

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

13.31 hrs.

[English]

- (i) **Need to set up Malnad Development Board in Karnataka and to provide financial assistance to it.**

SHRI H.C. SRIKANTIAH (Hassan): A number of commercial crops like Coffee, Cardamom, Pepper etc. are being grown in Malnad areas in Karnataka like Hassan, Chickmagalur, Sakaleshpur, Arasikere, Tip-tur. We are earing a lot of foreign exchange by way of export of these cash crops. In order to earn more foreign exchange, it is necessary to constitute Malnad Development Board and to provide sufficient financial assistance to it. I request the Government to constitute Malnad Development Board and sanction sufficient funds to take up development programmes in Malnad areas.

- (ii) **Need to enquire into the attacks on Harijans, particularly in Madhya Pradesh, and ensure that culprits are punished**

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Gwalior): Of late, atrocities on Harijans have been on the increase. Harijans in M.P. are being threateningly told, that days when Harijans enjoyed protection of Government are over and that they are at the mercy of non-Harijans. This was narrated to me by an elderly Harijan at Salaiya in my constituency in Shivpuri District, where during Holi, non-Harijans attacked a Harijan Basti, killing one and beating men and women with lathis, all because their women-folk refused to play Holi with them. I visited Salaiya along with several MPs and MLAs and saw physical injuries caused to Harijans. Huts were destroyed, belongings and utensils battered, and women-folk humiliated. Yet the main culprits still roam free. Recently in Datia, Shivpuri, Guna and Gwalior Districts of M.P. Harijans have been killed and physically harmed in separate incidents. We are

pledged to protect the rights of the down-trodden especially Harijans, minorities and weaker sections. The Central Government must view such incidents gravely. They must send a special team to MP to inquire and ensure that culprits are punished and the House informed.

[Translation]

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. The Government should reply to it and the Home Minister should make a statement in this regard. Atrocities are being perpetrated on Harijans, their lands are being grabbed, and they are being killed. It is a very serious matter.

[English]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): It is a very serious matter. There should be a discussion.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: It is a very serious matter.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Ever since change of Government in Madhya Pradesh, ever since the B.J.P. has formed its Government, many such incidents have taken place... (*Interruptions*)...

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: It is a fact. Ever since the BJP has come into Madhya Pradesh, there have been several such incidents. There should be stoppage to such humiliation. I have seen for myself that they had been beaten. Their utensils have been battered. Their roofs have been up-rooted. Their houses have been brought down and people have been killed. We were told that when they were attacked by non-harijans, they have said that the Congress rule is over, who were protecting you. Now, it is the BJP's rule. We will see, who will protect you. That is what they have told them.