

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to reassemble at 3.00 p.m..

13.55 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till Fifteen of the Clock

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at six minutes past fifteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY -SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRIBASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I would request you that the Minister of State for Home Affairs should first make a Statement on Tripura. It is listed here for its being made just before the Private Members's Business. If you have no problem, I think you can request the Home Minister to make the Statement. He is also ready with the Statement. We are all interested to hear his Statement. The debate can be held later on.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: let us take up the listed subject and after that the Statement can be made.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, we have also a Meeting of the Amniocentesis committee. The Minister is ready. If you kindly give us the opportunity to listen to him, then we go to the Joint Select Committee Meeting. The Minister is also ready. (Interruptions).

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): We do not have any objection.

MR. DEPUTY -SPEAKER: So, we shall just oblige Basu Deb Achariaji and .

SHRIGHULAM NABI AZAD: Geetaji in Particular.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Minister may make the Statement.

15.08 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Alleged rape of tribal women in Tripura

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): In compliance with the direction of the Speaker, I wish to inform the House about the facts based on report received from the State Government, regarding the alleged incidents of rape of some tribal women in Tripura and the allegation of sexual harassment and suicide of girl inmates of a Government orphanage.

On 20.02.2 1992. some non-tribes of Stanala village want to Swastipara and orinagapara in search of two non-tribals who were suspected to have been kindaped by the ATTF. About a month later, Shri Samar Chodhury, MLA, CPI (M) and Shri Surendra Reang of CPI (M), Member of District Council ported to kanchanur police station that some non-tribal miscreants had raped six tribal ladies in 20.02., 1992. They were requested to lodge a formal complaint but they declined to do so. However, on the verbal complaint, police investigated the complaint. The Circle Inspector and the S.D.O., Kanchanpur visited the places. None of the victims reported any such incident of rape and no evidence was adduced to substantiate the allegation. A letter signed by Shri Samar Chodhury and a few others addressed to the Chief Secretary, Tripura was received on 20th march, 1992 containing the allegation of six tribal women being reped by non-tribal anit-scoials at Swasti para of Chota Dumbur Gaon Sabha under Kanchanpur police Station. The SDM, Kanchanpur who is a tribal officer was asked to conduct an enquiry in to the allegation who, in his preliminary report,

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stated that he had met five of the six alleged victims of rape but none of them stated that they had been raped.

An orphanage by the name of Dhwanjanagar Sishunandan has been functioning in Udaipur Sub-Division since 1979. It is managed by the local Notified Area authority with financial assistance from the State Government. It has 50 inmates of which 23 are girl children. In early part of 1990, an incident of suicide of a girl inmate was reported in this institution. The post-mortem examination revealed that the girl was pregnant. Apparently the girl, being adolescent, had developed physical intimacy with a young boy in the neighborhood. Apart from this, no incidents of rape or pregnancy are reported. To ensure better protection of girl inmates strict instructions have been issued by the State Government to the concerned authorities to segregate them in a separate building and to enforce strict discipline through better supervision. Sir I have got some more supplementary information. Further information relating to the orphanage has been received from the State Government and is mentioned as below:

All the inmates of the said orphanage have been enrolled in local school to continue their study except an infant boy. Girl inmates have been segregated by a bamboo wall with separate accommodation, kitchen and entry gate. A night guard has been provided to ensure the security of the girl inmates. Some girl inmates who attained marriageable age have been married and have left Sishunandan and are living with their husbands. One inmate after marriage in 1927 with local boy is running a photo studio the girls having legal guardians are being reconciled with the respective families. An exercise is in process to recognise the destitute homes of the inmates below 12 years and there above 12 years for both boys and girls separately (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): if there are no incidents, why is this extra vigilance? This is a concerted reported.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARA (Jadavpur): Although generally clarifications are not allowed, in this case, we want to ask two or three questions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER; Whatever care the Government has to take, the Government has taken it. (*Interruption*)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, this is a subject of the national Commission on Women.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whenever an hon. Minister makes a statement, it comes under Rule 372 and it says that a statement may be made by a Ministry on a matter of public importance with the consent of the Speaker out no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly pave the way for the next subject to be taken up.

(*Interruptions*)

15.13 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS. GENERAL
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Ministry of Labour

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand No. 57 relating to the Ministry of Labour for which five hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House whose out motions to the Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Labour have been circulated, may if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15