

[Sh. Manoj Pandey]

All doubts expressed by Hon. Shri Jaipal Reddy are baseless. The Opposition should be ashamed of accusing the Hon. Prime Minister and his colleagues of accepting bribes. They are not going to gain anything from throwing false accusations.

As far as politics is concerned, we all to indulge in politics which the Opposition is indulging in. The Government also can play the dirty politics which the Opposition is resorting to. Many things can be said here in this house.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister will reply tomorrow.

16.01 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

**Atrocities on Harijans and Adivasis in different Parts of the Country**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us go to next item. Discussion on the Atrocities on Harijans and Adivasis in different parts of the Country. Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia.

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we have brought a very serious matter before the House to discuss the atrocities on Harijans and Adivasis in the country.

Originally in our society, division of labour was introduced to gain expertise but later which Minister is listening?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): I am listening.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: As I was saying, later on this was converted into casteism permanently and with the passage of time the powerful sections in the upper strata of society began to exploit the lower sections in order to live a life of comfort and luxury. This is the deplorable conditions of our present day society which I want to describe in the beginning.

Society was divided into four classes—Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras. The people belonging to the upper class became all-powerful and began to exploit the lower sections. Today this poison has seeped into every strata of our society—a society which is preparing to step into the 21st Century.

In this land of holy saints, some people are still categorised as untouchables and Adivasis and atrocities on them continue unabated. I want to quote a report in the Press related to this issue. In reply to a question, it was said in this House:

[English]

"Uttar Pradesh has the dubious distinction of reporting the highest number of rapes and murders of Scheduled Castes people during 1986-87. It is followed by Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, where casteism still reigns supreme. West Bengal, however, scored a distinction of another sort: only two rapes and no murders reported till November 1986."

This is according to a statement given by the Deputy Minister of Welfare, Mr. Giridhar Gomango in reply to Mr. Ajoy Biswas in Lok Sabha. This is not my version—i.e. about West Bengal. So, we see that the Minister has said that Madhya Pradesh had 151

rapes and 87 murder cases, while there were 73 rapes and 52 murders in Bihar. Next came Rajasthan. The point is that the situation is moving from bad to worse day by day.

[Translation]

Another point being mentioned is that a certain category of people will not be allowed entry into a certain temple and the committee of that temple will not be allowed to interfere in this matter. I am of the opinion, and Mr. Chairman, Sir, appeal through your good offices that Harijans and Adivasis should drop their demand of being allowed entry in temples. After all what are they looking for in temples?

In my view, the issue regarding entry of Harijans in temples is a minor thing. Instead of asking for entry in the temples they should ask for their right to provide for bread, employment and equal status in the society. I think there is a great mischief behind this. By raising this issue and by involving our Harijan brethren in this controversy, their attention is being diverted from the basic issues of livelihood, employment and equal status. I would like to appeal to all the Harijans and Adivasis brethren of our country to ask for their right to live. They should ask the Government that no more atrocities are committed on them, their womenfolk are not subjected to rape and they should not be slaughtered. These rights are much more important than the right of entry in Temples, mosques and Gurudwaras.

Recently, some efforts were made to stop atrocities on Harijans. In the country our leaders have enacted laws under which poor Harijans and Adivasis have been allotted some land but when the distribution of the land started, influential people of the society tried to grab this land. Atrocities on these fellow brothers are committed just to snatch the land given to them under the laws en-

acted by the Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies. It is also a matter of shame that in all these atrocities, either the police is directly involved in committing atrocities on Harijan and Adivasis girls, boys, men and women or shows laxity in registering cases of atrocities and taking actions against the culprits. On the contrary, the position is that the police department do not pay any heed towards their complaints. Further, what has been said in a recent statement by a person who claims himself as a great religious leader is more regrettable and unfortunate. Till now, I had only read, what is written in Guru Granth Sahib

"Aval Alla Noor Upaya, Kudrat De Sab Bande,

Ek Noor to sab jug upjya, kaun bhale kaun mande."

Guru Govind Sahib has written that we are the children of the same father. Our father is one, thus, all of us are brothers. He has written in it—"Bhay kahoo ko Det na", you should neither frighten anyone nor be frightened of anyone, therefore; keep everyone on equal footing. It is regrettable that on the one hand our Lord Ramchandrajji had gone to 'Bhilni' and eaten her defiled plums and Lord Krishna ji had eaten the power of parched gram of poor Sudama but on the other, when Shankaracharya of Puri, Swami Niranjan Dev Tirtha was asked by a press reporter to give his opinion about the right of entry of Harijans, the poor, the Adivasis and untouchables into the temples, he said that there was no need for Harijans to enter into temples. He also challenged the pressmen to cite even a single example of a person belonging to Harijan Community who has as much intellect as a caste-Hindu has. When the press reporter cited the example of Dr. B.R.Ambedkar, Swami Niranjan Dev Tirth replied that he did not consider him as intelligent man because the country has to amend the Constitution framed by Dr. B.R.Ambedkar for 57 times, therefore, he

[Sh. Balwant Singh Ramoowalia] did not think that Dr. Ambedkar was a intelligent person. It is a matter of great sorrow that the responsible people talk like this and that is why the atrocities are committed on Adivasis, poors, minorities and weaker sections of the society. These people also support the practice of 'Sati'. These very people support in the event of our sisters becoming widow they should be forced to commit the evil convention of Sati. These people are thus poisoning the society.

I was stating that as many as 30 men, women and children belonging to these communities are murdered daily and now the position is so grim that the number of cases of atrocities on them have increased from 5373 in 1985 to 5403 in 1986. I, therefore, want to submit that even after our utmost efforts the atrocities are being committed on them. In Jehanabad, nineteen men and children were massacred. The question arise in the mind why the crimes are increasing? The persons who commit crimes take laws into their own hands. They are not afraid of the law and the law enforcing bodies of the country. On being asked about impending danger of his arrest by the police for his statement, Shankaracharya of Puri openly threw challenge that the Government did not have enough guts to arrest him. This was said in the month of April but it is nor the month of August, neither the Government of India nor the Government of that State where he lives could arrest him. How it is shameful that even after openly violating the law, philosophy and thinking of the country, the policy propogated by Mahatma Gandhi and the provisions of the Constitution of India, he dares challenge that if the Government have enough guts then show it by arresting me. Even after this, not to talk of arresting him, the Government could not even register a case of F.I.R. against him. I want to ask as to who are the persons who get encouragements by such things.

Sir, though you would like to bring one more thing into the notice of the Government. Often we talk about social reforms. A non-Harijan person got married to a Harijan girl. But he was removed from service by levelling false charges against him that his work and behaviour was not good, and he was not fit for public duty. I therefore, want to say that on the hand we are trying to create a healthy atmosphere but on the other hand, some other forces are frustrating our deeds. I am not disappointed with the prevailing atmosphere in the country. Several organisations, political parties and people belonging to different classes of the society have begun to think in terms of equality but many other forces are busy in weakening this process. I therefore, would like to submit two-three suggestions in this regard.

First of all, I want to say that who ever commits atrocities, crime and cheating, must be brought under the dragnet of the law of the land. If any body succumbs to injury, then the guilty person should be arrested. The persons who support such elements should also be arrested under T.D.A. The persons who strengthen and encourage such philosophy should also be arrested...*(Interruptions)*...It appears that my Hon. friend has no work now, he is therefore, only interested in making interruptions. Now, we would ask Shri Rajiv Gandhi to give him some work so that his attention may divert towards that work...*(Interruptions)* Secondly, the police officers responsible for such things should be arrested. If they do not take appropriate action at the appropriate time then a stern disciplinary action should be taken against them and if necessary they should be dismissed from the Service.

Some sections of society have still not found berth in the list of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. Their cases should be reviewed. I would like to say that the 'Banjara' class, a part of. Adivasis have not

been included in this list till today. Recently, they staged a raelly in protest against it at Boat Club in New Delhi. They have 60 thousand billets and speak the same language throughout the country. Their population is about 4 crores but till now that community has not been included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The case of Banjara community has already been sent to the Hon. Minister but no action has been taken to include this society in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and no Bill has been introduced so far in the Parliament in this regard. Recently, a deputation of 'All India Tapiwas and Vimukt Jaati Federation' has come here and said that this community has not been provided constitutional protection. This deputation in which the people of Punjab were also included met and then Hon. Prime Minister, Shri P.C.Sethi and his successor Shri S.V.Chavan under the leadership of Shri Rajesh Pilot at the time when he was only a Member of Parliament. This deputation has demanded that many communities such as 'raisikh', 'Bajigar', 'Sikaligar', 'Gadaria', 'Nayak', 'Dhangar', 'Banjara', 'Wadi', 'Sapera', 'Jogi', 'Sansi', 'Baruriya', 'Barar', 'Wangali', 'Bhaidkut', 'Nat', 'Gandhila', 'Dheha', 'Inghical', etc. which have not been included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes list should be included. Through you, I would like to request the Government that certain tribes which can not included in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lists should be included and provided facilities such as houses, schools, electricity and roads in their towns and billets Government should also enforce the laws strictly to protect the interests to weaker sections, Adivasis and Scheduled Castes.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR (Bijnor):  
Sir, when I have to talk on atrocity, I talk with tears and with hope. Tears because we, who have inherited the oldest civilization and culture in the world, who are poised today to enter a new era of civilization, have to discuss these acts of barbarism within our own society committed on our Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes at such regular and frequent intervals. Hope because however feeble, however scattered, however unorganised, at least the struggle against injustice has begun and continues. I hope these sacrifices will not go waste.

Atrocities according to my own analysis are of two kinds. One which injures the body or leads to death. The other which injures the soul and leads to a thousand deaths every day-many times over. Although this debate today has been sparked off by brutal murder of nineteen Harijans in Jahanabad.

I first want to talk of the injury to the soul. Today, the single most important question which is tormenting the mind and heart of every Harijan in the country is: Where do we belong? Where does the Harijan belong? There is a crisis of identity. Does he belong in the Hindu fold? Then why is he denied the respect? These are the questions. I thought, these questions were settled by none else than the father of the Nation during the freedom struggle. You may recall, during the freedom struggle, in early 30s Ramsay Mc Donald offered communal award to divide the Hindu society between the caste Hindus and the untouchables to weaken the freedom movement, Dr. Ambedkar lent his full support to this offer which suited the British. But Mahatma Gandhi saw through this game and began his Epic fast. That was the time when there was a great national debate whether untouchability was a part of Hindu religion and society and it was established by renowned Sanskrit scholars of that time



[Smt. Meira Kumar ]  
that it was not After hard bargaining, the Poona Pact, which is known as the Magna Carta of untouchables was signed. Gandhiji broke his fast. There was a general awakening. Voluntary organisations dedicated themselves to the cause of the Harjans, to eradication of untouchability It was a critical time. Developments were fluid On the other hand, there was a call from Dr Ambedkar, rked by the obscurantist elements in the society, to the untouchables of the country for mass conversion to other religions In Punjab the Harijan population as a result fell from 28 lakhs to 13 lakhs In Telugu district 8.8 lakh Harjans were converted to Christianity There was panic all over That was the background Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, who was the President of the All India Hindu Mahasabha, in a meeting in Poona, on 29th December, 1935 appealed to the Harjans to protect the Hindu religion He said and I want everyone to listen to it very carefully I quote

"Let the Harjans not forsake it and we will apply the dust under their feet to our forehead "

This is what Madan Mohan Malaviya said That was the time when Gandhi, for the first time gave the name Harijan as children of God to the untouchables He went to their basti, swept their streets and cleaned their toilets. He embraced them with open arms He promised them a better deal in free India and a status respect and honour in Hindu fold That is the time when Babu Jagjivan Ram came forward to check this mass conversion of untouchables to other religions He appealed to them not to leave the Hindu religion He asked them to join the mainstream, to give a new thrust to the national movement to fight for the independence of the country first and then to fight for their right later. Thus the British plan to divide and rule was frustrated and India became independent.

I am saying all this because I want to ask the nation what has happened to that commitment that was made on behalf of the nation by the Father of the Nation to the untouchables? I want to know Now that the Father of the Nation has gone, have those promises become empty words?

What are these strange utterances of Shankaracharya of Puri? What are these incidents at Nathdwara? What is this violence at Panda Tarai and so many other incidents which do not get reported? What do they indicate They put a question mark on the thinking and attitude of the Caste Hindus I want to know their reaction There have been some protests, but these voices of protest have come from the non-conformist Caste Hindus With the exception of Shankaracharya of Shringeri, have all other leaders of the Indian society come forward? It is not a disease which afflicts only the Hindu society, it is a disease which afflicts the entire Indian Society Do you remember many years ago in Meenakshipuram, Harjans were converted to Islam? Today they read their *Namaz* separately The Harijan Christians in Kerala have their separate Churches The Sikhs are called *Majhabis* and *Ramdasiyas* I want to know why Some of the Buddhists are called Neo-Buddhists So, it is not just a disease which afflicts only the Hindu society, it is a disease which afflicts the entire Indian society No Hindu religious leader, no Indian leader has come forward They have all maintained a stony silence

I come from a background which has for over half a century, struggled for the solidarity of Hindu society by resisting mass conversion of untouchables to other religions, and has struggled to assure them to place of dignity and honour in the Hindu fold But what are these utterances and attitudes and incidents? They provide an occasion for rethinking

Today history is repeating itself. The untouchable again finds himself on the crossroad. Man does not live by bread alone, man must have respect. Does he get it as a Hindu? There was some talk that don't go to the temples. Yes. I have my cup of tea at home, but if I go to a canteen, I would not like the doors to be shut at my face. I pray at home, but if I go to a temple, I would not like to be denied entry.

So, a challenge has been thrown on all the untouchables of India. They have to make an appraisal of their position in the society. A challenge has also been thrown on all the Caste Hindus. We want to know their reaction. We want to know to what extent their conscience has been aroused and whether they will come forward and proclaim in unmistakable term that untouchability is not a basic tenet of Hindu religion.

Now I come to the physical assaults, the rape, the beating, the ripping, the killing, the burning.

Harijans, by and large, are peace-loving people. They are not the belligerent sort. Their needs are so few. Their demands are so little. They are so hard-working. They are the toiling masses. They are the real producers of wealth. They produce goods. They render services. They are the backbone of our economy. They are the foundation on which this entire magnificent edifice stands. And what do they get in return? They live in separate colonies. Even today, exclusive colonies are made for them, I do not know whether by accident or by design, even in the *Indira Awaas Yojana*, at many places their houses are made separately. Why? Why this mentality?

No, it is not a party matter please. It is not a party affair. I am addressing myself to the nation on every grave issue. What is this *Nand Nagri* where the epidemic first broke out. It is in the capital, you know, Sir, in the

capital this is in an exclusive colony of the Harijans. In urban areas, a caste Hindu rarely let out his house to an untouchable. In the villages, caste Hindus do not let a Harijan use their wells. In towns, the public hydrants, many times, are not open to him. When I go on tours, I always ask the villagers:

[*Translation*]

"Is untouchability practised in your village?"

I invariably get the reply: "No, sister, untouchability is not practised here. We have got constructed separate wells."

[*English*]

This is the state of affairs. I was talking of temples, even in restaurants and canteens, so many times they are denied entry. In educational institutions, the students belonging to the untouchable community are so many times forced to have their own exclusive mess. But these incidents are treated as common routine matter. They never get reported. They do not have news value for the press. They don't create the slightest ripple. Yet, these are atrocities. Of course, it takes a *Jehanabad* to attract the attention, although from past experience, I know that this attention is more of an emotional effervescence, too short-lived. Incidents of atrocities have increased. *Shri Ramoowalia ji* was giving figures. I do not want to repeat the figures because I have the same figures. But it is an acknowledged fact that they have increased. Between 1982 and 1986, through out the country 3,200 SC/ST were murdered; 4,400 SC/ST women were raped. Of these, the major brunt was borne by Harijans. 2,439 Harijans were murdered and 3,122 Harijan women were raped. We all know statistics hide more than they reveal. These figures there 'Belchis', these *Nirukondas*, these 'Karamchedus', these 'Arawals' these 'Jehanabads' are but

[Smt. Meira Kumar]`  
the tip of the ice-berg. The problem is much bigger, of enormous proportion.

The largest single cause for atrocities is land dispute. Allocation of surplus land to the landless labour leads to a long-drawn out dispute and trouble. The next cause is non-payment of wages. Demand for minimum wages as fixed by law and the refusal to pay those wages by the landlords ends in atrocities on these agricultural labourers which are largely of Scheduled Caste community, Scheduled Tribe community. So far as Scheduled Castes are concerned, the major occupational group is that of the agricultural labour. Scheduled Caste forms 15.75% of the entire population of India and of this 48% is agricultural labour.

Basically the victims of atrocities are victims of feudal system. The vested interests who went to perpetuate the feudal system with all its accompanying evils have organised themselves throughout the country. In Bihar they have gone to the extent of organising private armies—Lorik Sena, Bhoomi sena, Kunwar sena, Brahmarsini sena—and these senas are let loose when the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections stand up for their right. These Senas are officially banned, yet the social conditions are so favourable that they flourish. This is the crux of the matter. This is the crux of the matter that the measures that we have adopted so far have proved to be ineffective in the long run. We passed the Protection of Civil Rights Act way back in 1955. Yet, since 1955 atrocities on Harijans and Scheduled Tribes have increased as an alarming rate. Today we have to think of having a more effective measures. Obviously, this PCRA has failed. Today there is no time to become complacent, we have to come down very heavily on these people who are perpetrating atrocities. We have to instil a sense of security in the Harijans; we cannot allow them to live in the

grip of terror for ever. Like we have brought the Anti-Terrorists Act, like we have brought the Anti Sati Act, we should have Anti-Atrocities Act. Under the Anti-Atrocities Act we should provide for the most severe, the most stringent punishments and fines for those who perpetrate these atrocities. We should give generous reliefs to the victims and my suggestion would be that the amount of this relief should be collected from the guilty. We should give free legal aid to the victims, we should set up special courts or *Lok Adalats* near the place of the residence of the victim so that he is not inconvenienced, he does not have to go every time so many miles to the District Headquarter where the court is located. Then we have to effect speedy disposal of the cases so that the punishment which is meted out to the guilty acts as a deterrent to others. Speedy disposal is also essential to ensure that the victims do not buckle under pressure brought on him by the accused. We have also to ensure that in those areas where tension is brewing, in those areas which are atrocity prone, special squads of police are deployed. So far as the role of the police is concerned, I want that they should be trained to gain the confidence of and sympathy for the downtrodden. They should take action *suo motu* which they do not take today.

There is one name which I hate to take. It is blasphemy to mention that name 'Manu'. My hands would get soiled if I touch the book he wrote.

I consider that book and those who believe in that book as *Achhoots*, as untouchables, who have contaminated the society and brought untold shame to the nation. As modern law makers, we have to undo what Menu did.

I want to say that our Prime Minister is worried and concerned and I am going to quote from what he has said. I am going to substantiate it. He remembers the commit-

ment and wants to fulfil that commitment which the Father of the Nation had made to the untouchables of this country. I am quoting from what he has said last year:

[*Translation*]

"We get strengthened when we stand together. The war of independence had been going on for many years but it gained strength only when the weaker and poor sections of India came forward and Babu Jagjivan Ram joined Gandhiji and it was then that we got independence. We have to follow the path shown by Gandhiji and bring the Harijans forward and reduce their suppression."

[*English*]

I think, the need of the hour is that we rise above all our Party considerations sink all our differences and support him in this endeavour.

In the end, I just want to say one thing. We are pledged to socialism and democracy. Socialism and democracy are not compatible with caste system. Cherished human values are not compatible with gross injustice and inequalities. So, if we want to nurture socialism and democracy in this country, we have to break the shackles of caste system.

[*Translation*]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM (Nagarkurnool): Mr. Speaker, Sir, issue pertaining to the atrocities committed on the Harijans and Girijans is being discussed in the House today. In this connection, I have collected the figures from September, 1986 to October, 1987 from the library of Parliament House and on the basis of that I want to submit a few points. I am giving broad figures relating to the atrocities committed on the harijans and girijans in different parts of the country dur-

ing the aforesaid period. There were 4,872 cases of atrocities in Uttar Pradesh, 3,321 cases in Madhya Pradesh and 951 cases in Bihar. But I feel that after this period, Bihar will be on the top and excel the number of incidents of atrocities which have come to light.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj): Sir, may I know whether the figures given by him now are not corrected.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: No, that is not the case because I have collected them from the library of the Parliament House. I have not collected those figures from somewhere else but have got everything from the library and I am furnishing the information on that basis. If the incidents of atrocities committed on the harijans in Bihar after October 1987 are also taken into account then Bihar will certainly come at the top. But today the 'Protection of Civil Rights Act' is being violated openly. Nobody can deny it, it is absolutely correct.

Our colleague Shri Ramoowalia has submitted all the figures here and has even narrated some incidents about all the places including the incident in the temple. Shrimati Meira Kumari also mentioned many things. If we discuss temple issue, although I do not consider it appropriate to mention it here, yet I will have to say, that when the former President Shri Zail Singh visited the Pushkar Temple in Rajasthan, he was accompanied by a harijan M.L.A. also. Due to the presence of that M.L.A., the President was not allowed to enter the premises of the temple. The hon. President said that he will not enter the temple unless the M.L.A. is allowed to accompany him inside, and he returned. This is what is happening to the President of our country. What your Government is doing in this respect and what is observation?

Our colleague, Shri Ramoowalia told that the Shankaracharya of Puri said if any-

[Sh. V. Tulsi Ram]

one dares arrest him. How is that Act being implemented and what is this Government doing if the Shankaracharya says such things? I say that such an Act should be burnt, why are you maintaining that act? When government do not have to implement that Act, then what is the use of such an Act? Is it a show piece for the world? If that is so, then why should we enact such laws. A person is making such statements openly and you cannot take any action against him or pass any judgement against him? Just as my colleague said as to why have you not taken any action against him? Not even an F.I.R. has been lodged against him. For whom is this Act and your Government meant and for whom is all this gimmick? You are getting the subject of atrocities on harijans discussed here and have done so in the past too, So is all this gimmick being done for show business only?

Shrimati Meira Kumari referred to the speech make by the Hon. Prime Minister. It is good that she mentioned it but what is the use of issuing such a statement? Whenever a speech is to be delivered, they will make a lengthy and exhaustive speech. I ask the people who deliver speeches, as to who among them has accepted a harijan girl for marriage or who has married such a girl? If you tell me about that then I will say that your statement and Act are absolutely correct. There is no point in saying it for the purpose of propaganda only, we all know that this is nothing but show of things. It is all right that when somebody pretends to be ignorant of the grievances of people, we are all party to it, but when atrocities are being committed on the harijans, there is no one prepared to even think about it.

Whenever, an incident of terrorism takes place in Punjab, the world think that it is happening only once in a while. Ever since our birth we have been watching that our harijan brothers are suppressed and are

being murdered. Nobody thinks about them. I want to know from the Government as to what action is being taken to stop it? You simply talk about the terrorists here. Have you ever thought seriously about these poor people who are being murdered everyday? In my views, the number of terrorists will be approximately 500 to 1000 but for the sole purpose of suppressing and massacre these harijans, the terrorists of the whole world are present here.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when Shri Jagjivan Ram went for inaugurating a statue in Banaras, that statue was washed with the holy water of Ganga after his return. This is the policy of our government today. It is only due to its policies that all this is taking place. When the question of getting votes arises, then....(Interruptions)besides, the poor people is some other castes are also suppressed by everyone. When the question of getting vote arises, then that same poor person comes to your rescue. That poor person casts vote in your favour by standing in the sun and rain for 10-12 hours. But after getting the votes you forget him. Have you ever enquired about the condition of our harijan brothers who are murdered everyday?

You issue licence for reliefs liberally but when a harijan asks for a licence, it is not issued to him. You issue licences to people at their places but the harijans of India are not issued licence even on making a request for the purpose. Has your attention been drawn towards all this? Shri Azad had visited the place in connection with the Jehanabad incident. The Hon. Chief Minister gave the assurance there. God knows what all assurances did he give there? He certainly said that the Government will cancel the licences of rifles. It would have been better had the same thing been said before the murders were committed. In one family, a child of 6 months was killed there. When these murders had been committed they went to wipe

out their tears. I do not know whether the licences of the rifles have even now been cancelled or not. Your work is limited only to issue statements. It is often seen that nothing is done thereafter. Our Hon. Minister is sitting here...

*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI K.S.RAO (Machilipatnam): What has your Chief Minister done in Kar-amchedu? Has he taken action against anybody? He has not taken action even against one person.

[*Translation*]

SHRI V.TULSIRAM: Shri Rao, you should know that when this incident took place, a committee was formed under the aegis of a judge and in the second incident a House Committee was formed. If you have courage, then tell us did you form a committee there? We are saying that we formed a committee and we are enquiring into the matter.

17.00 hrs.

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar): The Prime Minister went to Nirukonda where one person died. Did he go to Jahanabad where 19 people were murdered?

[*Translation*]

SHRI V.TULSIRAM: Before I conclude, I would like to urge the Government that licences should be issued to the people of upper class only after holding a thorough enquiry about them, and if a Harijan applies, he should also be given a licence. At such places, where you think there is a danger,

licences must be issued. Azadji has ordered cancellation, it is not known what has been done in that case. Secondly land reforms should be introduced immediately because their non-implementation leads to disputes and murders. Thirdly the Minimum Wages Act should also be enforced without delay. So far as education is concerned, it is good that the Government is doing something in this field but more is required to be done by sanctioning more funds for it.

With these words I would like to submit that if action is taken on some of my suggestions given by me, it would prove beneficial not only to the poor masses but also to the Government because it would get more votes and remain in power otherwise if injustice is done to those poor people, your Government will not be able to work smoothly and their curse will fail the Government.

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, massacre of 19 people in Jahanabad has drawn the public attention and caused a great concern that if such incidents continue to take place our social life will be ruined. Shrimati Meira delivered quite an emotional speech about Harijans. It was really a spontaneous overflow of powerful thoughts. I would like to point out that if Gandhiji had not brought the Harijans, Adivasis and various sections of the people at the same level on the basis of religious equality, the country would not have been able to achieve freedom even now. It was Gandhiji's farsightedness. I recall when Gandhiji allowed Harijans to reside in his Ashram, some of his followers opposed it saying that Harijans cannot be allowed to remain and dine with us in the Ashram. There upon Gandhiji said that Harijans would reside with us in the Ashram, 'As a result the people who were financing the Ashram, stopped financing the Ashram. Mahatma Gandhi then said that if you had such a hatred towards Harijans ther



[Sh. Yogeshwar Prasad Yogesh]  
Ashram would have to be shifted to a village of Harijans. Mahatma Gandhi actually shifted The Ashram to a Harijan's village and tried to enlighten them with a ray of new hope. It is due to his blessings that socialism is growing in the country and we are treading on the path of socialism. It is perhaps a because of the socialistic and progressive policy adopted by the Congress that the atrocities on Harijans are persistently increasing. It is a teething trouble and a temporary phase, which would soon come to an end because we have implemented the land reforms promptly.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where?

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH: It has been done and is still being done. By keeping your eyes closed you cannot see anything. You must see with open eyes.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah): Possession has not yet been given.....

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH: I would like to inform that 35 thousands people have been allotted land in Gaya district of Bihar. The work of land reforms is being done expeditiously. The agricultural workers have been made aware of their minimum wages. They are ready to fight for their minimum wages. They are ready to fight for their rights today...*(Interruptions)*... One of the reasons behind it is that they do not belong to any particular party, they belong to various parties and various communities. So no single person can be blamed. This is one of the reasons.....

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): Have you gone through the report of Pandeyji.

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH: You may go through that report. You lack knowledge because your mentality is somewhat different. You are a Choubey, you cannot understand matters related to Harijans.

"Puni-Puni uskahin purni akutahin,  
narad dasa na dekhi jadhin."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as awareness has been created in regard to the minimum wages, the Harijans and backward classes have been able to realise its importance. This is the basic and progressive policy of the Congress, which is passing through a temporary phase and would ultimately bring about a new awareness in the whole country. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to submit that even today the mentality of people in rural areas has not changed. The people with old mentality are jealous of the Harijans being literate and making their own houses. So they try to create bitterness in the society. And some politicians are positively involved in it who are trying to create a piquant situation by destroying socialism. They want that the basic policy of the Government is not implemented.

I would like to say about what Shri Ramoowalia has said. While agreeing with him, I would like to say that we do not want to make him a hero. There is no need for it. Some people unnecessarily try to earn a place in the society by raising such controversial issues. Nobody asked him about Shri Ambedkar or Babu Jagjivan Ram. He should have been asked about the spiritual height attained by Raidas. Shankracharya cannot compete with him as far as his spiritual height is concerned. Nabhadasi ji was also a

Harijan. He was one of the nine including Tulsidas, Nandadas etc. He said, "*Santan Ko Kaha Seekri, So Kam avat jat Tooti Parhiya bisri gaye Hari nam,*" I want to submit that Shankaracharya ji can never understand Shri Ambedkar. He cannot understand the wisdom of Shri Jagjivan Ram. He should try to understand them. Raidas achieved a great spiritual height, though he was engaged in small jobs. Shankaracharya can never touch that spiritual height even in 10 births.

17.09 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

What I mean to say is that there is no need to give importance to the utterances of such people. These are required to be forgotten. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are aware that the social evils are not good. It is not so that Harijans are being killed only in rural areas.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Do you support his arrest?

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH: No, please because we do not want to make him a hero. We do not support him...

*(Interruptions)*

I do not want to waste more time of the House. My last point is that no action is taken when Harijans and Girijans are murdered at various places on various occasions. I would like the authorities to be vigilant about those who try to spoil the social atmosphere. Atrocities are being perpetrated on Harijans and Girijans because the mentality of our bureaucrats has not changed. They want to create a situation in which more atrocities are perpetrated. I held an enquiry into an incident in which the whole colony of Harijans had been burnt and Harijans were pushed into the fire. A full report was sent to

the high officials, but they could not take any action against the criminals because they themselves belonged to the community of the criminals. No action is taken against such officials. They are protected through political support. I would, therefore, like to submit that the people belonging to all the parties should jointly take an initiative *de-novo* to bring about a change in the mentality of the people.

With these words I conclude.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI (Nabadwip): Sir, the worst type of violence, including that of the State, is being perpetrated on our scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in recent months. But they are not isolated events. A close look at the incidents and the statistics indicates that there is a pattern in such atrocities. This is revealed in a number of Government's own reports, particularly in the reports of that commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The latest one is the Sixth Report that covers the years between 1979 and 1983. The main features that come out regarding the atrocities are: Number one, that these are increasing. For scheduled castes, from 13,976 in 1979, it has come to 14,834 in 1983 - an overall increase of 6.14 per cent. For scheduled tribes, there is an alarming increase - almost double from 2,134 to 4,087. It is an increase of 92 per cent. Over a period of time, one would expect that such atrocities would dwindle down with modernisation, better education and better implementation of the laws of the land. Why is there this increase? This Government should its the hand in shame for this.

The other main feature is that four States - Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan - lead the field in

[Smt. Bibha Ghosh Goswami] perpetrating atrocities on *harijans* and scheduled tribes. They account for 85 per cent of atrocities against scheduled castes. Three of these States - excluding Uttar Pradesh, which has a negligible scheduled tribes population - top the list of atrocities against scheduled tribes. These three States account for a staggering 89 per cent of all those atrocities. All these are Congress (I)-ruled States. Another Congress (I)-ruled State is Maharashtra. It is occupying the third position. In Rajasthan we can very well understand *sati* - from 205 in 1979, the atrocities on scheduled tribes have risen to 439 in 1983. It is an increase of more than 114 per cent. For scheduled castes in Rajasthan, there were 760 atrocities in 1979. But in 1983, the figure has gone up to 1,604 - an increase of more than 111 per cent.

Not only that, the atrocities are high in these states; their relative position is getting worse every time. As for the SC, these four key States together registered a 15 per cent increase in atrocities between 1979 and 1983 as against 6.14 per cent overall increase in the country. In the case of the ST, three of these States show 65 per cent increase over this period. These statistics must be under-estimates, as most of the victims are too terrorised to report to the authorities. Now, I want to ask one question. I want to ask the Congress-I MPs from these States a question. Most of them are not here; maybe there are not interested in this business. They have to explain why the conditions of these socially and economically disadvantaged groups are actually turning from very bad to even worse, in spite of the 20-point programme.

We should understand why such atrocities are taking place mostly in those States. These are four of the most backward states, where land reform has been least implemented, where feudal culture and economic exploitation continue and where still big

landlords owing 10,000 acres of land exist, who treat the agricultural labourers as pieces of dirt.

The other reports of the SC/ST Commission and other Government reports indicate the vast majority of SC/ST are agricultural labourers and poor tenants, who have been traditionally denied of their legal rights. Atrocities are committed when these poor communities shake of their age-old fear and inertia and assert their rights of minimum wages of organisation or of due share as sharecroppers. As numerous reports indicate, these communities are prevented from getting access to land given to them by the Government, by the armed thugs of the landlords. These landlords work in collusion with police and district authorities and the functionaries of the ruling Congress (I) party. Whenever, the poor assert their rights, the senas of the landlords organise mass murders, gang rapes and arson and looting of their properties, eject them from whatever land they have and otherwise terrorise them.

Bihar has established a shameful record of the incidents of atrocities on women, Dalits, minority groups and attack on the rights of the economically weaker sections on which the SC/ST comprise a major portion. During the last few months we have seen an increase in such incidents, Pararia, Ghatihari and Jahanabad being three of the most outstanding.

In Pararia, all the 25 houses were attacked by the police. The males were beaten up and forced to flee to the jungle and the women between 13 and 50 years of age were attacked, molested and raped. Five of those subjected to gang rape had to be hospitalised in an unconscious state. While the Sangjukta Mahila Sangharsh Samiti observed a statewide protest day against the Pararia atrocities on the 12th April, on the same night the ununiformed goondas the Daroga and five other policemen crept into

the Adivasi village of Ghatihari and swooped on the innocent victims as they slept. The same story of loot, arson, molestation and rape followed. Six adivasi women, including Hopen Maya Soren (21), Tala Maya Murmu (32) and the unmarried Domra Soren (17) were gang-raped while the protesting men-folk were beaten up mercilessly. It is reported that when on the 14th July the victims of Ghatihari went to the Deputy Commissioner of Godda, he refused to see them. The Administration also seems to be with them.

The goriest massacre of Harijans of recent months, as has already been mentioned, has been perpetrated in Jahanabad at Nagma and Nanhi-Tola-Bhagalpur by armed thugs of the so-called upper caste landlords at midnight on the 16th June. They left 19 murdered and many more wounded including infants, children and women.

The details are here in this report of Nargis Sattar who visited Jahanabad together with Com. Masudal Hossain, MP. The report was published in the Jugantar newspaper. I have also photographs which Com. Masudal has taken. I beg your permission to lay the report and the photographs on the Table of the House. As the speaker did not subsequently accord the necessary permission, the papers were not treated as laid on the Table. As to their authenticity, I take full responsibility.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Not like this.

SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI: There have been attempts to cover up the actual cause of the massacre. But there is no mystery in it. These landless labourers demanded subsistence wages, that is one and half a kilo rice or atta, while the landlords demanded work without any wages, so long as the loans given as *Dadan* were not repaid. When the Harijans say, how can they work without any wages, they

swooped on them. Besides, the pond on vested land just behind the Harijan settlement was the only source of water—drinking and all—to these people. The first-ever tubewell has been sanctioned by the B.D.O. after independence a few days after the massacre in Jahanabad. While the water went to these people, the fish went to the landlord. For the last two or three years, the Harijans have also laid their claim on the fish which must have irked the landlord. The demand for the subsistence wage was perhaps too much and this was the vendetta unleashed.

While this is the record of the Congress (I) ruled States, under the Left Front Government, the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, as Shri Ramoowalia has already said, they are treated as human beings, with rights as voters and as members of their kisan or khet mazdoor organisations. There are hardly any atrocities in those States. In West Bengal out of one thousand cases in the country, only one case of atrocities on scheduled castes occurred. In Tripura during the Left Front Government...

(Interruptions)

Since the fraudulent installation of the Congress (I), TUJS Government, what is happening in Tripura? The terror unleashed reminds us of the dark days of semi-fascist terror during 72-77 in West Bengal.

There have been innumerable cases of violence against tribals and especially against tribal women. The worst are those of Siddapara and Jagabandhupara of Amarpur sub-division of the secluded village of Ujan Maidan in Khowai sub-division where from 31st May to 2nd June gang-rape was perpetrated on tribal Jhumia women by jawans of Assam Rifles.

Out of the 44 households scattered over several comprising the village of UJAN-

[Smt. Bibha Ghosh Goswami]  
Maidan, 26 are victims. The team that went to the village with Comrade Ajoy Biswas, M.P. and Comrade Baju Ban Riyan M.P. met 114 of the victims and taped their statements. If permitted, we will place the tape on the Table of the House.

Sir, I personally met seven of these women victims when I went as part of a fact-finding mission of the All India Democratic Women's Association on 17th June. We met them in Camera at Champahaor in Khowai. They were:

1. Bindyalaxmi (18) D/O Mahanmuni, Devbarma  
(Violated as noon on 31st)
2. Shubhalaxmi (25) W/O Abhimanyu  
(Gang raped by at least four in the morning of the 2nd after beating and throwing her husband out of the cottage.) She has got two kids.
3. Radhika (35) W/O Takhirari, Devbarma  
(also mother of two children, gang raped on 31st while in Jhum)
4. Sonakali (15) D/O Kitakumar, Devbarma  
(Gang raped by two in the morning of 31st while coming back from her sister's house)
5. Banapati (35) W/O Hemendra, Devbarma  
(Gang raped by four in the night of 1st June. She is the mother of two kids, the elder being 15 years)
6. Prabhati (40) W/O Ukindra, Devbarma  
(Gang raped by two on 1st June at noon)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Sir, I am on a point of order. I would like to know whether whatever she is reading is authenticated or not. (*Interruptions*) Please allow my point of order, Sir. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, order. Please all of you take your seats.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why don't you listen to me? You please listen to me. If you feel that it is not authenticated, then you give a privilege motion against her.

(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: Sir, if the document is authentic, I do not have any objection. But if it is not, then I have objection to it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She is not reading out from any document.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, what is the rationale behind the lady Member supporting the rape? (*Interruptions*) Sir, this will remain in the history of the Parliament that a lady Member has spoken like this. (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: Don't mislead the House. Sir, they are misleading the House. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. If you think that she is misleading the House, you may give in writing a privilege notice against her. I am told that she is not reading from any document. She is speaking from her personal knowledge of the facts.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI: Please allow me to continue. Another victim was Panchalaxmi whose age would not be more than 13. She is the daughter of Brajendra Debbarma. She is a student of Class V of Ujan Maidan Junior Basic School. Both her parents are deaf and dumb. This child does not even know what has happened to her and her innocent face still haunts me. We were told that on 2nd June itself when a Minister, whose name I do not want to mention here, went to Shikaribari, the tribal people of Ujan Maidan submitted a written complaint to the Minister. Why was no medical test arranged? We were told that a few days afterwards, may be on 6th, the women victims were taken by the Minister, Shri Ravindra Debbarma to his house in Agartala and there, their statements were taped. What was happened to that tape?

When we met the Chief Minister at Agartala, on the 18th of June, we were aghast at his unsympathetic attitude towards the tribals. He alleged that it was a politically motivated propaganda and that the tribal women could tell all lies for the sake of some political gain.

Sir, it is a grave insult to tribal women, indeed to womanhood itself, to allege that they could concoct stories of gangrape for political motive. I am not surprised at the written answer given by the Home Minister to our question No.84 on 27th July, which merely repeats the information given by the State Government. But the administrative committee also could not altogether white-wash the crime and has admitted a possible rape. Who were the members of that Committee? The members were two IAS officers of the State Government (the D.M. and the S.D.O.) one DSP(SB) and a Major of

the very same Assam Rifles! The people have no faith whatsoever on this committee. I urge that there must be a judicial inquiry into this matter by a sitting judge of the High Court of the Supreme Court. Secondly, the Assam Rifles must be withdrawn.

The point is that rape by custodians of law is not an aberration but it is becoming an instrument of class or political vendetta and this is possible because the Government lacks the will to punish the culprits.

Treatment meted out to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is a part of the political-cultural ethos of Congress (I) which on the one hand talks about modernisation, technology and 21st century, national perspective plan on women upto 2000 AD and so on and on the other makes the most opportunistic compromises with fundamentalist and obscurantist forces as is evident from the way they supported and passed the Muslim Women's Bill. It is really a pointer that even after advocating untouchability and 'Sati', the Shankaracharya is allowed to go scotfree.

Sir, I want to impress upon my sisters and brothers that there can be no separate freedom for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as there cannot be any separate struggle for emancipation without joining the mainstream in the struggle for human rights.

I therefore appeal to my brothers and sisters belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Communities not to fall into the trap of this Government or any divisive forces. The plight of all the exploited, oppressed and toiling people including the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is bound together. We have to fight unitedly to change this class and caste based society and thereby change our lot.



[Translation]

MR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, nobody can deny this fact that scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are very neglected, weaker and exploited sections of our society. We can say with great pride that our Government has taken many steps from time to time since independence for their upliftment, welfare, providing security, justice and equality to them. In pursuance of article 17 of the constitution to remove untouchability in any form a law was made in 1955. After that, prevention of Untouchability Act was passed and practice of untouchability was made an offence punishable under the law. But in spite of all these measures, reports coming in this regard are of great concern for all of us. Disease is on the increase with every dose of medicine. Exploitation of poor classes continued despite so many laws passed, rules and regulations made and directions issued by the Government and increase of awakening in the society. We fail to provide a set up which could ensure justice and protection for them and enable these classes to come at par with other sections of the society at a rapid speed. At present, the question before us is as to who are the persons behind these atrocities? Does our Congress Government do it or are other people who do such things for their vested interest and gaining cheap popularity, responsible for this? It is no use to mention in this house the details such as their age, percentage and other descriptions of the persons killed in Jahanabad. It is a very shameful incident by which not only the people of India but people living in all corners of the world will be shocked. There is no doubt in it that the Government has provided special component plans at Centre and State levels for the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in compliance of directive principles contained in article 46 of the constitution and tribals sub-plans have been made in pursuance of article 46 and

first proviso of article 275. Whenever atrocities are committed on these sections, the Hon. Members of this House express their views. Very recently Mrs. Meira Kumar, a member of our own Party has attributed the land disputes as the main reason for commission of such atrocities on Harijans and weaker sections of the people. This is true to a great extent. Land plays an important role for commission of such atrocities but in addition to it, there are some component and ingredients in our social set up itself which are responsible for such atrocities and that is why their number is on the increase day by day. This can be aptly said in a couplet that "*Marz badata gaya jyon-jyon dava ki*" that is to say that disease increased with every dose of medicine. If we have a look on the number of atrocities committed on these people annually, we will find that it is gradually increasing. We have to think about the factors responsible for this. More the efforts were made by the Government to raise the level of their education, bring awakening among them and make them learned, more they were subjected to humbug, foul play, dishonestly and betrayal of confidence. We will have to think seriously as to who are the persons responsible for it. This is not a matter to be put off in jest. With increase in literacy, awakening, ability of the people and educational standard, dishonesty, falsehood, deceit have also increased in the society in the same proportion and there is over all fall in moral values. This is a thing not to be shelved in jest, rather the country will have to think as to who is responsible for this.

So far as the question of atrocities is concerned, I want to quote from the Times of India, dated 24th May, 1988.

[English]

"According to officially compiled data on an all-India basis, total number of 'cognisable' offences under to Indian Penal Code

perpetrated on members of the Scheduled Castes by non-scheduled castes has risen sharply over the years. In 1976, there were 5986 cases; 10,879 in 1977, 15070 in 1978, 15054 in 1982, 14947 in 1983 and 15936 in 1984...

The large number of incidents of violence took place in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan. More recently, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have joined these four."

[*Translation*]

So far atrocities are concerned, larger states have larger number of crimes and smaller states have smaller number of crimes. If we look at the figures, there is not a single state in India where atrocities have not been committed on Harijans and weaker sections of the people. It is only a matter of degree, somewhere it is lesser and somewhere it is more. Therefore, it is not an issue concerning Congress Party or for that matter the Government alone but it pertains to entire India. It is the responsibility of every person to think as to how atrocities, excesses and the injustices being perpetrated on weaker sections could be checked. The Government has come forward with laws, has made all necessary provisions in this regard but as revealed from the figures quoted by me just now, this evil, instead of decreasing, is gradually increasing.

Land is stated to be one of the reasons. It is true that behind all such atrocities, disputes and blood-shed, land dispute is the main factor but there are other factors also such as our social traditions, etc which do not give equal status to these poor people in the society and justice is not done to them. These factors are also responsible for it. All these factors lead to increase in atrocities and exploitation in different forms such as bonded labour, failure in giving minimum

wages and taking begar, etc. They are now in the know of the problems and raising their voice against it with the increase of awakening and consciousness among them. Whenever they raise their voice against exploitation, they are subjected to assault and bloodshed. It is a proven fact. We have to think as to how this can be removed.

Today, we come across the cases when atrocities are committed on them but police does not register cases and their cases remain pending for long time in courts. You will be surprised to know that as many as 36,865 cases of atrocities on weaker sections, Harijans and scheduled tribes are pending in courts at present. I appeal to the Government to constitute special courts to dispose of the cases pertaining to atrocities and rapes on the people belonging to these communities. The cases should be disposed of quickly, as many as 37 thousand cases are pending in the courts which is not a good thing.

I want to make an appeal, particularly to Hon. Members of the opposition that in the Indian Judicial system, justice can not be done unless the incident is supported by two witnesses. It is most unfortunate that there are such heinous crimes remain pending in the courts for 5 years in lack of witnesses and with the passage of time the witness forgets the sequence of incidents, enabling the culprits to get scot free by availing the benefit of doubt. If everybody wants to give justice to the poors and wants to raise their economic and social status, then a special provision will have to be made so as to check these atrocities on them. If the persons committing atrocities on harijans are acquitted like this, then there will be no end to it. We have seen many cases in which the culprits have been acquitted by the High Court or the Supreme Court. It is, therefore, necessary to make amendments in the Constitution, Indian Penal Code and C.R.P.C. But, only the enactment of laws will not mitigate the jnc-

[Mr. Chandra Shekhar Tripathi] dence of atrocities. The voluntary agencies of society and the political and social leaders will also have to come forward to work for this end. This is their duty to bring awareness in the society and help the poor and downtrodden to protect their rights. While inaugurating the Bharat Sewak Samaj, Dr. Radha Krishnan had once said:

[English]

"Let the rich make their house in order, poors are bound to follow them."

[Translation]

Therefore, it becomes the duty of the elite and the leader of the society to come forward in this struggle. That will make the rest of the people automatically come forward and stand by them in this struggle.

With these words, I would like to read out a couplet:

"Tabibon se main kya poonchhoon,  
llaje dard-e-dil apna,  
Marj jab zindagi khud ho, to phir uski  
dawa kya hai."

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH (Chhapra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problems of Harijans and the atrocities committed on them have been frequently discussed in this House during the span of last 40 years but till today, the harijans could not get rid of exploitation. Even today, Harijans and Girijans are the utmost victims of starvation, diseases, deaths and disrespect in this country. What is the reason of it? Sir, there are many reasons responsible for this situation and one of them is the prevalence of caste system in India. Over the period of last five thousand years, this caste system has deprived these caste of their entity, property, capability, zeal, joys, courage and prosperity and has termed them as inferior. In my view,

the casteism is also a weapon of exploitation like many other weapons of exploitation in this world. In India, the people are being exploited in the name of castes in the same way as the people in other parts of world are being exploited on racial considerations. If any body wants to see its most odious form, he can see it in India everyday.

I am very much surprised to hear the utterings of one of my Hon. Colleagues that a lot of work has been done for Harijans by the Bihar Government. He said that the surplus land over and above the land ceiling had been distributed in Gaya district. Mr. Chairman, Sir, but I may mention that 22,000 cases pertaining to Harijans and Girijans are pending in various courts in Bihar alone. Out of these 22,000 cases, 15,000 cases relate to rapes, atrocities and loot on Harijans and 5,000 cases of them relate to their land and property. I think that the entire House will agree with me that unless and until the poor Harijans and Girijans are provided an opportunity to stand on their own legs and become self reliant, our country cannot progress. But today the persons sitting in the top positions of power have a wrong contention that there is no need of paying any attention to the sufferings of these Harijans and Girijans who have remained neglected for ages. Today, the persons at the helm of affairs have no agony or sympathy for these Harijans and Girijans. Even if these persons cherish any such feelings for anyone, that is for those persons who have held all the powers property and dignity with them for thousands of years. But, I would like to warn that this country is not going to be governed any more on such false motions. Sir, even today harijans are being killed and their womenfolk are being subjected to rape. The main reason of those atrocities is that whenever the Harijans take up cudgils to fight the battle of their honour and rights against the feudalism and landlords, the feudal lords begin to assert their power with their ageold tendencies of oppression. The recent living

example of this can be seen in the Jahanabad incident in Bihar. The memories of the incidents of Padaria and Ghatiyari in Bihar had not yet vanished that some of the people armed with guns and other legal weapons, reached in Nonhi and Nagawa villages situated at a distance of 6-7 kilometers from the Jahanabad district head Quarters and took a toll of 19 Harijans and injured 17 others, on the midnight of 16 June, 1988. After all what was the fault of those Harijans? Their only fault was that they had refused to work on the wages of one and half kilogramme of foodgrains per day and dared to say that the Harijans be allowed to live in the houses which they had got constructed on the two beegha land. What was the fault of Laldas Paswan, who was the resident of that village? His only fault was that he had dared to say to Rajnand Sharma, who was his landlord, to release his 18 maund of wheat and 12 cattas of the Kehar crop, which was mortgaged with the landlord for 1000 rupees. He had also urged to him to retain the foodgrains worth 1,000 rupees and return the remaining quantity of the foodgrains to him. At this, Rajnand Sharma asserted that he had calculated the compound interest on the account he had given to him and now the repayable amount comes to Rs. four thousand. This was the only fault of the Harijans and Pasis of the Nonhi and Nagwa villages for which they were put to death. But there are different versions of this incident. Some people say that this massacre of Harijans was committed by the landlords of Nonhi village while others say that these Harijans were killed by the Lok Sena. It was mentioned just now that the feudals of Bihar have organised their own armies on the basis of castes. There are so many private senas in Bihar such as the Marathi sena, and Brahamrishi Sena of Bhoomidhars. Bhoomi Sena is the sena of Kurmies, while the Lorik Sena is the sena of Yadava's. On the one hand, the feudals of each caste have organised their private armies and on the other hand, the Hon. Member says that the Bihar

Government have done a lot of work for the welfare of Harijans. If the Bihar Government had actually done anything for the welfare of Harijans then there might not have been the entity of these organisations and private armies in Bihar. I was saying that different versions are being given about this massacre. Some say that this massacre was committed by the landlords and others name the Lorik Sena for the cruel act whereas some sections of the people say that this massacre was the joint venture of the two. But the wife of Shri Laldas Paswan said that at the time when the Harijans were being killed, Rajnand Sharma, the landlord, with whom her husband was working as a labour, was standing in her courtyard. But the Bihar Government have presented a third version of the incident which mentions that there are two Naxalite groups, who are fighting with one another just to show their supremacy and the people of one naxalite group are killing the people of another naxalite group. It means that the people of Mazdoor Kisan Sangram Samiti have killed the people of Indian People's Front. But the people of both the groups have condemned this statement and said that there is no infighting between the two groups on the question of supremacy. The Chhatra Yuva Sangarsh Vahini, which ardently believes in non-violence, has said that the statement of the Government is totally wrong and it is given to protect the criminals. Now, I want to make a submission that if the Central Government have any sympathy or feelings for the Harijans, then it should send a Central team to Bihar to assess the situation and conduct an enquiry into this case. The truth will never be known if this task is assigned to the local administration because this incident has occurred with the connivance of the local authorities. Otherwise this incident would not have taken place because these two villages are situated at a distance of just seven kilometers from the district headquarters. The administration also know that there was tension in the area and the struggle was going on the

[Sh. Ram Bahadur Singh] issue of wages determination and prestige but no precautionary measures were taken by the administration. The collector has taken this incident lightly and issued a statement that similar incidents have already taken place in Delhi, Panipat and Kurukshetra. Such a situation is all the more regrettable. It means that such incidents are but natural and will also recur in future. Hence one need not worry about it. That shows that the collector feels no concern or has no repentance for this. I, therefore, want to say that if the Central Government is willing to bring out the truth then it must take up the responsibility of enquiry on its shoulders.

I shall conclude my speech after making one more submission. I request not to assign this work to the local administration because there is state of anarchy in Bihar. There will be no exaggeration if I say that there is no administration worth the name in Bihar. You will be surprised to know that during the last five months only i.e. from January 1988 to May 1988, 1550 persons have been killed in Bihar.... (Interruptions) with an average of 310 persons a month and 31 persons per day. Most of them were Harijans, Girijans or the persons belonging to the weaker sections of the society. The figures of Jahana-bad massacre are also included in it. The Central Government had dismissed the Barama Government in Punjab on the ground of increase in killings in Punjab but the same action is not being taken against the Bihar Government where the number of killings has been more than that in Punjab. If the Central Government have enough guts the morality then it should at once issue a directive to dismiss the Bihar Government. But I know that the Central Government would not dismiss the Bihar Government. All prevalent evils in this country that are of the rising prices, famine, unemployment, rape, loot or dacoity are the worms which are eating upon this country. In the same way the atrocities on Harijans is also a worm. This worm has sprung up from the fallacy of the Congress. The origin of these atrocities is also in the filth of the Congress. I believe that unless the filth of the Congress is

cleaned, the worms will continue to nibble the country.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the Hon. Minister, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev will make a statement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C.JANGA REDDY (Han-amkonda): Where is Shri Chidambaram?

(Interruptions) .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: On behalf of Shri Chidambaram, he will make a statement.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Shri Chidambaram is making a Statement in Rajya Sabha.

(Interruptions)

18.00 hrs.

STATEMENT RE REPORTS APPEARING IN THE PRESS ABOUT TERRORISTS' PLAN TO ASSASSINATE THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE HOME MINISTER AND PAKISTAN'S COMPLICITY IN TERRORISTS' NEFARIOUS DESIGNS.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Sir, several Hon'ble Members have expressed concern about reports appearing in the press today regarding terrorists' plans to kill the Prime Minister and the Home Minister.