

507 Call Attention to Matter of FEBRUARY 24, 1994 Urgent Public Importance 508
of Urgent Public Importance
14.52 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch
at Fifty-two minute past Fourteen of the
Clock*

(MR DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE- THE
MINE DISASTER AT THE NEW KENDA
COLLIERY OF THE EASTERN
COALFIELDS LTD RESULTING IN
DEATH OF MANY COAL-MINES
CONTD

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore)

Sir I have listened very carefully and also studied the statement made here by the hon Minister for Coal One thing I want to say at the outset is this I would like to know from him whether he did not consider this accident, in which so many people died or injured, serious enough to warrant a visit by him personally to the site of the accident He never went there He has given a list of officials, officers and other people who visited the place He visited other places He visited the rescue station He visited the hospital He visited some other place But he never visited the accident site I think that this is a very big dereliction of duty of his part In any major accident of this kind where there are heavy casualties, this is the least that can be expected He has paid a tribute in his statement to the people who have died and said that they should be considered as martyrs to the cause of self-reliance or something like that Very good noble words That is one thing

The other point I wish to raise is that it is true that an inquiry is now going on there, So, we cannot anticipate what the findings will be But we are worried about the fact that

in this whole belt - Asansol-Rani Ganj - there are some 102 mines most of which are old mines, more than 30-40 years old If neglect of safety rules or violation of safety norms is allowed here, then a worst disaster may take place that what happened at New Kenda Colliery There is only one rescue station situated at Sitarampur as he has mentioned in his statement Although we have to await the final findings of the Commission of Inquiry, some *prima facie* evidence is available from many people as to the probable cause of this disaster that took place In these mines the Eastern Coal Fields Company has over the years been digging tunnels For miles and miles they dig tunnels and those tunnels are subsequently not properly filled up Often the ground on the surface is not safe, it caves in There are pockets of fires In this case also we are told by some engineers that there were some abandoned seams which were not worked any longer and the valve dividing from the abandoned seams from the seams which are being worked, in that what is called the stopping valve, some pockets of fire may remain which then ignite when they come into contact with methane gas or with some other combustible material

The point is, I am told that the Colliery Manager and the Assistance Manager were not present on duty at the time of the disaster I do not know whether it is a fact or not, it should be found out According to mining regulations they should be on duty all the time It is also a fact - I would like to know from him whether it is true or not - that the construction works of building these valves and digging of tunnels and all that inside these mines and the security arrangements, safety arrangements, have over the years been handed over to private contractors They are the people who are entrusted with all these works. We all know how private contractors work, particularly in this remote

coal bearing areas They are often what is referred to as agents of mafia people making money by all sorts of illegal means

Possibly, this thing could have been averted if it had been detected in time So the question of safety inspection of the mines, all this has to be looked into I would like to know why there should not be a full fledged judicial enquiry What is going to take place is not a full-fledged judicial enquiry, though one retired judge has been made the Chairman As far as the procedures of enquiry are concerned, it would have been better in my opinion if there had been a full fledged judicial enquiry

He has mentioned the fact that they will go in for a safety audit It is a welcome idea It is long overdue I should say A safety audit would be some kind of a preventive step in the case of all these under ground mines I would like to know from him if he can give us any more details as to how they proposed to conduct the safety audit, who will do it, when it will be done how long it will take These are very important things because there is a feeling among the miners in that area that these hazards of mining are present there and their lives are not safe, endangered In this way you cannot get good production and good work going on

14.59 hrs.

[SHRI P C CHAKO *in the chair*]

Finally I would say that nowadays in the case of railway accidents and air accidents then people are killed, the families of the victims, the deceased, are given at least Rs 1 lakh or Rs 2 lakh as special compensation In the case of these coal mines only Rs 50,000 is being sanctioned Is it because they are poor people, not very well educated and do not belong to the upper sections of

society? Or are their lives supposed to be cheaper?

15.00 hrs.

So, I demand here that these miners' families should be given Rs 1 lakh or Rs 2 lakh per family as given in the case of victims of other fatal accidents Finally, they have said that some dependents of the deceased worker or the widow will be given some kind of a pension which will continue for some time That is good as far as it goes but I think if the deceased worker has a son or a younger brother or somebody, it will be better if they are given a job in the mines so that they could be employed there gainfully and help the family Employment is there in the package I hope all these things will be carried out properly Finally, it is after a long time such a serious mining accident took place in that belt and naturally everybody is very much anxious and worried about it Therefore, all possible measures must be taken and from the Government side everything should be done to give the mines and their families, a feeling of reassurance that as far as safety and security is concerned no stone will be left unturned and all steps will be taken and they will include I hope, the visit of the hon Minister to the spot when something like this happens In railway accidents, we find that Ministers are most often flying to the site of the accident it is not that it solves any problem but it is a sort of gesture which is necessary and I think in this particular case also, it should have been done

SHRID VENKATESHWARA RAO Sir after seeing the disaster that occurred in New Kenda Colliery of Asansol coalfields, it appears as if the authorities did not take proper safety measures while operating these coalfields According to the statement given by the Minister here, a Mining Sirdar

[Sh D Venkateshwara Rao]

who was coming out of the mines came across some smoke in the main intake roadway and then, at 4 PM he reported to the authorities. According to the information provided to us, it is very much obvious that a victim among these 55 people wrote a letter and kept it in his watch saying that after ten minutes they are going to die or something like that. It means there is no proper communication network or system being established there as a result of which he could not communicate the serious situation like what happened over there. At the same time, it is being said that there are self-rescuers being given. Self-rescuers are supposed to stop the inhalation carbon monoxide gas and help the people for at least 20 minutes without suffocation. This kind of self-rescuers were not supplied to them. This is also one of the reasons for the grave situation as per the reports appearing here. Finally, what could be the cause for this kind of an explosion? Is it because of the negligence of the authorities or is it because safety measures are not applied which ought to have been applied? This is not the first time that this kind of an accident occurred. Previously, in 1973, it occurred in Chasnala.

Accidents also took place in Topa in 1985 and in Mahavir in the year 1989. I would like to know as to what kind of enquiries had been conducted at that time. I also want to know about the recommendations given and whether those recommendations were properly implemented or not. The hon. Minister may further state whether there is any programme by the Government to go in for new safety measures that are being implemented in curious advanced countries to avert such disasters. Finally, my senior colleague has raised a point regarding the benefits that should be given to the family

members of the accident victims. I reiterate that it should be implemented immediately.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) Mr Chairman, Sir, such terrific and inhuman accidents in mines take place in every 3-4 years. We simply term them as martyrs inside and outside this august House and pay homage to them. Since they are poor people and belong to lower class, even after setting up so many committees or commissions for their safety, the recommendations made by them are not implemented in the coal mines. It is a hard fact. There is a separate department called the Director General of Mining Safety. But I regret to submit that requisite precautionary steps are not also being taken by them. The hon. Minister has termed the deceased in the accident as martyrs. I agree with him. But I would like to know as to what action has since been taken against the people responsible for this accident. One or two days after the accident, some labour organisations collectively held certain officers responsible for this accident and filed an FIR against them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what action has been taken against them and what is the progress in this regard.

Last year also 164 laborers were killed in similar accidents. Thereafter, these instructions were issued -

[*English*]

"Coal mines regulations require that a competent person shall, at least, once in every seven days, inspect all the stopping valves, ascertain general conditions, check leakage, presence of gas and ascertain temperature and humidity of the atmo-

[*Translation*]

I would like to know from the hon. Minister in view of these instructions how many days before the accident the Mining Safety Inspector and other Officials had inspected the accident-site? What report they had submitted regarding the safety and the condition of the mine site and what precautionary measures were taken by the managers of these mines?

After the accident, some rescue material were brought from Calcutta. It took many hours, days to reach them. Again the disaster took place on the 28th instant. The rescue work was hampered. Following the fire in the tunnel, it caved in. The hon. Minister would like to say as to what precautionary measures had been taken to prevent the fire from spreading to neighboring big mining are as from Asansol to Jharia and Dhanbad.

As per the reports appearing in newspapers the hon. Minister had visited there on the 27th and 28th. He must have mentioned it in his statement that he had visited the spot. As our leader Mr. Indrajit has rightly said that the compensation amount announced by him is very meagre as compared to the compensation that is paid in case of air and rail accidents. The poor people belonging to eastern U.P. and North Bihar work in these mines in a large numbers. Till date, no accurate information is available with him whether the number of deceased is 55 or more. Various rumours are spreading in our area. The family members of the workers are coming to us to enquire whether number on deceased persons is 55 or more and whether their men are also among them? rumor are spreading

fast. To check such rumours the hon. Minister should try to inform the country regarding the exact number of workers died. Compensation amount should also be enhanced. If any accident occurs in mines, information should immediately be sent outside that area through wireless. What action is being taken by the Government to expedite this system? Because, as per information with us, delay was caused in conveying the information properly in regard to accident to the management. On the other hand, much delay was caused on the part of management in launching rescue operations.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how long it took the management and the rescue team to reach the site where the incident had taken place. Had the rescue operations have launched earlier, the number of deceased would have been less and more persons would have been saved. With these words I conclude.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I call upon the next Member, I would like to tell the House that the hon. Minister wants to reply to the classificatory questions which are being raised here. I think important questions have already been raised. I request the Members to kindly confine themselves to specific questions.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PRO. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Will it be discussed in future in detail?

(*Interruptions*) It would be better if a discussion is held under Rule 193.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANARADREWSRA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) Sir, in the Statement which has been made by the hon Minister, it is stated that the Mining Sirdar informed the Manager about the incident at 4 00 p m , whereas, my information is that one person by the name Ganesh Lala, who was the last person to come out of the burning pit, informed the Manager at about 3 00 p m about the fire that broke inside the mine. If that information was taken note of properly and had necessary steps been taken at that time the casualties would have been much less. I would like to know from the hon Minister whether this information is correct, if so, why no action was taken by the Manager immediately. Another important point is, why this accident took place at all. According to me there are two reasons for it. One is accumulation of gases and other is that substandard cables were used in these mines. The substandard insulation of conduits resulted in short circuit which ultimately led to fire. Earlier also, some organisation had objected to the purchased of substandard material to be utilized in the mines but the same advice was not properly adhered to. I would like the Minister to look into all these things and throw light on them.

I welcome the hon Minister in asking for the safety audit. I congratulate him for that. Our revered colleague, Shri Indrajit Gupta also referred to it. I would like to know whether the Government is implementing the recommendation made by the earlier Committee, regarding safety measures, or not. Contrary to the new Industrial Policy, which was placed before the House in July 1991 the Government now wants open mining sector to private sector and allow up to 50 per cent equity. I would like to know whether the Government is taking serious note of the safety measures in the mines or

not, because when a private person invests money in it he tries to get maximum benefit out of it. So, he may feel that since the safety measures will not add to his income, he may not take a serious note of it. That particular aspect must be taken care of and the Government must prescribe policy measures very stubbornly so that they are implemented properly and no such unfortunate incident reoccur in the near future. Unfortunately, this is one of the very gruesome incidents that had taken place in recent times.

I join my colleague in asking the Minister to enhance exgratia payment from Rs 50,000 to at least Rs 1,00,000.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh) Mr Chairman, Sir, the mine, where the fire broke out, was declared unsafe by the D G M S much earlier. But inspite of that the officials decided to carry on mining in this mine. Safety measures as directed by the D G M S were not followed and as a result thereof 55 people were killed in this accident.

Mr Chairman, Sir, there are also mines in my constituency. I do know that the Manager, Deputy Manager or Project Manager are supposed to visit two-three times in a week to these mines, but they fail to do so. This entire job is entrusted to the Mining Sardar or Foreman. I would like to know to as to when the inspection of the mine, which caught fire, was made by the Manager, Deputy Manager or project Officer and whether these Officer had paid a visit on the day when the accident took place or not and at what time the G M had visited the mine. Mr Chairman, Sir, according to mine workers the inspection is made by the Manager generally once in a week but he does not

visit underground mining and does not try even to know as to what difficulties are being faced by the workers while mining. The Project Manager does not inspect there even for months together.

It was also informed by the workers that the pithead of the mine, in which fire broke out, was sealed. But gas was leaking from somewhere else. Owing to it, the fire could reach here, as this aspect could not be taken care of. Had we taken care of it, this tragedy would have been averted. In the same manager, substandard material is used in underground mines and large amount of commission is taken on this material. Owing to it, such type of accidents take place. The safety measures which are asked for are not followed. The officers try to get maximum production from January to March and resort to deputing mine workers in underground mine forcibly without safety measures despite their resistance. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that full guarantee should be given to check such type of accidents. First grade material should be supplied to underground mines and entire arrangement should be made for safety. The contractors who supply substandard material can be checked. The mine workers have been opposing to work in underground collieries but they are forcibly sent to work in these mines despite their resistance. Other hon. Members have also asked to pay Rs 50,000/- as an ex gratia amount to the next of their kins and provide employment of them. 55 people have lost their lives. Therefore, at least Rs 2 lakhs should be provided to the dependants of each decease and the Government should ensure that such type of accident do not recur in future. It has not been mentioned in the report as to when the Chairman and the Manager of Coal India Ltd had visited there since they were present in Calcutta. It takes 1 1/2 to 2 hours to reach there from Calcutta. But they had visited the

other day. The hon. Minister had visited there on 27th and his statement was published in newspapers. It has not been mentioned in the report as to when the rescue operation was started there and when they had received information. It is a serious matter. Therefore, the Government should take action so that such type of accident do not recur in future.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister will reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): Sir, so far as Mr. Gupta's point is concerned, I must make it clear that I did visit the site but, I did not find it necessary to mention my visit to that place in my Report. It was because, I am not a technical expert. I did go to the site also. I do not want to cite any witness, because our hon. Member, Shri Haradhan Ray was present there and met me at the site.

Sir, Mr. Gupta also insisted in his speech that the Minister should have visited. I also feel the same thing. But, the situation there was that 55 miners were to be rescued. When I moved to the Coal India Control Room at Calcutta on the 26th, along with senior officer and monitored the entire operation. There was a lot of commotion. Then, I asked the Chairman of CIL and the authorities about the situation. They said that the rescue operation cannot continue unless and until the commotion is controlled. So, the experts were there. It was also necessary for the Minister to go there but not certainly in such a manner so as to affect the rescue operation in any manner.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: What was the commotion there?

SHRI AJIT PANJA Nobody, first of all knew what had happened there. So, everybody went there. Everybody started running about here and there. Fortunately, our hon Member of that particular constituency, Shri Haradhan Roy himself was present there and other union leaders immediately went there with the result the situation was brought under control. They were present there throughout.

As I mentioned earlier, I first went to the Control Room. There was also a comment as to why the Chairman did not go the same night was that of both us were finding out the materials required from various places. Nitrogen is a thing which cannot be stored by the side of the mine, because, it is a highly dangerous thing. You must have seen, while going on the road, liquid nitrogen being carried. It is a dangerous thing. Therefore, it is to be manufactured and stored in a proper place like Calcutta, Jamshedpur and other areas. We were monitoring as to what would be our requirement, what is the nature of the rescue operation and whether any other thing is required even from outside India. Chairman went to the site on 26th. So I was monitoring that from our Control Room in Calcutta. Next day on 27th, I went there at 11 o'clock. After going there, immediately I had a meeting with the Chairman, District Magistrate, the I.G. Without disturbing any one engaged in the rescue operation, I only said that the Chairman should remain there and nobody else should come to the meeting.

That was the first thing I thought in my good judgment at that time that the rescue operations should go on. I am not a technical person nor am I a technical expert to go there and assist them in any manner.

Then one after another dead bodies started coming. Various rumours were there

on what had happened. Therefore, it is not correct that I did not go to the site, I did go there, but, of course, I did not go on the same day, and I think, the Minister, unless he is an expert should restrain himself and allow the rescue operations to go on, and that was the feeling there of all persons present there, it would have been very nice if it was done on the same day. But could I help them in any manner? Could any Minister help them in any manner? If he could certainly he should rush to the site. In any way, I went to the hospital and found that postmortem examination on the dead bodies was being done quickly. Some of the unfortunate widows and next of kin were there who were weeping. I tried to console them as best as possible and handed over to them money wherever it was possible.

So far as the probable cause, as mentioned by Mr. Indrajit Gupta, I think I should not comment, because it is under a Court of Enquiry. Mr. Indrajit Gupta commented why it is under a Court of Enquiry and not judicial enquiry. This Parliament has made a law in which this Parliament thought it necessary that in such cases of accidents, there should be a court of enquiry, and that is envisaged under Section 24 of Mines Act 1952. This is a special type of statute applicable for colliery accidents and accidents in coal fields area. Therefore, the principle is that general statute is not given effect to but the special statute is to be given effect to, that is the pith and substance of the Parliament's intention.

The Parliament, in its wisdom thought that 200 years old coal mines coming from Britishers, this is a special statute made for them in 1952 immediately after the constitution in 1950 so that protection is provided for coal workers of enquiry under Section 24 was provided subject to correction, I could not find any other enquiry headed by a judge, I thought it should be by a judge.

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Therefore, I immediately requested the Labour Minister to hold an independent enquiry. Mr. Indrajit Gupta must have know it and hon. Member also know that it is an independent inquiry by the Labour Department; it has nothing or do with the Department of Coal. It has to done by the Labour Department by one Chairman who need not be a judge. But I requested him to pleased get it done by a judge so that people can see that justice is being done, which is an essential thing. Such enquiry is done with two Assessors, one is an expert, the other one is from the trade union. That is the sanctity of this procedure so that nothing could happen without the workers having confidence in such system. Therefore, three persons under the statute - one is the Chairman (a judge or a higher officer) and the other is an Assessor, who is an expert and another from trade union should hold this enquiry. Prof. A.K. Ghosh has been appointed from the Indian School of Dhanbad. Therefore, under Section 24, an enquiry was declared. Mr. P.A. Sangma immediately reacted to it and within two days an enquiry has set up and a notification has been issued.

So far as the construction work of the stoppings is concerned - whether it is private or public. This is a mine which is not within the list of dangerous mines. There is a list of dangerous mines where fire takes place, accident take place. I checked up its history and found that seldom accident takes place there. Only Rs. 10,000 maximum was paid before as compensation. But I found that they had an excellent track record of 15-20 years of service of underground mining; and they were as good as any Supervisor even and technical expert; and that is why, immediately, on the same day, considering their entire bio-data from the ECL Chairman who was present there, I thought it necessary to give Rs. 50,000 forthwith as special exgratia.

I gave that within my own power. Otherwise, they would have got small amounts under the Workmen's Compensation Act. After consulting Sec. and Chairman, I did it on my own. The money which is to be given them under the Workmen's Compensation Act is so little and I thought that it is not possible for them to get much relief out of that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, how much more time do you require? We have to take up Private Members' Business at 3.30 p.m.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: I will take only five more minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Besides the reliefs provided under the Workmen's Compensation Act generally Rs. 500 for funeral expenses; ex-gratia amount Rs. 10,000; and amount under life cover scheme were usually paid before. Even though these are envisaged in the Statute and in the rules, I thought it necessary that an amount of Rs. 50,000 should be given. Kindly calculate the entire amount. The total amount which comes to their hand, if it is calculated according to their service, is about Rs. 1,75,000. If the widow chooses not to do the work, then up to the age of 60 years, if calculated properly, because I found the average age was 45 to 50, then as per the calculation she will be able to get about Rs. 8 to 10 lakhs until the age of 60 years. This is without any condition, I made it clear, as is in the Army. Even though they work elsewhere, even though there is remarriage, I made it certain that they get the pension. Why? It was because that they were widows of such workers working for long 15 to 20 years, having an excellent record. That is why, this special provision has been made.

[Sh. Ajit Panja]

Now I come to the point relating to safety audit. It is a relevant point, which has been made by Shri Indrajit Gupta, The hon. Member asked, what does safety audit mean? Safety audit is done in a very special case. In financial audit, every penny is examined. Here, every item of safety of a particular mine, as recommended throughout by the various Commissions and also by the rules and regulations, is examined meticulously and with sanctity. The items that are examined are like roof management, ground management, danger of inundation, danger of outbreak of fire, transport system, underground communication facilities, inspection of mine by officials at various levels, and quality of materials as mentioned. These are the safety audits specifically done. And I am happy to say that by this time, in most of the underground mines, safety audit has been completed—reports have been prepared—except some who had asked for some time to go ahead with the audit due to certain other difficulties.

I also saw the news about a dead worker alleged to be found with a wrist watch and letter attached when I was there actually at the spot. Immediately a search was ordered thoroughly and the Chairman himself had gone there. But no such dead body with a wrist watch and letter was found. I do not want to make any comment because this is subject to inquiry. Whoever has given this information must be appearing before the Court of Inquiry. But the experts told me that if such a gas of carbon monoxide is inhaled by anyone, then he will not be able to write anything and he will die instantly. I do not want to comment about this. And being a Minister, I should not when this is pending inquire. Let it be inquired. Let the witnesses be allowed to appear before the Court of Inquiry. Let the Court of Inquiry find

out the truth.

Sir, one other important point has been made. It has been said that FIR was lodged. The hon. Members wanted to know as to what action was taken on that. Action has to be taken by the State Government, that is, the Government of West Bengal. I understood that the Manager, Assistant Manager and Agent went to the High Court at Calcutta and obtained an anticipatory bail. But that does not mean that you cannot proceed. But this is for the State Government to do. This is a law and order problem. We cannot take charge of the FIR. But certainly, we are pursuing this matter.

I must put on record that our MP, Shri Haradhan Roy, and other Union Leaders and the District Magistrate Shri Burman and Administration of the Burdwan District gave me full support. But, unfortunately, I must also say that the CITU Union on 31 January called a strike which caused terrible suffering. I tried to contact Shri Roy in Burdwan to request him that the movement of rescue team and nitrogen be allowed. Fortunately the District Magistrate was able to contact Shri Roy, who immediately came and saw that there was no hindrance whatsoever. But, there was delay because it was not within his jurisdiction. It was quite outside the district of Burdwan.

As far as other arrangements are concerned, so far as I know, in the whole of the world there is no underground wireless arrangement in a coal mine because it is so much sensitive to any type of gas that it might cause fire. The battery inside the wireless might cause fire. But, I do not know about it in detail. I have asked the officers to find out whether such wireless arrangements are in China or in United Kingdom or in Australia and could be made available in India.

It is stated that the name of the person who came out first is Ganesh Lala. The record which has been given to me by the Company is that around 4 00 P M Ganesh Lala came and reported this matter. He was also on duty. At 4 00 P M the shift was over. I do not want to comment as to whether he came and reported the matter at 3 00 P M because of the pending enquiry. If that is so, the enquiry would be held and the hon judge will find out as to what has actually happened.

As far as safety in private mines is concerned this is a specific thing which I have taken care of because privatisation in some way is coming like the captive mining which is being given for power houses. Specific order has been issued by the Coal Ministry that each one taking such private mines, that is, mines for power or for washery or for other purpose, has to abide by all the safety norms with inspection by the Director of Safety and also the Controller of Mines.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar) What about the safety measures in the BCCL mines itself? Are you satisfied with it?

SHRI AJIT PANJA These are the few points I wanted to say in reply to questions. I am grateful to the hon Members who have raised these questions. I will be very happy to receive suggestions from all the hon Members, so that in the meantime until the report of the Inquiry Committee comes out, I can proceed with various safety measures. I assure this House that after the Inquiry Report is published, we will take suitable action. We cannot be on which hunting, we cannot go on suspending people and taking anybody and everybody to task. But, after the report is out, we will see that each item of this Report is implemented including the guilty, whoever might be found, if found, is

punished severely (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ROOPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) Sir there is a rally against the price rise before the Parliament House organised by the Left Parties. The police attacked brutally and lathicharged. Eleven persons have been injured and they are in the hospital and thousands are in the police station. We demand that the hon Home Minister should make a statement (*Interruptions*)

MR CHAIRMAN Please sit down

(*Interruptions*)

MR CHAIRMAN This can not be allowed

(*Interruptions*)

MR CHAIRMAN It cannot go like this Mr Acharia please sit down. Please understand that this is a motion under Rule 197

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) I will request you to understand the gravity of the situation

MR CHAIRMAN Mr Acharia, you are encroaching upon the time of the Private Members. Please sit down. Already eight minutes of the Private Members' time has been encroached upon.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA Sir, in the capital of Delhi, the peaceful demonstrators were lathicharged and beaten up by the police. A number of persons have been hospitalised. They were protesting against the price rise. I deemed that the hon Home Minister should enquire into the incident and make a statement in the House.

MR CHAIRMAN O K, you have made your point. Now you can sit down.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Our demand is that the Home Minister should enquire into this matter and make a statement on the floor of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point. Please sit down. Please understand that we were discussing a matter under rule 197. You know the limitations also. All the points were made and the Minister has given a positive reply. You should please understand that..(Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Thousands of Bank Employees are sitting on dharama before Banking Offices to press the demand for establishing National Rural Bank. I would like to submit that the Government should pay attention to it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, we have already encroached upon the Private Members' time. We have already taken eight minutes from the time allocated for the Private Members' business. According to the schedule of business, we were to take up a very important Bill for introduction. So, I request the hon. Members that if you permit, this very important Bill may be allowed to be introduced. I hope the Minister will take only two minutes and immediately after that, we shall take up the Private Members' Business..(Interruptions).

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Which is that Bill, Sir? We object to that.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: This is Private Members' time. This time should not be encroached upon. We have allowed the

Minister to conclude his reply. Why was this Bill not introduced earlier? (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acharia, please allow others at least to understand you. Nobody is able to understand you if you are, going to shout like this. Please sit down now...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR CHAIRMAN: Let us hear his point of order.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, my point of order is that we do not know which Bill the hon. Minister wants to introduce. If we have to take any objection about the constitutionality of that Bill, we must get an opportunity. Even if it is passed in Rajya Sabha, we have every right to do it here. So, suddenly a Minister cannot come and introduce a Bill. We shall request that let it be introduced on Monday. What is the hurry about it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please understand that this is not a new item. This is already listed. You can please verify it from the List of Business.

SHRI RAM NAIK: But the time is ours now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to me. I am requesting for the permission of the hon. Members.

SHRI RAM NAIK: The time for Government's business is already over.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is any objection to the List of Business, you should have raised it in the morning itself...

(Interruptions)

529 *Call Attention to Matter of* PHALGUNA 5, 1915 (SAKA) *Urgent Public Importance* 530
of Urgent Public Importance

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to me. I do not want to enter into any argument with any hon. Member. You have raised your point. Please sit down now. The point is that this item is there in the List of Business, if any hon. Member had any objection to this item in the list of Business, whether it is unconstitutional or whether it is not right, then you should have raised this issue at 10 o'clock in the morning today...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Chitta Basu Ji, you are a senior Member. Please allow me to complete. The point is that item No.11 we were supposed to take up at 3.30 p.m. You know the reason why the time for the Calling Attention was extended. The will of the House was that the Minister should complete his reply. So, we have taken more than ten minutes of the Private Members' time. Now the Chair is requesting the hon. Members that the Minister may be allowed to introduce the Bill, which is a very important legislation and which is listed as item No.11 in the List of Business.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: What will happen to item No.12? Items 11 and 12 and related.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have very rightly said that...*(Interruptions)*

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mundsaar): Kindly see Part II of the List of Business. Here it is mentioned from 3.30 P.M. to 6 P.M. So, it is our time now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is true and that is why I sought for your permission and you have agreed also...

(Interruptions)

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: No, we have not agreed... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please listen to me. Exactly at 3.30, I sought the permission of the House. Then Shri Mohan Singh suggested, and everybody agreed by silence, that the Minister may complete his reply. That is now he has taken eight more minutes because it was an important subject. The Minister wanted to reply and we wanted to listen to his reply. So, it is with the explicit consent of this House that the Minister completed his reply.

So, eight minutes' more time was taken. Otherwise at 3.30 p.m. only all of us would have permitted the introduction of this Bill. Now I request that two minutes be given for this. We can make it up later.

(Interruptions)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No, we do not agree.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): Sir, we had agreed only to the completion of the Calling Attention. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Sir, these are two different matters. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let one Member speak at a time. Let us hear Shri Shahabuddin.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to submit to you that to allow a Minister, who is already on his legs, to complete a statement is one type of matter. The other is pending business. Now, if in your judgment, these Bills are so urgent and emergent, that they have to be intro-

duced today, then surely, the House may concede your request. But, surely there is no such emergency. The Bills can as well as be introduced on Monday. Therefore, they cannot be compared to the hon. Minister completing a statement when he is on legs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not comparing introduction of this Bill to the completion of the Minister's speech. I fully agree with the hon. Members. Still, I request your permission that within two minutes - if you all agree - and with your permission only, this could be done.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: We have not agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. We will take up Private Members' Business.

15.47 hrs

[English]

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Twenty-Seventh Report

DR. VISHWANATHAM KANITHI
(Srikakulam): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-Seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 22nd February, 1994."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-Seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 22nd February, 1994".

The motion was adopted.

15.48 hrs.

BILLS INTRODUCED

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)BILL

(Amendment of Articles 29, etc.)

[English]

SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB
TOPE (Jalna): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB
TOPE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.