

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): May I know those twelve names from whom you have received notices?

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. The list has gone for ballot.

12.12 hrs.

RE: EXPLOITATION/KILLING OF
HARIJANS IN PHULBANI,
ORISSA

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK (Phulbani): Sir, In the State of Orissa, in Phulbani District, there has been a large scale killing of Harijans. This planned and organised conspiracy by some political leaders is taking place in order to completely liquidate the Harijans in my constituency. This issue has been highlighted in the news media and also discussed all over the country in various forums. For the last three months, there has been a turmoil in my constituency and Harijans are being killed like anything. More than 15,000 Harijans have migrated from my district. The neighbouring districts are also being affected gradually. As a result, there will be retaliation by both the communities, viz. the Harijans and the Adivasis. This is a planned conspiracy because two rival leaders of the Janata Dal are engaged in the task of finishing each other. This will create communal violence in the district. Even the Chief Minister and the Home Minister have openly confessed about it in the Assembly in a statement. Harijans are being exploited. Irresponsible and provocative statements have led to communal clashes. I hold the Chief Minister responsible for having created such communal violence in my district. I seek

your protection. I have also demanded that the Chief Justice of India should be appointed as the head of the Inquiry Committee to probe the situation. I also demand that adequate protection be given to the Harijans. There should be sincere attempts to create communal amity, mutual trust and brotherhood. I need your specific ruling on this. The Central Government should react because the State Government has expressed its inability. They have also confessed frankly that the situation in the Phulbani District cannot be tackled even with the deployment of the entire forces in the State. So, it is high time that the Centre should intervene. I have discussed the matter with the Home Minister also. Every Member is agitated over this matter and I urge that the Home Minister should make a statement on the floor of the House.

SRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Sir, I have also given a notice of the same issue.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): This is a very serious matter and...

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, before the Home Minister react, you should please hear me.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Would you like to speak on the same issue?

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Yes, Sir, I have also given a notice on this issue.

Phulbani district was the most peaceful district in our State where Adivasis and Harijans, that is the

Scheduled Castes were living in harmony. For the last three months there was a killing spree, burning of houses and the State Government has completely failed to control the situation. It appears that the State Government wants to keep this situation alive keeping in view the coming elections. Many manifestations are there. Whatever they may do for elections, but to create a disastrous condition in the most peaceful and harmonious state where Adivasis and harijans live in harmony is not a thing to be appreciated. It is a matter of concern for the whole nation. Therefore, I urge upon the Home Minister to comment on this and to inquire whether there is any instigation behind this and whether there is a plan to keep it alive to make life miserable. *(Interruptions)*

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore): I request that a Parliamentary Committee headed by the Home Minister should probe into the matter and that the entire Report should be laid on the Table of the House. A sincere attempt should be made to resolve the crisis which is agitating the whole country. It seems that all this is done due to the instigation of Janata Dal Party and the State Government has completely failed to run the administration of the State. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Sir, as stated earlier, it is a very very serious situation which is prevailing in the most peaceful district of Orissa, that is Phulbani. Many reputed Press Reporters have made an on-the-spot study of the situation prevailing in Phulbani and they have come out with the observation that it is an outcome of internal differences and group conflicts of the Janata Dal Party in Orissa. They have named one leader... (Not recorded) who is inciting the people.

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

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: They have taken a cue from the Chief Minister's statement made on the floor of the Assembly saying that the Harijans too exploit the Adivasis. This has intensified the trouble and 13 persons have lost their lives. It is gradually spreading over to other parts of the State. This is a very serious situation and it is time for the Government of India to intervene in the matter. I request the Government that in order to bring the communal harmony back between the poor Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who are made to fight among themselves the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission should also rush to that place and try its best to bring amity. An inquiry should also be conducted in this regard.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKAR (Ballia): Recently I was in Phulbani. The situation is quite serious there. I am surprised why the Government of India has not come out with any statement so far because it is almost a month when this whole thing had started. The situation is getting worsened every day. I do not know about the facts but I found during my two days' visit to the place that most of the members of the public share the concern expressed by various Members here. I do not want to say anything about the Orissa Government or the Chief Minister or the various statements that have come out in the local Papers. But, if people have this type of apprehension, it is a fit case where the Home Minister should use his machinery to know the facts and tell the people in clear and unambiguous terms as to who is responsible for this type of crime. Phulbani was the most peaceful tribal area and if in that tribal area this type of situation

arises and it continues for more than a month, it should be the concern of everybody. I join the concern of every Member of the House and I hope the Home Minister must have investigated the matter and if he has not, then he should use his intelligence agencies and other agencies to find out the fact.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we feel hurt in this regard. The hon. Member Shri Mrutunjaya Nayak who belongs to that constituency has given a statement. I do agree with Shri Chandrashekhar that the entire country is concerned about this particular matter regarding Orissa. The age old cordiality in the relations of Harijan-Adivasis has declined and it has been three months since when the incidents to this effect have been taking place. I would like to submit that this should not be allowed to happen in Harijan-Adivasis. The Parliament holds responsibility in this matter because the entire nation is concerned about it. Through you, I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to take measures and immediately restore peace there. The rift between harijan and Adivasis should not be allowed to widen. The Parliament should appeal to stop such happenings in Orissa which encourage tension. The Central Government should direct the State Government to take immediate measures to restore peace in the state. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs should collect the facts if he does not have, furnish them to the House and take measures to restore peace there... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Every Member need not speak. Be brief.

SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK (Bhubaneswar): Sir, some vested interests for their narrow ends had provoked these two exploited sections viz., the tribals and the Scheduled Castes. Further, the statement...*

MR SPEAKER: If you are making allegations against some persons who are not able to defend themselves, it can be made against any other persons also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK: No. All those things have come in the newspapers. A separate statement was made in the State Legislative Assembly also. After that, the main political parties in that district viz., the Janata Dal and the Congress, none of them tried to pacify the people there. I do not know whether they wanted to take advantage of the situation. It is not a law and order affair of a State but it is a serious problem between the tribals and the Scheduled Caste. It concerns the Central Government also. So, it is their duty also to take steps but they had also failed in their duty.

This is what I wanted to say.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are very late.

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is your direction and also the convention of the House that the state matters are not raised in the House, but the matters relating to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have been raised in the past and the same has been repeated today with your permission. The

news regarding the incidents that took place as a result of tension between the Adivasis and Harijans in Phulbani have been appearing in the newspapers everyday; it is a matter of concern. Thirteen people have been liquidated and the State Government is still not taking any action in this regard. Tension is mounting there. I would like to know whether the Central Government intend to remain a mere mute spectator or would intervene. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs may please give a statement to apprise the House of the steps proposed to be taken. Had the State Government tackled the situation on its own, it would have been better. But the fact is that the State Government is watching while the chasm between Harijans and Adivasis is widening and killings are taking place. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs may please give a statement in this regard.

[English]

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir): Please allow me to speak, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: But this is unending:

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: I will take only one minute, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: What new thing you are going to say?

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: Sir, the State Government has dealt with this issue in a political manner. Therefore, my request to the hon. Home Minister through you is that at least the Central Government should deal with this situation in a humanitarian way. He should solve this problem because the State Government has totally failed to solve this problem.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN; Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am in full agreement with what the hon. Members are saying. It is a serious matter and we were under the impression that the State Government will be able to restore peace in that area. But the way the entire thing has been handled and the kind of allegations which some of the hon. Members have made, I will have to get the report from the State Government first because that will be the authoritative version.

I will have to ask the intelligence agencies also. Though they gave me a very brief report, a detailed report will have to be got from that area as to how the whole thing started and who, in fact, is responsible. I cannot possibly disclose in the House as to what exactly the intelligence agencies have reported to me.

Thirdly, I will specially request the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission to kindly go over there and also submit a report to the Government, as a special report, especially about this area and thereafter we will consider as to what needs to be done. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): I may bring to the notice of this House through you, Sir, and also to be immediate attention of the Government the pathetic and miserable situation and sufferings of the 35 lakhs of coconut cultivators in Kerala due to the deep fall in prices of coconut in Kerala.

The Government has not taken any effective measures even when the Government have the knowledge that the benefit of oilseeds will also be made available to coconut cultivators. But nothing has been done so far. Even the support price fixed by the Government

was quite inadequate. As a result of which 35 lakhs of cultivators and their families are suffering like anything. I do not know why the Government is just giving a deaf ear to such a serious situation faced by the people of Kerala.

Again, Sir, on the one hand there is a fall in the prices of coconut, on the other hand, the prices of all these industrial products for which the coconut oil has been used as a by-product, have been going up. For example, soap and hair oil. Its estimated loss is Rs. 1,500 crores. But I just would like to avail of this occasion to urge the Minister of Agriculture to pay some attention to this humanitarian problem. Therefore, he must also give due consideration to this burning issue in Kerala. I think the Minister would just do something in this matter and some effective measures will be taken to save the situation in Kerala, which the hon. Minister knows much better than me. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): It is a very serious issue in the State of Kerala and for the last ten years there is no Coconut Board there... *(Interruptions)*... It is a very serious problem. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not called you. Your statement is not going on record.

You should help to maintain some discipline in the House. I have called his name. You should sit down.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: I request the hon. Minister to respond to it. It is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister may discuss this matter with the Members from Kerala.

Now, half-an-hour is over.

MR. SPEAKER: The lady member who is recently elected, it appears, is in the House and she has asked whether she can take the oath. I think she should be allowed to take the oath. If she is there, she may be called and she may take the oath.

12.30 hrs.

MEMBER SWORN

Shrimati Lovely Anand Singh (Vaishali)

12.32 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**Notification under Governors
(Emoluments Allowances and
Privileges) Act, 1982**

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Governors (Allowances and Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1994 (*Hindi and English versions*) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 475(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 1994 under sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Act, 1982.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5986/94]