

श्री हुकन चन्द काष्ठवाय (उर्फ जैत) : मध्यका
महोदय में, व्यक्तता का प्रश्न उठाना चाहता हूँ

MR. SPEAKER: Your lung power is considerable.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: Shri Rajagopal Naidu is a Member.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: My ear-drum is gone, I cannot even hear; my ear-drum is broken.

I call the Home Minister. The Home Minister is making the Statement

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): I want to ask only one question. I am not asking anything else, I want to know one thing only

MR. SPEAKER: Your leader has already spoken about it. Your leaders has already made a statement.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am not on that.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I won't allow. May I tell the House that the House is sitting for this particular purpose after 6 O'clock and I have requested the Home Minister to make a statement. If the House does not want to hear that statement, it is a different matter.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: All I want to know is only this (Interruptions**)

MR. SPEAKER: No. That will not go on record. I have called the Home Minister.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): Sir, this morning hon. Members wanted to know the facts in respect of a news item that appeared in one of the Birla papers today. And now another question has been raised by my hon. friend opposite about the arrest of

certain Congress leaders in Lu know. I would like to know through you, Sir, from my hon. friend Mr. Sathe as to what he expects from me—whether I should give the facts about Khetri first or about Lucknow first. I would like to know this.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: About Khetri first.

18.07 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. ALLEGATIONS OF MOLESTATION OF WOMEN IN KHETRI (RAJASTHAN)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): Sir the matter regarding allegations appearing in today's issue of "Hindustan" about molestation of more than 100 women in Khetri (Rajasthan) on 26th February, 1978 was raised in the House this afternoon and several Members expressed understandable shock and concern at the report. As desired by the speaker enquiries have been made from the Government of Rajasthan and according to information conveyed by them on telephone, the Press report is totally baseless and false.

According to available information, a film star show had been arranged at Khetri on 26th February, 1978 in a shamiana erected next to a local cinema hall, Deshbandhu Talkies. About 2,000 ticket holders were allowed entry into the shamiana, but there was a large crowd outside which was pressing for entry without tickets. After the show started, the crowd started throwing stones and when the police tried to control the situation, some miscreants cut off the electric connection. The programme came to a stop and the local officers present, namely, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate and the Deputy Superintendent of Police with the help of about 120 policemen who were on

[Shri Charan Singh] duty, took charge of the women and children and removed them to the adjacent Deshbandhu Talkies to prevent any unoward incident. The unruly crowd was thereafter made to disperse. Arrangements were made to safely reach the women and children to their homes after the situation had been brought under control.

The Government of Rajasthan have completely denied the allegation that any women were molested or that they were forcibly taken away from the site of the function by undesirable elements. The matter was raised in the State Legislature also where the Chief Minister announced that the Additional Inspector General of Police, Crime Branch, would be holding an inquiry into the whole incident.

A mention was made in the House this afternoon about the involvement of some C.R.P.F. personnel in the incident. It has been verified that no CRPF is posted at Khetri. There is, however, a contingent of the Central Industrial Security Force for guarding the installations of the Khetri Copper Project. There is no information regarding their involvement in the incident.

The veracity of the Press report even otherwise appears to be extremely doubtful as an incident of such a serious nature which allegedly occurred on 26th February, 1978, could not possibly have remained unreported, till today. The State Government have further reported that on 4th March, 1978, the State Labour Minister, Prof. Kedar Nath accompanied by two Members of Parliament, S/Shri Kanaihya Lal and J. P. Mathur visited Khetri in connection with the strike in the Project, but no complaint regarding the alleged incident was made to them.

I will earnestly appeal to the House not to give credence to such sensational news reports till the facts have been verified from the concerned authorities.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar): Sir, I rise on a point of personal explanation. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: All of you will please sit down. The Home Minister is on his legs.

SHRI GAURI SHANKER RAI: What action do you propose to take against the Birla paper?

SHRI CHARAN SINGH: In reply to the query put by the hon. Member, Shri Gauri Shanker Rai, I must tell the House that I have already asked the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs to inquire, to consult the Law Department, as to whether the report of this paper is actionable or not. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: One by one

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Idukki): Sir, he made a mention about the lathi charge.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gupta rose on a personal explanation. Because it was he who raised the issue, let him go on.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Sir, on the basis of this press report and later on on the statement of the Home Minister, it was found baseless. I feel that I should have been more cautious. The Parliamentary practice demands that a Member has a right to raise any public issue. But, if it is wrong, I am really sorry. I raised this on the basis of the press report and, as the Home Minister has rightly pointed out that if such a baseless report is published in a press, action should be taken. So, Sir, I am very sorry for what I have done.

श्री इन्दर चौधरी (गया) : अध्यक्ष महोदय
प्राज्ञ सवेरे श्री कंवरलाल गुप्त की बात सुनकर
मैंने भी प्रश्न उठाया था कि गृह मंत्रीजी को

स्वातन्त्र्य के लिए । मैं समझता हूँ
-यह मेरी धृति थी । यदि पत्र में छपा था
इसलिए किसी भी सदस्य का उतेजित होना
स्वाभाविक था । परन्तु मैंने उस समय जो
कृत कहा था उसको वापिस लेता हूँ ।

(Interruptions)

18.16 hrs.

RE. INCIDENTS AT LUCKNOW—
Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you like to
say something about Lucknow?

SHRI CHARAN SINGH: As regards
the alleged incident about the arrest
of certain Congress leaders in Luck-
now, I have no information at all. I
will make enquiries and let the House
know on Monday next. But I may

add that whatever the status of the
individual concerned if he contra-
venes law, legal proceedings will be
taken against him whether he is a
leader of the Congress Party or the
Janata Party.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: They are
peaceful demonstrators.

क्या उनके ऊपर धाप गौली जमावणे ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands
adjourned till 11 A.M. on Monday.

18.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Monday,
March, 20, 1978/Phalguna 29, 1899
(Saka).