

MR. SPEAKER: You do not assume anything. You leave it to me. I have to consider it. Now 377.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: rose.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): Should I speak afterwards? I think let Mr. Dandavate speak. He was talking on the same subject.

MR. SPEAKER: On the same subject.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: He is on his legs. Let him make his statement.

MR. SPEAKER: He was on 377. If you (Madam Prime Minister) want to say anything you can say before that.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: He is on his legs.

MR. SPEAKER: Statement under Rule 377.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I want a clarification.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lakkappa, do not take the law into your hands all the time.

13.14 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) LATHI CHARGE ON A PROCESSION OF BLINDMEN IN NEW DELHI.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your previous permission, I am raising the following matter under Rule 377 in connection with lathi-charge on the demonstrators consisting of blindmen.

The Delhi Police acted in the most inhuman manner in resorting to a merciless lathi charge on a group of about 200 blindmen who were march-

ing towards prime Minister's residence on 16th March, 1980 on the occasion of "The World Day of the Disabled" to present their charter of demands. (Interruptions).

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Ropar): Mr. Speaker....

MR. SPEAKER: I have already allowed that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Kindly give me only one minute. You allowed him to make a statement before the Home Minister had made it clear that the judicial enquiry is ordered.

Now that a judicial enquiry has been ordered, I request you to kindly reconsider this.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me see.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I had raised this point at that time, you ruled me out. Because once you give a ruling I will have nothing to say.

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing about this; I had already allowed him to make a statement.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: You allowed under a circumstance when the Home Minister had not come with a positive suggestion that there would be a judicial enquiry; now the government has accepted a judicial enquiry. This statement is likely to prejudice the proceedings in the judicial enquiry. My submission is that you kindly hold this up.. (Interruptions). My humble suggestion is that you can allow a statement after the enquiry is over. You cannot now allow him to make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to see if it is going to affect the enquiry in any way; I will have another look at it. I can expunge it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The blindmen had informed the police about the route of their march 15 days in advance. Yet they were stopped at Parliament street and when they squatted on the road they were subjected to inhuman lathi charge resulting in bleeding of some of the demonstrators. The injured were not given even first aid for two and half hours. In the past peaceful marchers were always permitted to demonstrate, for your information. The Home Minister should make a statement on the matter.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): I am on a point of information, because my name is involved. I am deeply sorry that this incident took place. I do not think that the Home Minister wanted to "throw dust" in anybody's eyes, I am using those words in quotes since they were used by an Hon'ble Member on the other side. Now an enquiry has been ordered and it will show whether it was a regular lathi charge or an inadvertent act, just to keep them together or hold them back; the enquiry will show that.. (Interruptions).

As soon as we got the news, we instructed that there should be a full judicial enquiry, of which the Members have been informed. Furthermore, the group of blind did come to see me today, not all 200 of them, but a fairly large number. I did not count them. They have given their memorandum and I have discussed the points in it with them. But as I had a meeting and as they said that they wanted to say something more, we have given them time in the office also. As hon. Members know, I meet absolutely everybody who wants to meet me. Now the problem is becoming almost out of control; this morning I think, I had 3,000, or so people. Even if you stop only a minute with each, it becomes quite impossible. Nevertheless we are not stopping anybody. We are trying to put them in categories, who has what kind of grievance, so that other people can also listen to them. We have now people from the office to look into grievances that are connected with the gov-

ernment, I have others to look into other questions. At no time from my side has there been any kind of hesitation to meet anybody of any party or to enquire into any type of grievance. I should like to assure the hon. Members. I do not know why this incident has happened. I have given general instructions that I would not like to meet people on Sundays. May be, it is because of that they were stopped. Nevertheless, when they turn up, I do meet them which I would not like to publicise. But when they turn up, I do not like to tell them to go so, usually I do meet them also. We have told the Home Ministry and the Delhi Administration that in future they should be very careful about such matters.

(ii) ATROCITIES ON HARIJANS IN
A VILLAGE IN MORADABAD DISTRICT

श्री राम बिलास पासवान (हाजीपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, दिनांक 15 मार्च, 1980 को उत्तर प्रदेश के मुरादाबाद जिले के बाल्मोकी नगर में तीन हरिजनों को जिन्दा जला दिया गया।

प्रधान मंत्री जा रही है। यह प्रश्न भी बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। सुन लीजिए। हरिजन जिन्दा जलाये जा रहे हैं। (व्यवधान)

फलस्वरूप 1200 हरिजन बेघरवार हो गये हैं। लाखों रुपये की संपत्ति एवं पशुधन जल कर राख हो गये। पूरे क्षेत्र में मौत का सा सन्नाटा है। बस्ती का कोई चिह्न बाकी नहीं है। प्रतिदिन हरिजनों, अल्पसंख्यकों एवं कमजोर वर्ग के लोगों की हत्या हो रही है। उन पर अत्याचार हो रहे हैं। सरकार की धीर से आश्वासन भी दिये जा रहे हैं, लेकिन जुल्म घटने के बजाये बढ़ता जा रहा है। लगता है कि प्रशासन एवं सरकार हरिजनों, अल्पसंख्यकों एवं कमजोर वर्गों की रक्षा करने में बिल्कुल विफल हो गई है। पूरे देश में हरिजनों अल्पसंख्यकों एवं कमजोर वर्गों की जानो-माल तथा इज्जत खतरे में है। सरकार उन लोगों की जानो-माल की रक्षा का स्पष्ट आश्वासन सदन को दे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : क्या होम मिनिस्टर साहब कुछ कहना चाहते हैं?

प्रधान मंत्री (श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी) : अभी इनके पास कोई इनफार्मेशन नहीं है।