

while on the other hand oppressed are eager to lead a dignified life. This is the main problem before us, and if we keep this fact in view we will find that the incident that took place in Pratapgarh is more or less of some kind. Our CPI workers had self-respect, they struggled for the cause of public and I myself being a humble worker of socialist movement, know that how difficult it is to answer the questions of people. It has been rightly said:

"Na tadapne ki ijazat hai na faryad ki hai
Main ghut ke mar jaun yehi marzi mere
saiyyad ki hai"

People expect this, and same thing happened during the whole incident. It is true that thirteen persons were killed and the State Government ordered a CID enquiry into it on Jan. 24, but the police version is that an encounter took place. I am glad to inform that CID in its preliminary enquiry has accepted that the role of police has been dubious, they have distorted the facts. Action will be taken on the basis of this report. After the investigation is complete and the report is submitted, then the Members can be apprised of it. Shrimati Sumra has lodged a FIR under section 364 and 302. The superintendent of police Shri Kunda was dismissed, the station House Officer a sub inspector, a driver and eleven constables were suspended. The superintendent of police and Inspector General in this area were removed and action was taken against Director General. Compensation of twenty five thousand rupees and two bigha land has been give to each family. As the Hon. Prime Minister is present, he will further discuss the matter. My only submission that when the independence struggle was being fought, Baba Sahib Ambedkar believed, that the character of independence should be clear, Independence is of two types. One meant that the English will leave the country and the other meant, establishment of a casteless society and unless this is done, independence has got no meaning. Unless we bring about a change in our outlook, no significant achievement can be made. Whatever the Members may say in the Assemblies or Parliament on the issue of Minorities and

weaker sections but there has always been a difference in what we said what we did. We will have to move together on these issues and make efforts so that the society should change its mentality. This is what I had to submit and I think there was no need to bring the Adjournment Motion here. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Now the Hon. Prime Minister will speak but I would like him to clarify two things in this respect. First, how the officer who opened the fire, was rewarded and second, were those who were killed, dacoits?

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have submitted, the preliminary report of enquiry shows that the role of police was dubious, and action has been taken against the official responsible therefor. The enquiry is still going on and thus please wait for the results to come.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: How many persons were arrested?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr Deputy -Speaker, Sir, we define the word enquiry according to our own convenience. There is none amongst ourselves against who atleast 10-20 cases are not pending. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Nothing of the sort is with us.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, discussion on this topic is going on since today afternoon. I seek apology of the House for not being present here. I understand the feelings of this House, but the situation is such that where on one hand, atrocities are being committed on the harijans, on the other hand, humanity is at stake in the Gulf. I had to go to the Rajya Sabha, where a discussion on the Gulf was going on.

Recently, when this issue was raised by Shri Madan Lai Khurana and Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra in this House, I have said that it is a matter of grave concern. The seriousness of the issue increases, when these atrocities are committed on the poor

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section of our society, who have been exploited and neglected. It increases more, when the units of the administration, which are responsible for their security and protection are under doubt. I am pained to say that in this incident, the behaviour of the police is not beyond doubt. This has been accepted by the State Government and from the information we have gathered it appears that some police officials have committed excesses and those were so grave that some innocent people lost their lives. I don't want to go into such figures as how many of them were guilty or were innocent, but who soever has been killed wrongly, whether a innocent person or guilty person, it is a wrong thing. I assure this House that full investigation will be made in this regard and the guilty will be punished.

The Uttar Pradesh government has taken steps in this regard and an enquiry is going on. I think that its report will be received soon.

AN HON. MINISTER: No one has been arrested so far.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I will reply to it. I have been told that one of the officials, who was to be arrested, is absconding and some others have managed to get bail. Therefore, on one could be arrested. No one has been freed deliberately, but.....(Interruptions)....

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: A person, who has been booked under section 302 of I.P.C., has been bailed out in advance? A villager goes to the court....(Interruptions)... This clearly shows the intention. No bail is given is a case under section 302.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The bail is given by the Court.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I can not say it for certain. This is an information. It can be wrong also. I am saying it to the House, but there is one very strang question and I have no answer to it. If the court has given bail to anyone, the Government can do nothing in it and the intention of the Government in this regard....(Interruptions).... But if any negligence has been committed, we will see to rectify it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our country is passing through a transitional period. A class of our society, which has been exploited and suppressed for thousands of years, is now taking a step to create a new history. The adivasis, harijans, poor and backwards belong to these classes of our society. But now an awareness is coming among the people of these classes and there are two reasons behind it. Firstly, as we have democracy we go to them after every five years or sometimes and tell them...(Interruptions)... becomes glad? I am happy if you became glad by this.

I was saying that we go to them and tell them that they are the builder of this society and this country. This is one reason behind the awareness and secondly, the society has a dynamism of its own, which is known as social dynamism. A society cannot remain as it is. It is always changing within itself, whether we want it or not.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the number of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes students studying in universities and colleges is equal to the total number of students studying in the university at the time when we were studying. They are taught the history of revolutions in the world and they know that the God has not made anyone unequal, but it is the present social set up, that has exploited and neglected them. Therefore, they want their rights. Now, it has to be decided by us whether we will change ourselves according to their feelings and the policy and programmes of the Government will be formulated according to their wishes and expectations or we will try to suppress them through the suppressive forces of the Government.

We don't want to accuse anyone, but unfortunately, it is not easy to bring about change in the social set up. Those, who have full control of this set up of wealth, power and Government, do not want to give up their interests so easily.

[English]

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (Calcutta South): I would appreciate if rather than engaging in generalities you be more specific and refer to the specific incident that is being discussed by all of us. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER: Had you gone to Pratapgarh?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: If you only want to make noise, I have no objection. Both the sides can make noise. It is true that only those who are coward, make noise. Those who have no fear, never shout. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, therefore, I would like to submit that we have to speed up this process of bringing about change and as one of my friends asked, I would like to say it specifically that if we want to improve this situation, we have to speed up this change. Attention has to be paid towards the welfare of these classes, who have been exploited and neglected till now. It is true that this issue is related with law and order situation also and it shows the weakness of the police and the administration, but it also shows the weakness of our social set up. We have to take steps to bring about change in that social set up. Those who are raising these issues of atrocities today, have atleast taken a step in the right direction. They have started to understand the concept of social consciousness. Their social consciousness is demanding its right place and wants to change this social set up, under which such exploitation and suppression has taken place. I think this mentality will never change. When we will analyse our economic policies, we will take steps to bring about change in the society. We should not shirk from our responsibilities and we should not consider the human distress through individual incidents only, but should look towards it in the perspective of social change.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am confident that this discussion in the House today is going in the right direction. But we had to achieve the objective behind this discussion and it will be good if this House is prepared to bring about that social change, in which, no person belonging to the scheduled caste

or scheduled tribe will remain helpless, will ever be exploited. But I am pained to say that although there is unity among our friends on this question, but there is a lack of unity in this House on the question of policies on social change. I will be glad if our friends sitting on both the sides will together work to speed up the work of bringing about social change and will try to take the country towards it.....(Interruptions).... May be I am a conservative in your view, but I am mentioning about progressiveness....(Interruptions).....

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of law and order is concerned, there is no difference in it, whether it is U.P. or Bihar I have observed that we link every question to party politics. Death can be linked to party politics. Wherever there is killing, it is the murder of humanity and so there in no question of any political difference. Therefore, I say that we should be united at least on some questions. It could have understood if someone from Government's side would have said that whatever has happened is good. Many of our colleagues have raised their hands and in case it is claimed that the U.P. Government officials have done a great job then I shall be the first person to join you and say that we deplore the action of Uttar Pradesh Government. Whatever had happened there, whether in U.P., Bihar, Gujarat, Rajasthan or in Maharashtra, wherever it might have happened, whenever some innocent person is killed, it is a matter of shame for all of us.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Prime Minister, Sir, he has been given a reward....(Interruptions).....

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not in my knowledge whether he has been awarded or not as has been stated by Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan but I give this assurance that I shall look into the matter and if that person is found to be guilty

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he will be punished. There is no problem. To err is human and thus if we have committed any mistakes it might have happened, after all we are not angels. But there are some people who pose themselves as if they have come down to earth straight from heaven and they have no distress but we do not belong to that category. I am an ordinary citizen like you and therefore, I can also commit mistakes and I am prepared to own them. I do not say that whatever work I am doing is totally correct. I give this assurance to my colleague Shri Ram Vilas Paswan that if you point out our wrong actions....*(Interruptions)*

SHRISHARAD YADAV: Who has come to this world as an angel, I could not follow. Here no one claims to have come as an angel. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I do not consider them angels because they have worked with us barely for two days. They are ordinary party workers like us but you know them better than us if you consider them angels.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that we should unanimously condemn this action and that the question raised by Shri Vijay Kumar and Shri Khuranaji is very important. I respect their sentiments and appreciate them for drawing the attention of the House and the nation towards this burning problem. Their inspiration will give us boost to work more effectively but it will be better if they refrain from doubting in tensions of one another. We may not have as much affection towards them as they have but the too have some concern for them for the sake of humanity. They should keep it in mind. None should create any controversy on this issue, may it be the Central Government, U.P. Government or Bihar Government. It is our

firm belief that all State Governments should work unitedly and try to improve the prevailing situation and our effort will be in this direction. The doubts and misgivings in the hearts of the Harijans and Adivasis should not be further enhanced because doubts and apprehensions create in the hearts of people further complicate the matters. I would request the hon. Members of this House to make an earnest effort to solve the problems and eradicate the prevailing evils and at the same time refrain from committing any such act which may give a feeling that any attempt of hatching a conspiracy against the Harijans and Adivasis is being made. If this sort of a feeling is allowed to go deep in to the hearts of *Harijans* and *Adivasis*, then they will not be able to look at this august House with any hope. In that case frustration and despair would prevail and that would have serious repercussions. If you look at Adivasis inhabited area from Tripura down to Tamil Nadu, you will find a sense of uneasiness, pain and agony prevailing and do not give air to this feeling. My request to all of you is to make concerted efforts to remove their sufferings.

[*English*]

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anything said without my permission will not form part of the record....

(Interruptions)

SHRI KHEMCHANDBHAI SOMABHAI CHAVDA: Sir, I would like to know what kind of preventive steps the Prime Minister of India is going to take to stop this type of incidents.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I assure this House that you convene a meeting of all the leaders

of the political parties in this House, take a decision what steps are to be taken to prevent recurrence of this type of incidents and the Government will accept every word of that decision.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: The Uttar Pradesh Government and Central Government also can make an announcement in this regard. The Central Government can atleast provide assistance to them.
(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, though it is not proper for me to make this type of announcement, but as the Members are too much concerned and as it is a deeper agony, the Government of India will provide funds so that every deceased person gets at least one lakh rupees. If the Government of Uttar Pradesh or Bihar has given something, that will be included in it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our Minister of State for Home Affairs went to Musauri Thana area, we feel happy about it and have no objection. But neither the Prime Minister nor the Minister of State for Home Affairs visited Pratapgarh or Begusarai areas of U.P. where killings took place. Why this discrimination has been done and why they could not go there?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the objection raised by the hon. Member is correct. I did not go there and the Minister of State visited the other place. If any other Minister or I visit this place too and it gives some sense of satisfaction and security to these people then we shall go there as well.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am new to the politics. I got totally carried away by the speech made by the Hon. Prime Minister and started thinking as if I am sitting in a public meeting. As a matter of fact this kind of speech is excellent for public meetings. I respect Shri Chandra Shekharji very much and I know that he has always led the youth of this country and never ran for attaining power. As such Shri Chandra Shekhar has played a distinct role in politics and people have started feeling that in this country people having different view points are also present but I feel that during the last four months he has been presenting himself as a totally changed person.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I fully associate myself with the sentiment of Shri Chandra Shekhar and whatever he has done should certainly be commended but I would like to inform the Prime Minister that he should take seriously the incidents that have taken place in Uttar Pradesh. As a matter of fact only the aggrieved person who does not get bread to eat or if someone in his family is killed, can realise it. A family which has lost its bread winner and no one is there to look after the mother and children were compensated by barely Rs. 25000/- As a matter of fact something concrete should have been done for them so that may lead their lives comfortably. I want to say that the incidents about which the entire nation becomes aware should be taken very seriously. There should be a separate machinery to deal with such situations. It is a matter of deep regret that the happening that took place on 14th January and there was enough evidence, since the entire thing appeared in the Press and the DIG of that region gave away in award of Rs. 500. Despite that if the Central Government could not get the accurate information, whose inefficiency it can be? This should be certainly looked into. I would like to say only that the culprits of the offences committed on 30th and 2nd were patronized and were encour-