

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 बाल्मीकी 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 बेघरबार 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 ओर 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): प्रश्न इसके पास कोई इकरसंवात नहीं है।

श्री राम किरास बासवान : क्या सरकार इस बारे में कोई कार्यवाही कर रही है या नहीं ? प्रधान मंत्री श्री होम मिनिस्टर दोनों बैठे हुए हैं । हरिजन जिन्या जलाये जा रहे हैं । One more empty assurance!

MR. SPEAKER: Let him get the facts and he will give them.

गृह मंत्री (श्री जैल सिंह) : स्पीकर साहब, इस वाक्य के संबंध में मैंने आज गवर्नर के एड-वाइजर से टेलीफोन पर बात की है और उन्हें कहा है कि हमें इस मामले की पूरी जानकारी दें । जब मुकम्मल जानकारी हमारे पास आ जायेगी, अगर शाम तक आ गई, तो आज, नहीं तो कल-तो मैं इस हाउस में स्टेटमेंट करूंगा ।

श्री जार्ज फार्नवॉस (मुजफ्फरपुर) : सवाल यह है कि लोग मारे जा रहे हैं । उनको मरने से रोकने के लिए सरकार क्या कर रही है ?

श्री जैल सिंह : प्राय लोगों की जो कारंवाइयाँ थी, उनकी वजह से लोगों को आज तक जन्म सहना पड़ रहा है ।

(iii) REVIVAL OF PEOPLE'S VIGILANCE COMMITTEES

SHRI R. R. BHOLE (Bombay South Central): I want to bring to the notice of the Government about profiteering and hoarding in Bombay under Rule 377.

The Government at one time to detect and identify the hoarders and profiteers in the matter of essential commodities like sugar, kerosene, diesel, etc. had allowed People's Vigilance Committees in cities like Bombay.

13.24 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Will the Government again allow such Committees in view of the present high prices and dearth of commodities due to hoarding and profiteering?

(iv) SHORTAGE OF CEMENT IN KERALA

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Sir, may I use this opportunity to invite the attention of the Government

of India to the grave situation prevailing in the State of Kerala due to the acute shortage of cement supply. Total construction works, including developmental works, are at a stand still because of the non-availability of cement. Kerala requires 12 lakh tonnes of cement per annum as against which she gets only 8 lakhs per year. Of the 1,91,000 tonnes allotted for the last quarter ending in December, 1979 only 1,16,000 tonnes have reached there. Consequently, complete developmental works and construction works are stopped causing unemployment to more than 2½ lakhs of workers employed in construction works. Further, most of the governmental works are pending for lack of cement and the financial sanction of these will also cease on March 31st.

In the circumstances, I earnestly request the Minister for Industries to allot at least 2 lakh tonnes of cement as a special quota to Kerala in view of the special situation prevailing there.

(v) GLUT IN JAGGERY IN ANDHRA PRADESH

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): Sir, there is a glut in jaggery market of Anakapalli, one of the biggest markets in Andhra Pradesh. Due to non-supply of railway wagons, the merchants closed the market to stop the fresh arrivals.

For two years, the jaggery producers suffered great losses due to steep fall in jaggery prices as a result of the ban on exports imposed by Janata Government. This year, due to non-supply of wagons, again the producers are suffering a great deal and getting losses. If this continues, the producers' economy will be shattered and the area of sugarcane crop will be decreased.

To illustrate the grave situation, it is sufficient to say that 318 wagons were supplied in February last year