehensive inquiry through the instrument of Parliament which not only fully establishes Parliamentary supremacy but also provides an effective safeguard to protect the country's interests. We have had consultations with all political parties in Parliament and there is consensus on the desirability of setting up a Joint Parliamentary Committee in this regard. I am, therefore, requesting the hon'ble Speaker to proceed with the formation of a joint Parliamentary Committee and entrust it with the task I have mentioned which may be completed within a reasonable time.

I would like to assure this august House

that my desire and purpose remain, as they have been so far, to unravel the truth and ensure the smooth transformation to a vibrant economy in the larger interests of the nation.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barackpore): First of all, you dismiss the Finance Minister who is responsible. (*Interruptions*)

12.48 hrs.

RE: FIRING ON LABOURERS IN BHILAI

SHRI SAIFUDDING CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, I want to raise a matter regarding the incident that had happened in Chhatisgarh and not on this. What is the outcome of the discussion that had taken place so far on Bhilai?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bilpur): Sir, the Government must respond to this. This is a very serious matter. Sir, so many workers had been killed by firing. Let us know what the Government is doing in the matter.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Twenty-five people had been killed. Don't you think that will spoil our image?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): I am ready to make a statement.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Today?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: As soon as the information is made available to me, I will make the statement. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Let us have a discussion on Bhilai massacre.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr Speaker, Sir, it's really a matter of great sorrow that a wrong picture is painted and presented out of matters not linked with one another. There is absolutely no connection between the Bhilai massacre or agitation carried out by Chhattisgadh Mukti Morcha and the murder of Guha Niyogi. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has already.... (Interruptions).. Please have the patience to listen. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has already referred the case to C.B.I for inquiry.. (Interruptions).. There were nine demands of the Chhattisgadh Mukti Morcha which had been carrying out an agitation. They met the Labour Commissioner from time to time and held talks. I would like to be very brief.. (Interruptions) There was a meeting in Indore and after having negotiations with their leaders eight out of nine demands were accepted. An agreement was reached on eight demands concerning with the career of the labourers, their Provident Fund and loan. The remaining demand related to the retrenched labourers from various factories numbering 800 in one factory while 400 in other and somewhere they were 500. This demand was also being considered. When preparations were made for launching agitation on the 25th May. The hon. Minister of Industry Shri Kailash Joshi went to Raipur on 22nd May. He had a detail talks with their leaders and solution was found out. They were ready to suspend the agitation, sessions of talks were, however, still held, efforts were being made to find out some solution but a crowd of people started assembling there on the 29th June and all of a sudden thousands of people gathered around rail line there on the first July without giving any prior notice. Some of whom were labourers. There people were putting on

helmets and they sat on the entire rail line. As you know stone pieces are laid by the sides of rail line. 'Rail-Roko' agitation and 'dharna' started in the morning at quarter past nine which continued till evening with the result 10-12 trains each were stranded on both sides of the track (Interruptions).

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR (Durg): There was a firing there without any reason. (Interruptions).

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: First of all you please listen. On one side of the track the Sarnath Express was there and many trains including goods trains were stopped behind it. Thousands of travellers including women in the trains were facing great hardship. Women and children were also travelling and the children were restless for water and milk. It was scorching heat. Efforts were made twice or thrice to convince the agitating labourers. In the meantime, the labourers resorted to heavy stone throwing causing damage to the Sarnath Express and when the question of security of the travellers arose, the police officers present there including the collector tried to pacify the people. They had also to face heavy stone throwing. The labourers attacked some policemen with lathis. A police inspector, who went to pacify the people was coming back when he found that they were not being convinced fell down there when his leg struck something. When he fell down, the labourers gathered around him and beat him to death. It is truth.. (Interruptions) it is a reality. All kinds of elements joined the agitators and a terrific situation arose after the death of the police officer. The dharna continued for nearly 8 to 10 hours. Then trargas shells were burst but it also proved futile. They were warned and shown banner again and again. When it was found that travellers were harassed for 10 hours, a police inspector was killed, police personnels were being injured, heavy

*Not recorded.

stone throwing continued as stone-pieces were already there by the side of the rail line, and a situation of insecurity emerged all-around in such a manner that no measure was proving fruitful. Then the police first fired in the air and when even this proved ineffective, they had ultimately to fire but only 15 people have been killed out of those injured.

One thing is worth considering in the whole series of incidents and it has to be seen in this light that is there a clash for leadership in the Chhatisgadh Mukti Morcha. Here it is very essential to investigate that there are some people, one of them is* who have no source of income and such anti social elements are spreading such rumours.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The name will not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Chief Minister immediately rushed there and an impartial judicial enquiry was announced.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel very sorry at the disbelief we show today and say that the inquiry should be done by the judges of the Supreme Court and not by the judges of Madhya Pradesh; this means that we do not have faith even in the Court. But we have faith in the Court. The hon. Chief Minister immediately announced relief for the injured persons and a relief of Rs. 10 thousand each for the families of the deceased has also been announced. The hon. Chief Minister himself went to see each injured person and a judicial inquiry has been announced. In the end I would like to tell that whosoever he may be, a Chief Minister or any other person, a citizen of India who is brought up under Indian Culture would never like to indulge in such a massacre and would never like to kill

people. We are not the lineage of Taimur Lung or Babur that we would kill people. We have been brought up under Indian Culture.

I would like to say this much that steps have been taken there according to the need of the situation and the process of judicial enquiry has started. The sufferers have been provided with relief, so no effort should be made to spread any rumour.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incident that was occurred in Bhilai is very tragic. Just now our sister colleague Shrimati Sumitra was telling that the firing followed after convincing the people. Is it the entire of the Bhartiya Janata Party to shoot the people after convincing them? Who were killed? They were labourers, tribals, Harijans and the poor who were not able to present the memorandum of their rightful demands to the administration. This has become the culture of the Bhartiya Janata Party. Those poor people who do not know to press for their demands, have stood for their rights for the first time.. There are several women, Harijans and tribals who have received shots Fifty thousand rupees is being given to each of the victim. Is the value of an Indian citizen rupees fifty thousand only? It is a matter of great sorrow. Is it the culture? .. (Interruptions) This is really a great incident. It should not be belittled. Bhilai is an industrial area where big capitalists live (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, it could not be known as to where they disappeared. (Interruptions).. Nyogi was killed, the Madhya Pradesh Government has not been able to solve this mystery so far ..(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the new Culture dawned upon Madhya Pradesh. The Patwa Government in Madhya Pradesh in resorting to repressive measures. I have a friend in Bombay. In Bombay, the Whorl matka operates and today in Madhya Pradesh Patwa Matka operates in each and every village. A murder took place in Jhabna due to operation of the Worlil Matka. Who is re-

sponsible for this? I do not want to make any political speech. Advani ji and Atal ji are present here, they should realise as to what is happening in Madhya Pradesh, how many people are being killed I have this press cutting to show to those who are objecting to it. The Bhartiya Janata Party Government of Madhya Pradesh is responsible for the Bhilai incident. As has been demanded, this Government should be dismissed. This is what I want to say because it is a very serious incident. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (ROSE-ERA): Mr. Speaker, Sir...

MR. SPEAKER: You speak daily.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I had been to Bhilai. I would, therefore, like to submit... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You finish off in two minutes.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to put my submission on record. It is not proper that we keep on looking for the permission to speak by raising our hands to no avail but the leaders enjoy the privilege to speak on every issue.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is no way connected with any leader, but pertains to political party. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, are we not the elected representatives? (*Interruptions*)

SHRIRAM VILAS PASWAN: When they had been allowed to speak on this issue, therefore, why are we not being allowed to put forth our view-point. This issue does not just pertain to the Bhartiya Janata Party and

the Congress alone. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There are so many issues before you. You want to speak on every subject. If the speeches are long, then all the issues probably cannot be taken up. It would have been nice on your part not to have spoken today also if you had already put forth your views yesterday itself. I will give you time, since you are saying that you have visited the place. Issues pertaining to atrocities on the weaker sections are allowed to be raised in the House. Since this is concerning the workers that's why time is being given. You just make a brief speech.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main issue there is concerning the workers. The main issue there is (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: Will you speak on every issue? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I speak on behalf of the Janata Dal and I have got a right to do so.... (*Interruptions*) You are speaking on behalf of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Is there any political party which does not speak on every issue.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You first listen to me. If you keep on speaking like this everyday, then how can the proceedings be conducted smoothly.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: You allow leaders of various political parties to speak, but restrictions are being imposed in our case. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): On this important issue, Members have not been allowed to speak. This is very serious.

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing them.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incident of Bhillai. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We have heard her. Let her hear him. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, the root cause of the issue is the problem concerning the workers. In Bhillai workers for the last few years are struggling for the minimum wages. (Interruptions) even now workers there are being kept in bondage. Instead of Rs. 20-25, Rs. 10 are being paid as wages. Even after 20-25 years of the contract labour system being in vogue it is not being abolished, creating a host of the problems. Shankar Guha Neyogi who took up the cudgles on account of this problem, was killed. Even at the time we visited the area we alleged the complicity of big capitalists in his killing. However, for the first time today we are seeing the killing of a worker being given political colour and the hon. Members of Parliament are defending the culprit.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether it is proper to open fire on the workers staging a dharna. (Interruptions) This issue does not pertain to any particular

Government and defending the police firing is against all norms of humanity. I would like to know from the Government of India what action is being taken by them in this matter? The matter was handed to CBI (Interruptions) Why has the CBI report not been received yet? The Government is requested to act on the CBI report. If the workers voice is continued to be stifled like this in the House, how can the things go on? You are the custodian of the House. I speak on behalf of my party i.e. the Janata Dal and do not in anyway cut into the time allotted to any other political party. Therefore, Janata Dal condemns this ghastly killing incident and urges the Government of India to take some steps for the protection of rights of the workers.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, firing and killing incidents might take place anywhere. I think it is quite unfortunate and there can be no two opinions on this score. Firing on workers in Bhillai or on Harijans in Faridabad or on common people in Tin Bigha is naturally condemnable. However, the reasons for resorting to firing definitely needs to be looked into and also whether the police indulged into excessive use of force or unjustified use of force? I believe that whenever any judicial inquiry is instituted one of its terms of reference is just this. I think that killing of 15-16 or 25-36 persons as has been alleged by a few, though the official figure of killing in Bhillai is 16 which is by no means insignificant, is quite unfortunate and heart rending. It would have been proper to raise the issue of excessive use of force had a judicial inquiry not been instituted. Nobody has referred to the version of Shrimati Sumitra ji on the incident. Though the Government of Madhya Pradesh has been criticised, but nobody has referred to the pressure in writing by the railway authorities on the Madhya Pradesh Police to get the tracks cleared there, as the rail movement from both the sides has come to standstill. Instead of deploying the RPF,

probably for lack of adequate personnel the Madhya Pradesh Police was asked to clear the tracks. The Government of Madhya Pradesh was repeatedly asked by the Ministry of Railways and the Centre to get the tracks cleared and now the hon. Minister is saying that he will get the facts verified. The hon. Minister may be aware of the fact that both the Central Government and the Ministry of Railways asked the Government of Madhya Pradesh to get the tracks cleared. Version of the Government is that the Police officer deputed to get the tracks cleared was stoned to death during confabulations with the people assembled there. Now the complete facts about the version of the Government will come to light after the completion of judicial inquiry that whether the version of the Government was just an attempt to justify firing. I am simply not in a position to comment on it. However, when it is being reported that a Police Officer died in stone throwing because his brain came out and a lady Police Officer was nearly killed.

[English]

She was nearly killed in the stoning. These are facts which have been brought to light or which have been given to us. Whether they are correct or there is some exaggeration or whether it is a justification put forth by the police authorities can only be established by an independent inquiry. So, the State Government has done only the right thing possible in the situation, namely, to institute a judicial inquiry and try to find out whether any excessive use of force has been there.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the points were resolved in the discussion which was going on. The Government's sincere intention of doing justice to the workers is proved by the fact that except one demand, all the 9 out of 10 demands had been fulfilled.

[English]

Even in respect of worker' grievances, the Government's intentions are made very clear.

[Translation]

But no other reason could be found.

[English]

I was amazed and wonder-struck to hear that.

[Translation]

The matter relating to death of police personnel or seriously injuring a woman police officer was not discussed here. In the course of discussion, it was said that the activists of Bajrang Dal arrived there.

[English]

They were just provocateurs, because of which this happened. I wish this Parliament House were not made a forum for this kind of absolutely baseless and absolutely slanderous allegation against the Madhya Pradesh Government. The Madhya Pradesh Government has certainly to give an account as to why this kind of firing became necessary, and that they should be able to give only after a proper investigation is made into the affair.

(Translation)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today I came only for the reason that the Hon. Prime Minister was to make a statement, a notice to which effect had been displayed on the notice board. that

[English]

immediately after the Question Hour,

there will be a statement by the Prime Minister and what I find here is that Shri Chandulal Chandrakar from the ruling party stands up to describe Bhilai as an other Jalianwala Bagh. Is this the kind of statement which is expected from Member of Parliament here? What is the situation?

[*Translation*]

I have given three instances, Jatavs were killed in Haryana by the police. No judicial enquiry was ordered into it and nobody did discuss about it. People were killed in Tin Bigha, This thing should also be discussed. It will be discussed.... (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fail to understand why only the case of Madhya Pradesh Government should be discussed here. Is it because of the fact that the people of Madhya Pradesh expressed their confidence in the BJP Government of Madhya Pradesh. Similarly, attack is made on the Governments of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have to consider whether this forum is meant for this purpose? So far as the case of Bhilai is concerned, Shri George Fernandes had given a few suggestions to the State Government. Shri Shankar Niyogi had also come to meet me in the same context, after which I did whatever I could in my capacity and advised the Madhya Pradesh Government accordingly which worked in that direction.

Recently, Shri Kailash Joshi also made certain efforts, a reference to which has been made here. On the advice of Shri Patwa he tried to persuade them to reach an understanding. In the end there was excessive use of force. It has to be ascertained as to why it was done. Since I listen to all the versions, I know that there is some conflict in regard to Union leadership which could be the cause, but I don't know.... (*Interruptions*)... My only submission is that by ordering a judicial inquiry into the matter, the Govern-

ment of Madhya Pradesh has proved its credibility and good intentions. There can be no objection to it.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the pre-planned inhuman killings that took place last week on the day of Rath Yatra when the procession was being taken out, particularly in Ahmedabad in Gujarat. The whole country knows that the procession of Lord Jagannath is taken out in various parts of the country, particularly in traditional cities. In Ahmedabad, a city of Gujarat also the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath passes through a particular route for the last about 113 years. Lakhs of people join this procession. This procession starts at 7.30 in the morning and after passing through various main routes, it returns to the temple at 12.00 in the night.

12.56 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

For the last 10-15 years, some Congress leaders in connivance with anti-social and anti-national elements have been creating a vicious atmosphere in Ahmedabad. They do not want the Rath Yatra procession to pass through their area. Attacks were made on the Rath Yatra in 1947, 1985 and 1987. On 2nd July, the procession started at 7.30 A.M from the temple. The previous day it was announced by Doordarshan that the procession would pass peacefully and return at night. As soon as the procession was passing through Dariapur and Shahpur Extensions at about 4.45 in the afternoon, the anti-social elements attacked it. On that occasion thousands of policemen were present there, The DIG himself was present, because attempts were always made from this extension. The DIG, the IG and CP, all were present there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, big tourers