police agitation to spread beyond the limits of Punjab and, we hope, we shall be able to bring them to certain disciplined lines very shortly.

So far as his desire for an assurance is concerned, I may assure him that it is my intention to take it up with the State governments and see that these matters are decided upon very quickly. Some hon'ble Members do not like my using the words 'very very soon'. So, I would say that it will be my endeavour to see that some definite decision are taken on great many point a before the end of the financial year.

12.40 hrs.

PETITION *RE.* CHANGES IN MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND INHERITANCE LAW FOR HINDU WOMEN

श्री शरद यादव (जबलपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं हिन्दू महिलाओं के लिए विवाह, तलाक और उत्तराधिकार कानून में परिवर्तन करने के बारे में नारी रक्षा समिति, दिल्ली की उपाध्यक्षा, श्रीमती सरला मुद्गल द्वारा हस्ताक्षर की हुई याचिका प्रस्तुत करता हूं।

12.41 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SEAKER: *in the Chair.*]

STATEMENT BY MEMBER *RE.* ANSWER TO USQ NO. 2023 dated 6-3-79 in RESPECT OF BABUDIH SLAG DUMP OF TISCO

SHRI A. K. ROY (Dhanbad): Under Direction 115 I hereby point out the inaccuracies and contradictions in the statement of Shri Karia Munda, Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel and Mines, in answer to my unstarred question No. 2023 dated 6th March, 1979.

In answer to part (a) of the question, the Minister has said, "No, Sir, TISCO have also denied that any contract had been in existence in the name of a fictitious person."

The issue of fake contractors in Babudih Slag Dump was raised in the House in connection with the Call Attention dated 23rd August, 1978 on drowning of 6 Adivasi women and children in Subaranarekha River by the musclemen of these contractors.

When this statement is read with the statement made quite a few months back by the Minister of State for Home Affairs while replying to the Call Attention, one is bound to be struck by the glaring contracdiction between the two. The Minister of State for Home Affairs had said on 23-8-78: "the second point raised by him was whether he was the real contractor or who was the contractor in whose name the contract stands. In this particular case one Sachidanand Mishra appears to be the *benami* contratctor because the real contractor is Sheoji Singh who is rich man of Jamshedpur; he has taken the contract for Rs. 5.25 lakhs and the contract is to expire on 31st December 1978".

It is worth noticing that the name Sachhidanand Mishra was not suggested by any hon'ble Member. The Minister volunteered this information himself, which means: this name came to be known to him during the course of the preliminary enquiry he had made into the matter over which the country and the House were agitated.

Now, the answer of the Minister of State for Steel and Mines to my question that "the TISCO have also denied" clearly emphasised that he claimed that there was no fake contractor and the government was reinforced in its view by the denial of TISCO. In other words, what the Minister of State for Steel and Mines wants to convey is in clear contracdiction of what the Minister of State for Home Affairs had said earlier.

It is also worth mentioning that Mr. Bhola Paswan Shastri, M.P., Chairman of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission had visited Jamshedpur in connection with the ghastly murder of Adivasis

[Shri A. K. Roy]

by the contractor of Babudih Slag Dump and was told by the Commissioner, Chhotanagar Division about this fake contractor. This was published in all the newspapers. With all these on record the Minister's denial and his uncalled for dependence on a *prima facie* wrong statement of the TISCO which is itself an interested party accused of keeping fake contractors cannot but lead to an impression that he is shielding the illegal acts of the private company by wrong statement in the Parliament.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): Sir, the reply given by the Minister of State for Home Affairs on the 23rd August, 1978 and quoted by the Hon'ble Member states that "in this particular case, one Shri Satchidananda Mishra appears to be the benami contractor because the real contractor is Sheoji Singh "

The use of the words "appears to be" in this statement indicates that it could not be said with absolute certainty that this is so. The question put by the Hon'ble Member on 6-2-79 was taken in this context to be seeking further information and assurance from the Minister of Steel and Mines on two counts; one, whether the Minister was now aware definitely that Shri Satchidananda Mishra was a benami contractor, and two, whether Shri Satchidananda Mishra was an imaginary person In the first instance, it was felt that a more definite answer than was given by the Minister of State for Home Affairs on 23rd August 1978 was not possible Also, it was not known whether Shri Satchidananda Mishra was an imaginary person or real one in whose name a benami contract existed. The answer to part (a) had, therefore, to be in the negative on both the counts. The rest of the answer that TISCO have denied that they had allotted any contract to a fake person was added only as further information in support of the answer

It would not be correct to say that a wrong statement was made by me. The question of shielding the illegal acts of a private company does not arise at all

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12.45 hrs.

SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES ORDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Extension of time for presentation of Report of Joint Commitee

SHRI SURAJ BHAN (Ambala): I beg to move

> "That this House do further extend upto the last day of the Budget Session, 1980, the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the inclusion in and the exclusion from, the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, of certain castes and tribes"

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA (Patan): I beg to move:

> "That in the Motion for the words and figures 'upto the last day of the Budget Session, 1980' substitute upto the last day of the next Session'.

Sir, the Scheduld Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in 1967 Then, it was referred to the Joint Select Committee of both the Houses. The report of the Joint Select Committee was presented in 1969 and it was discussed and considered in November 1970 for six days. But the Lok Sabha was dissolved and the Bill lapsed. After that, this Bill was introduced in this House in 1978 and it was referred to Joint Committee. We have taken a long time and it will go against the interests of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, if it is delayed further I have moved that the report should be presented to this House upto the last day of the next Session and I hope the House