

[Sh. Srikanta Datta Narasimha Raja
Wadiyar]

gested express train from Secunderabad to Mangalore are arranged so as to connect Jaipur Express at Sikandarabad, it will provide a convenient service for passengers from Mangalore to important commercial and tourist places in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

As such, I demand that immediate steps should be taken in this regard.

[*Translation*]

(vi) **Need to declare the Patna University as a Central University**

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR RAVI YADAV (Madhepura): Bihar is a backward State of India which is a great country. Despite being rich in natural resources, there is acute poverty in the State. Pataliputra, now known as Patna was once a world famous place. It was known all over the world for its historical, ancient, prosperous and glorious past. Patna University is one of the oldest Universities of the country. So far there are only six central universities in the country. The population of this country is 84 crore. I would like to make an appeal to the Central Government to declare Patna University as a Central University in public interest keeping in view the size of the population it serves, the requirements of promotion, advancement and progress of education. This is my demand

12.54 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes—CONTD.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we will take up discussion under Rule 193 "Atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes." raised by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra on 25th April, 1990. Shri Kalka Das will now speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to participate in a discussion under rule 193 on atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in various parts of the country. Day by day there has been a steady increase in the incidents of atrocities on this oppressed class. When we go through the newspapers in the morning hardly a day passes when reports of atrocities on this class are not there. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hair-raising atrocities are reported. A few days ago some people in Sadupur Delhi village were shot dead simply because they did not comply with the directive of people belonging to certain section to do forced labour. The son of a shoemaker named Lature demanded remuneration in for the service rendered by him. Just asking remuneration for his service, the people belonging to other classes besieged the village at night and shot dead 8 members of one family. Whenever this class demands just wages, their jhuggis are set ablaze, their colonies are set afire. A situation has developed under which the members of this community think as if tolerating atrocities is their fate. Perhaps people belonging to other section deem it their right to perpetrate atrocities on this class. Scores of rules and regulation, legislations and constitutional provisions have been made to check these atrocities, but in practice it does not appear that some success has been achieved to check them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, recently there was a report in a newspaper published from Gujarat that some drum beaters sat down in the premises of a school to take their lunch. When people came to know that they belonged to the depressed class, seven of them were shot dead for how they dared to take their lunch in the school premises. Atrocities which are being committed on Scheduled Castes in various parts of the country

have become a national problem. The Government should accord priority to this problem. Mere enactment of laws is not going to suffice. Taking strict action in pursuance of the rules is also most essential.

Scores of laws have been enacted with regard to untouchability, which has been made a criminal offence. Sir, through you, I would like to tell the august House that there has not been a single instance in which somebody was punished on charges of practising untouchability. Previously reports were not registered in the police stations. Now reports are registered but the culprits go scot free in absence of witnesses. Even if witnesses are available in a few cases, powerful people intimidate them, with the result that the culprits go scot free. After their acquittal, they become emboldened. Thus victim accepts that it is his fate. Even after enactment of so many laws, the oppressed class people are forced to think in terms that they are doomed and such atrocities are their lot. In order to check atrocities on the members of Scheduled Castes, the Government should set up a separate powerful ministry for them. All kinds of atrocities on the members of Scheduled Castes, the Government should set up a separate powerful ministry for them. All kinds of atrocities on the members of Scheduled Castes should be strongly dealt with and steps in this regard should be taken treating it a national problem. This problem is not going to be solved only by saying that something is being done and necessary provisions have already been made in the Constitution. This is a lame excuse only. Earlier, a Commission was set up for the Scheduled Castes and it was under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The above Commission had limited powers. Whenever there was an incident of atrocities on the oppressed class, their inspector used to visit the site of occurrence and after completing investigation submitted his report to the Government. Their findings were incorporated in the report of the Commission. But nothing worth was being done to give a healing touch to their wounds. There was such a demand during Shri Rajiv Gandhi's tenure. The B.J.P. demanded that

there should a powerful Ministry to deal with the grievances of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to firmly check the atrocities being perpetrated on them. Rajiv Gandhi's Government detached it from the Ministry of Home Affairs and clubbed it with the Ministry of Welfare. This waned the powers of the Commission. With the result thereof atrocities on them increased with leaps and bounds. The assaulters went on increasing their attack and these people went on crying in pain. But no steps were taken to give a healing touch to their wounds. I demand that a Ministry should be set up for these people with ample powers.

My second demand is that if the Government is sincere about doing something for them or to give a healing touch to their wounds, it should set up a poor fund with an amount of Rs.2000 crores for these people, because they are being subjected to so many atrocities.

Recently jhuggis were set ablaze in Motia Khan in Delhi. Ninety per cent of these jhuggi dwellers belonged to Scheduled Castes. In the meantime the Delhi Administration announced that the jhuggi dwellers will be granted Rs.500 each as ex-gratia payment for the construction of their houses. Even if one purchases only bamboos with this amount, it will fall short.

13.00 hrs.

How will he meet the other expenses for the construction of his house. Due thought is not being given to this point and the administration simply takes the plea of paucity of funds. I would, therefore, like to urge upon the Government to set up a poor people's fund with an amount of Rs.20 billion so that some succor could be provided to the atrocity victims as and when such incidents take place. Mere formal announcements will not serve any purpose. These have to be executed sincerely as a service to the poor. Recently on 14th April on the occasion of Dr. Ambedkar's birth day, the hon. Prime Minister made an announcement with regard to amendment in the Ninth Schedule of the

[Sh. Kalka Das]

Constitution and setting up special courts for the Scheduled Castes. It is a welcome step. I am of the view that as long as a separate ministry is not set up for them, there can be no remedy to this malady. Through you, I would like to tell the Government that if it really wants to serve the poor and check the atrocities on the oppressed classes, it should take my suggestions into account. I say repeatedly that in order to eliminate injustice being done to this section and to ensure their development, a separate ministry and a poor people's fund with Rs.20 billion should be set up for them.

With these words, I would like to express my thanks to you.

[English]

SHRI D. AMAT (Sundergarh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am speaking about the Raourkeia Steel Plant. The previous Government and the present Government are the actual illegal alienator of tribal land and the exploiter of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. They acquired 21,000 acres of land for the Raurkela Steel Plant. And at the time of land acquisition, we were given an assurance that the first preference would be given to the displaced persons, particularly the Scheduled Tribes. But this assurance has flown down to the limpid Yamuna. They have broken their promises like pie crust. At the time of acquisition of land, there was a condition laid down by the HSL that if the land was not required by the HSL, that land would be returned to the original owner. Instead of returning that land to the original owner, now, they are selling it at an exorbitant rate and the compensation given as only Rs.200. Now they are selling that land at an exorbitantly higher rate of Rs.5 lakh to Rs.10 lakhs.

In Article 47 of the Constitution, it has been stated that Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes should be protected from injustice and all forms of exploitation. Is it not an economic exploitation inflicted on the

Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes? I say that this is an exploitation particularly on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

I want to speak about various commission set up in this regard. Every, ever they are producing voluminous reports and their recommendations are never implemented. All these commission's reports are nothing but commissions. I quote from page 51 of the 20th Report of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Commission. It is said here that the decision taken by the Orissa Government is at variance with the practice followed by the Central Government whereas in the matter of retrenchment of Scheduled Tribes, they cannot be retrenched unless their quota is filled. I also quote from page 9 of the Dhebar Commission's Report. In this Report, it is said that the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes form an exploited mass whereas the plain men are the exploiters. We are being exploited. I say that the land should be returned to the original owner. We had nothing to object if the Government could have utilised that land for constructing auditorium, playground, stadium or swimming pools etc. But instead doing that, land taken from the havenots are now sold out to the haves. (Interruptions)

SHRI J.P. AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk): On a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The bell is being rung.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now there is quorum. The hon. Member may continue his speech.

SHRI D. AMAT: The Government rehabilitated Tibetans in Chandragiri; the Burma repatriates were rehabilitated in Mana; the Bengalis have been rehabilitated in Dandakaranya and recently of IPKF is going to be rehabilitated in Koraput of Orissa. We have nothing towards them. But we sacrificed everything for the sake of the nation and the Government has not been able to

rehabilitate us even after 35 years of independence after the acquisition of our lands.

You carved out a province out of Uttar Pradesh and labelled it as Himachal Pradesh. You bifurcated Punjab and created Haryana and Punjab. Now there is a demand for Uttarakhand. When Babu Jagjivan Ram was alive he was demanding a Dalit Prant. The Pradesh Congress President of Bihar Dr. Jagannath Mishra is demanding a Maithili State. Shri Brahmanand Panda of Orissa who is the chief of Neelchakra is demanding a Jagannath Desh. Tellangana is demanded by Dr. Chenna Raddy and there is a demand for Chattisgarh Prant in Madhya Pradesh; and Vidarbha in Maharashtra. That is all right. But if the tribal people demand Jharkhand, what is the harm? The Government may or may not concede this; it is up to them. But this type of exploitation has been going on for ever.

With these words I approach another problem. Recently when the Provident Fund Commissioner...**... had air dashed to Bhubaneshwar on a Saturday and returned the next day, he was deputed by the prime Minister there to look after the education, promotion, etc., of the SC and ST employees.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The name will not form part of the record.

SHRI D. AMAT: Instead of meeting the SC and ST people, what he has done in connivance with the Zonal Commissioner of the Provident Fund is that he has made adverse entries in the CCRs of the SC and ST employees. Because of this a number of Adivasi, SC and ST employees have been debarred from their genuine and legitimate promotional opportunities. So I urge the Government to send another competent officer to Bhubaneshwar to enquire into this matter. If this is found to be true, then the erring officer should be taken to task. The adivasis are treated by the Officers like the Jews of Germany and the Negroes of Africa.

That type of treatment is being meted out to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Adivasis. I am very sorry to say that the Social Welfare board was registered under the Society Registration act of 1969, as a charitable institution. It was registered on the first day of April, 1969, that is on the great April Food Day. And so, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are made fools of it.

With these words, I conclude.

13.11 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Declaration of May Day as Public Holiday

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Sir, I would like to make an announcement that tomorrow being the May Day, the Government has decided to declare it as a public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, this is for the first time in the course of forty years of freedom, that workers have been recognised by any Government. Therefore, Sir, I think the entire House will agree, at least on this point, that the present Government has recognised the status of the workers in declaring May Day as a public holiday.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar): Sir, on behalf of my party, I congratulate the Government.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars): Sir, it is for the first time that this Government