

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUB-BAIAH): Sir, may I make a request? I am not questioning the ruling or decision given by the Chair. The Speaker has allowed a matter under rule 377 to be read out by Shri Niren Ghosh. This is in connection with the correspondence that has taken place between the Chief Minister of a State and the Prime Minister. Without questioning the decision of the Speaker, I would only bring to your kind notice whether this could form a subject matter under rule 377.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, it has been released with the clearance of the Speaker. The statement was approved by the Speaker. But as the hon. Minister has brought it to the notice of the Chair, we will look into it.

(vii) NEED FOR BANNING HORSE-RACING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): Sir, I rise to mention under Rule 377 a subject of vital public importance—the ban of wagering on horse races. It is a matter of national concern that stakes in horse-racing are going up every year and the legalised gambling on horse races is fast turning out to be the country's biggest cash counter for changing black money. It is well known that there are matka, satta and other illegal betting games prevalent in practically each metropolitan city of the country. The police carry out occasional raids on these establishments and consequently there is a check on these activities. The criminal law of the land puts a ban on these games because these are essentially games of chance and not of skill. But I contend that horse racing, as it is practised today, is also a game of chance rather than skill and as such the same ban as on matka, satta, etc. should apply to it.

As it is widely known, most of the classic races in this country involving high stakes are participated by thoroughbred horses, that is, the percentage of the horses can be traced to only a small cluster of listed horse families. Therefore, in terms of their speed and stamina, the hor-

ses are more or less of the same calibre and the odds on them are, more or less, even. Now, the individual weights of jockeys and the age variation of the animals also balanced off through a very elaborate system of handicaps operating in all race tracks of the country. So, there is hardly anything that is left to be decided by any special skill in breeding or maintenance of the horses or in running them.

Sir, it is my earnest contention that horse racing is pure gambling and thousands of middle class families are being ruined by it every year. For the rich, this legalised betting provides a safe cover to launder black money into white. Last year, the cash counters at the tracks recorded transactions of nearly Rs. 18 crores. We can safely calculate that inside and outside the tracks, the total amount involved in betting is as high as Rs. 25 crores every year. It is, therefore, my plea that horse racing should immediately be stopped throughout the country and a proper legislation should be made to stop any clandestine racing.

It is a fact that the races are a revenue earner for the State Government and the turf clubs employ a sizeable number of people at the tracks and the stables. In fact these arguments have been used from time to time by the powerful horse lobby of the country which comprises of men of glamour and means, including the film crowd and the brown sahibs of the land. There have often been arguments that horse racing is an old and entertaining sport. But there are other equestrian sports too, such as polo. May I ask how many people go to see a polo match? Very few. Why?

Because a polo match is a game of skill and not one of chances, because the cash register does not jingle with a polo match, because there is no possibility to trade off the winning ticket for twice the amount in black money, because there is no network of bookmakers fixing final results in a polo match.

As regards compensation for the employment and revenue lost by banning

horse racing, my suggestion is that the huge roling tracks wasted for horse racing in the big cities of the country be converted partially into parks and partially into sporting complexes. The racing staff can be absorbed into the sporting complexes, and the stadia and grounds built there can be used for other games, for which the gate sales will generate enough revenue for the State Governments. The parks, with trees planted, can become the green lungs for the congested cities. For instance, in a land-hungry city like Bombay, there is no justification for wasting such a huge expense as the Mahalaxmi race course in prime location. Without destroying the ecological balance of the cities, their heart-lung ratio, as the town planners call it, we must find a way to stop this criminally wasteful gambling on horse races. A ban on horse racing will invite blessings from the poor and middle class housewives whose families have been ruined over the years—all in the name of sports. Horse is a noble animal, but horse racing is not a noble game; it must be banned.

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13.23 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1982-83—  
Contd.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we take up further discussion of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Shri Malika M.M.A. Khan.

श्री मलिक एस० एम० ए० खां (एटा) : मान्यवर, होम मिनिस्ट्री की ग्रांट्स पर डिस्कशन में हिस्सा लेते हुए अगर मैं अपने प्रान्त की दो अफसोसनाक घटनाओं देवली और सादूपुर का जिक्र न करूं तो बड़ी कमी रह जाएगी। इसमें शक नहीं कि ये बड़ी दुखद और तकलीफदेह घटनाएं घटी हैं। देवली में तकरीबन 28 हरीजनों का कत्लेआम किया गया और सादूपुर में ग्यारह का। मैं मुख्य मंत्री को बधाई

देता हूँ जिन्होंने यह कस्म खाई थी कि एक महीने के अन्दर अन्दर तो मुल्जियों को गिरफ्तार कर लिया जाएगा और अगर ऐसा नहीं हुआ तो मैं इस्तीफा दे दूंगा। उनकी वह कस्म पूरी हुई। इनमें से कुछ तो पुलिस के साथ मुकाबले में मारे गए और बाकि सभी को राधे संतोषा वगैरह को गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया। लेकिन जिस तरीके से सियासी पार्टियां ऐसे अफसोसनाक वाकत को सियासी अखाड़ा बनाने की कौशिश करती हैं उसके मुझे बड़ी तकलीफ और दुःख होता है। इन वाकत को ले कर पद यात्रायें की गईं। चाहे वे मेरी पार्टी की तरफ से की गईं हों या उधर से....

एक माननीय सदस्य : नहीं करनी चाहिये थी ?

श्री मलिक एम० एम० ए० खां : जिस घटना में 24 ठाकुर मारे गए वहां पद यात्रा क्यों नहीं की गई क्या सरकार के ऊपर जान माल की हिफाजत की जिम्मेदारी एक वर्ग के लिए ही है, दूसरे वर्ग के लिए नहीं है ? क्या जमुनापुर के अन्दर जब ब्राह्मण मारे गये तो वहां पद यात्रा क्यों नहीं की ? जब जैथरे में ठाकुर मारे गये तो पद यात्रा क्यों नहीं की ? क्या आपकी नजर में इंसान इंसान बराबर नहीं हैं ? कमजोर वह है जिसकी जान ली जाती है चाहे वह किसी जाति का हो। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जनता पार्टी के जमाने में 3 साल के अन्दर जो एक हजार आदमी कम्युनल राइट्स में मारे गये, 8 हजार जखमी हुए, 85 हजार घर बरबाद हुए, कितने ऐसे वाक्यात के दौरान पद यात्राएं हुईं ? एक नहीं ? जब आपकी सरकार थी तो 8 हरीजन फतेहपुर थाना हसनगंज में लोहारी गांव में डकैतों ने कत्ल कर दिए। आपने कितनी पद यात्रा