

12.07 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**REPORTED ATROCITIES ON HARIJANS IN
ANDHRA PRADESH**

MR. SPEAKER: The Calling Attention; Dr. Subramaniam, Swamy.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mor-mugao): Sir, I had given a notice seeking clarifications regarding the statement of the Law Minister...

MR. SPEAKER: It is under examination.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North-East): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The reported atrocities on Harijans in Andhra Pradesh with reference to the refusal of permission to a Harijan MLA to enter a temple."

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI DANIK LAL MANDAL):** Sir, Shri Eranna, a Harijan M.L.A. visited the Raghavendraswami Temple, Manthralayam Kurnool District on November 24, 1978 with Shri Baga Reddy, Minister for Panchayat Raj, Shri Krishnamurthy, Parliamentary Secretary and other Legislators. He alleged that Temple authorities tricked him into going out of the temple on the plea that somebody was calling him and prevented him from reentering the temple by closing its doors. The State Government have reported that their preliminary enquiries indicate that because of large gathering, only V.P.s including Shri Eranna were allowed inside and doors were closed to prevent the general public, and that Shri Eranna did not contact the authorities of the Mutt or the officials to regain entrance. We have also been informed that Harijans are not being discriminated against in the temple;

that many Harijans were offering Puja and that Shri Eranna had himself visited the temple earlier and offered Puja.

2. This issue was also raised in the Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh on February 21, 1979 and it was decided to constitute a House Committee to enquire into the matter. Findings of the House Committee are awaited.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North-East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Call Attention Motion deals with the case of a Harijan MLA as a special reference, but the main thing is the reported atrocities on Harijans in Andhra Pradesh which have crossed all limits according to objective reports. Even here the case of the Harijan MLA was taken as a symbolic case—what can happen to a Congress-I MLA who happens to be a Harijan in a State which is administered by the Congress-I, the very people who screen most of the atrocities against the Harijans. This reply seems to have been prepared by Dr. Chenna Reddy's Government itself. The Central Government, which has a special responsibility for preparing reports on Harijans, has not done an iota of homework, and they have only repeated whatever the State Government has said. This in my opinion, highlights the need for setting up of a Central Harijan Intelligence Bureau which only works from the Centre and monitors whatever atrocities take place against the Harijans all over the country.

I shall give an illustration to show how much untruths and half-truths are there in the reply. For example, it says here:

"Shri Eranna did not contact the authorities of the Mutt or the officials to regain entrance."

This is a total untruth because this matter was raised in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly by the Janata MLAs and there Mr. Eranna says, "When I turned back, I found the doors of the

[Dr. Subramaniam Swamy] temple shut behind me; despite my repeated requests for opening the doors, none cared to open'. He said that he had informed the Minister of his agonising experience. He peeped through a window on the temple and said, 'I am being shut out; let me enter'. This is the extent to which he has said on the floor of the Andhra Legislative Assembly itself.

I have here a photostat copy of what Mr. Eranna wrote to the Chief Minister and to all the authorities. It is full of description of how he brought it repeatedly to the attention of the Ministers present inside the temple saying, 'I have been kept out; I have been brought out on a false pretext; please let me enter'. But he was not allowed to enter. The Minister's statement says that, earlier on, he had visited the temple and offered puja. Here you can see what Mr. Eranna has said on the floor of the Assembly. According to a report in the *Hindu* of February 22, Mr. Eranna has said that, in June last year, when the Chief Minister visited the temple he went along with him and he was allowed to enter the temple; later on, the temple authorities came to know about his caste. That is why, this time they saw to it that he was kept out on some pretext. It is not a case that last time he went and they did not object. They did not know his caste then, but this time when he went, they had been fore-informed, and this is what happened.

We are sought to be given satisfaction that the matter was raised in the Andhra Assembly and a House Committee was set up. But the fact of the matter is that this was raised in the House by a Janata Party MLA three months after the whole thing had happened. What had happened for three months? Mr. Eranna has protested persistently from officials to officials. I have got photostat copies of all his letters and also the letters written by other MLAs also...

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA
(Serampore): Wherefrom did you get them?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:
Here is a letter by Shri C. Narayana who is an MLA, dated December 7, 1978 where he gave all that has happened to Mr. Eranna and his complaint and he asked the District Collector, 'What have you done about it?' Then there are other letters written by Mr. Eranna to Dr. Chenna Reddy and Dr. Chenna Reddy has acknowledged it. He said, 'I will look into the matter'. There are plenty of letters. I have got photostat copies which show that consistently from the day of the incident itself he has been protesting. Right there at Mantralayam he has lodged the protest. After that he went to the District Collector and lodged a protest. There was a public meeting which he addressed and there also he lodged the protest. Ministers were present there. They saw the whole thing happening.

Sir, the status of Harijans in Andhra Pradesh is so bad that they took these for granted and said, 'Nothing would be done till the matter was brought up before the Andhra Assembly.' I want to know why no action has been taken under the Prevention of Offences Under Untouchability Act. There is a series of lapses under this Act. The officials had adequate information, there are written reports. They should have taken action. What has the Centre done about it? Why have they not seen to it that the State Government has taken necessary action? This is important for the Centre, particularly, because Andhra Pradesh today is the worst offender as far as Harijans are concerned....

(Interruptions)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No, no.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:
Every day there is a rape of a Harijan woman. Every day there are murders. Every day there are atrocities against Harijans I want to know what the Central Government is doing about it. Nothing is done. Here is a serious case... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: They may ask, what are you doing about UP, Bihar, etc.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: According to Andhra's Labour Minister—this is in reply to a question—he says when he asked how many Harijans have been denied jobs which are required to be given to them under the Reservations Act, he was told 1470 show cause notices were issued to various companies for not employing the Harijans and only fifty-eight prosecutions were launched. What happened between sending show cause notices and seeking prosecution? Money must have changed hands. That is why Harijans have become a dispensable commodity in Andhra Pradesh....

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to your question.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I want to know whether the Minister, Mr. Eranna has recently sent a telegram to the Prime Minister saying, 'My life is no more safe in Dr. Chenna Reddy's government. The Central Government should intervene.' Is he aware of this telegram? If so, what has the Home Ministry done about it? Dr. Chenna Reddy Ministry has no time for these things**

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): On a point of order, Sir. He has every right to put a question, Sir, but he should not overshoot while doing so....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know, Mr. Lakkappa. When you raise questions about Bihar and UP, that is all right but when questions are raised about Andhra Pradesh, it is not all right? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: He is bringing in Centre-State relationship.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. I am aware of it....

(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: In fact, I am summarising....

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH (Nandyal): I want to know one thing, Sir. Can an hon. Member cast reflections on the personal character of a Chief Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: These things are said about other States also. There cannot be two different sets of standards. When it comes to one State, you have one standard and when it comes to another State, you have another standard? I am not allowing that....

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH: On a personal character of a person who is not here to defend himself—can a Member say anything about that? That is what I want to know.**

MR. SPEAKER: If he has used any unparliamentary language, I will remove it.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH: I am not speaking about any unparliamentary language. About the personal character of a person who is not here to defend himself—can he cast reflections?

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow any remarks about the personal character of any person who is not here.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: 'Casanova' is not unparliamentary.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot refer to the personal character of a person who is not here.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: There is nothing wrong. In Andhra Pradesh, everybody seems to be a Casanova.**

MR. SPEAKER: Don't record any personal remarks.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH: We are all sorry for it. We condemn even if it happens in Andhra Pradesh.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Why have you been sleeping?

Sir, in fact, all this documentation has been given by a well-known politician of Andhra Pradesh Shri Yadagiri Lakshmi Narasimha Reddy.**

AN HON. MEMBER: He is talking irrelevant things.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I have got it here....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you to say anything about anybody who is not here. You are on Harijan atrocities. If you are saying that the Chief Minister is doing nothing in respect of atrocities on Harijans, you may say that. But so far as other personal matters are concerned, I am not allowing.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I am not going into Chenna Reddy's personal life at all, Sir.**

MR. SPEAKER: Don't record that.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:.... and if I say that, it will be censured immediately by Mr. L. K. Advani, and it will not be allowed in this House. I know all that. I am only pointing out to you that the Chief Minister who is looking after the welfare of the Harijans....

(Interruptions)

Sir, I want to know what happened to the Prime Minister's assurance given on the 21st July, 1978 in this House that whenever atrocities on Harijans take place, whenever big outbursts of this kind take place, an All Party team of Members of Parliament will be despatched to the area to find out the truth and to find out what the truth is. What happened to that assurance? Will the Home Minister implement that assurance?

Secondly, will the Government consider setting up a Central Intelligence Bureau only to look into Harijan atrocities all over the country so that this kind of replies we do not get and we get authentic Central Government-collected data?

SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO (Rajahmundry): A House Committee is already appointed. Where is the question?

SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL: Of course, whatever I have stated is based on the report of the State Government and the preliminary inquiry which was held on the basis of which I said that only VIPs were allowed at that time because there were large gatherings outside.

'VIPs' included Mr. Eranna himself. But then, as alleged by him, he was tricked by the temple authorities to go out of the temple and he did not complain to the Muth authorities. .

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: He has said on the floor of the Andhra Assembly. I quoted the Hindu. He says, 'I spoke to the Minister himself'...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, he has put three questions.

SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL: I will come to each and every point. That will be looked into by the House Committee which has been constituted.

As regards what action has been taken, we have specifically inquired about this point....

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:
From whom did you get the reply?

AN HON. MEMBER: From the Janata Party.

SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL:
We have specifically inquired about this as to what action was taken when Mr. Eranna complained to the authorities—whether it is the Chief Minister or the Collector whoever he may be—and also when a written complaint was made that he was tricked away and when he returned he was not allowed to enter into the temple. We have asked for that information and we have not yet got the information on that point of what specific action was taken....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): It is an offence under the Prevention of Offences Under Untouchability Act.

AN HON. MEMBER. They have not got the information.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I want to know why there is such a serious lapse. So much time has passed. I have filed this call attention....

SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL: I am giving the information.... You please listen.

That information was asked for as to what action was taken under the Prevention of Offences under Untouchability Act and the Civil Rights Protection Act. We have not got that information. We will pursue that. I assure you we will ask them as to what specific action was taken and if action was not taken, why it was not taken. We will pursue that.

As regards the temple authorities, as you might have read in the newspaper itself, the temple authorities

have assured that no discrimination is being practised not only against Harijans but also against Muslims and other religious people....

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:
Can anybody admit discrimination?

SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL:
The swami of the temple who is the head of the math has assured that there is no discrimination in the temple. Whoever comes, whether he is a Harijan or a Muslim or a Sikh or a Christian, everybody is given an opportunity to have *darshan* and *puja*. Even if the Committee goes there, they have said that they will cooperate with the committee and, if that man is identified, they will take proper action against him. As regards his complaint, I assure you that we are pursuing and we are trying to find out what action was taken on his complaint.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:
This is an assurance; he must deliver it.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri T. S. Negi—
not here; Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia—
not here; Shri Ram Vilas Paswan—
not here. Shri O. P. Tyagi.

श्री सोम प्रकाश त्वादी (बहराच) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे बहुत आश्चर्य और खेद के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि श्री सोम रातबिन समता पार्टी की सरकारों पर हरिजनों पर प्रत्याचार के आरोप लगाते रहते हैं, जब कि उन ने वह साबित करा कि वे कर्तव्य और ईश्वर के साथ हरिजनों के प्रति सहानुभूति प्रकट करते ... (स्वगत) .
हरिजनों की समस्या एक राष्ट्रीय समस्या है, संसदन का काम इस देश में मात्र पर एक कर्तव्य है। जब कभी भी इस प्रकार की समस्या इस पार्लियामेंट में आये, हम सभी पार्टी के लोगों को ईमानदारी के साथ इस समस्या पर एक नज़र डाल कर अपने विचार व्यक्त करना चाहिये। वरन् जब मैं जब रहा हूँ कि सोम हरिजनों

के कल्याण के लिए नहीं धरिये अपनी पार्टी के वृष्टिकोण से ही इस समस्या के समाधान के बारे में सोच रहे हैं।

सम्यक् महोदय, जो स्टेटमेंट दिया गया है, मुझे लग रहा है कि यह सब बनावटी है। मसू से पहले प्रश्न का जवाब मंत्री महोदय ने नहीं दिया। यह घटना 24 नवम्बर, 1978 को हुई थी और इन पर कमेटी की नियुक्ति 21 फरवरी, 1979 को हुई, जब एच जनता पार्टी के एम० एल० ए० ने हम प्रश्न को बहा उठाया। उस समय एक दम मेम्बर की कमेटी इन मामलों की जांच करने के लिये नियुक्त की गई। प्रान्टचे-बिलिटी एक्ट के अनुसार जिस समय रिपोर्टें, आई अर्थात् जैसे ही उस हरिजन एम० एल० ए० ने रिपोर्ट की कि मेरे साथ इन प्रकार का दुर्व्यवहार किया गया है उसी समय उन पुजारी की गिरफ्तार किया जाना चाहिये था, जिसने उन्हें रोका था। वह धार्मिक गिरफ्तार क्यों नहीं हुआ—यही महोदय न अपने जवाब में इस बात को बताने की कोशिश नहीं की और इस स्टेटमेंट में भी इस के बारे में कुछ नहीं दिया गया है। इसलिये इस बात पर कसे विश्वास किया जा सकता है कि वहाँ विश्वियन भी जाते हैं मुसलमान भी जाते हैं—मुझे तो ये सब बाने झूठ लगती हैं। उनके साथ पचासती राज के मंत्री भी भागा रहेगी भी थे, उन्होंने बिडकी में से देखा भी था और जब आप कहते हैं कि वी०आई०पी० के लिये विशेष परमोशन दी गई थी, ता क्या वह एम०एल०ए० वी०आई०पी० नहीं था? कुछ एम०एल०ए० बने गये जो अपने आप की सर्वश सम्पत्ते से और जब वह एम०एल०ए० प्राया, चूकि वह हरिजन था इसलिये वी०आई०पी० नहीं रहा, उसको नहीं जाने दिया गया, मैं पुछना चाहता हू कि वह बिस्कीमिनेशन क्यों हुआ, उसे क्यों भन्वर जाने से अना किया गया? मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि जो मंत्री महोदय और दूसरे एम०एल०ए० गये थे, जब हरिजन एम०एल०ए० बिडकी से बचका रहा है, बाहर भी बोला होगा, उसी समय उन्होंने प्रोटेस्ट क्यों नहीं किया? इन बातों पर कोई प्रकाश नहीं डाला गया। इस मामले में बहुत बड़ा कोटासा है और इसकी क्ली जांच सामने आनी चाहिए। इसमें केवल यह पुकारी ही शोषी नहीं है। जो मन्दिर में गये थे सचन बने चाहे वे मिनिस्टर से या दूसरे बड़े धारणी। उन्होंने अपने एक हरिजन साथी को पीछे छोड़ा और वह आज उनकी प्राणकारी में थी कि एक हरिजन एम०एल०ए० को प्रान्टचेबिलिटी की वेरिफ कर रोका गया। उन सबके खिलाफ भी कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए और इस बात की जांच सेन्ट्रल कर्पोरेट की ओर से होनी चाहिए। इसकी सरकार इस मामले की सूच जांच करे क्योंकि बिस्की दूध की रचवानी

नहीं कर सकती। इसलिए मेरा प्रस्ताव प्रश्न तो यह है कि क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार अपने सेन्ट्रल इन्वेस्टिगेशन विभाग की ओर से या जूरीसिक्ल इन्वैयरी के द्वारा कोई जांच कराने के लिए तैयार है और दूसरा प्रश्न मेरा यह है कि जो सेन्ट्रल कास्टल और सेन्ट्रल ट्राइबल के कमिश्नर हैं या जो उसका आपने डिपार्टमेंट बताया है, उन्होंने वहाँ जा कर कोई इन्वैयरी इस बारे में की है और अगर नहीं की है, तो क्यों नहीं की है। वह इन्वैयरी क्या है, यह मंत्री महोदय बताए।

श्री धनिक लाल बंसल जैसा मीने भी मुझसे अप्यम स्वामी जी को आश्वासन दिया है और उनको बताया है कि हमकी जांच चल रही है, हाऊस कमेटी की ओर से जांच चल रही है। जो माननीय सदस्य वहाँ गये थे और जिन्होंने यह आरोपित किया है कि उनको मन्दिर में प्रवेश नहीं करने दिया इसके बारे में उन्होंने कम्प्लेंट की है मुख्य मंत्री को या कलक्टर का, चाहे किनां की भी कम्प्लेंट की हो, तो जरा तक सवाल यह है कि उस कम्प्लेंट पर क्या कार्यवाही हुई और यदि कोई कार्यवाही नहीं हुई, ताक्या नहीं हुई, हमको हम लाग देखेंगे और उनके सम्बन्ध में तथ्य मगाएंगे और उन के आधार पर हम काम करें। यह मैं ने आश्वासन दिया है। यही तो मुख्य बात है कि उन्होंने यह कम्प्लेंट की है कि उन्हें दूसरों के साथ मन्दिर म जाने नहीं दिया। उन की जांच कमेटी कर रही है। उन कमेटी की जांच के बाद अगर माननीय सदस्य चाहेंगे कि और जांच की आवश्यकता है, तो "पार्लियामेन्टरी कमेटी के द्वारा जांच की आवश्यकता है या सेन्ट्रल कास्टल एंड सेन्ट्रल ट्राइबल कमिश्नर के द्वारा जांच की आवश्यकता है, तो जांच कराई जा सकती है लेकिन जब राज्य सरकार की कमेटी द्वारा जांच चल रही है, तो दूसरी कमेटी से जांच नहीं करवा सकते और प्रधान मंत्री से मैं भी यह कहना है कि जब एक कमेटी की जांच चल रही हो तो दूसरी कमेटी द्वारा जांच नहीं करवानी चाहिए।

MR. SPEAKER. Mr. Ravindra Varma.

श्री प्रोम प्रकाश त्यागी : मेरे इन प्रश्न का जवाब नहीं दिया कि क्या सेन्ट्रल कास्टल एंड सेन्ट्रल ट्राइबल कमिश्नर ने इस की जांच की है।

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered. I have gone to the next item.