

(ii) REPORTED POLICE FIRING AT MATTAN
(JAMMU AND KASHMIR)

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: (Anantnag): I wish to draw the attention of the Minister under Rule 377 to the recent police firing in Mattan (Kashmir) resulting in the death of three persons and injuries to many others which is deplorable.

I wish to make it clear to the hon. members that it is not mutton or chicken, but it is a place in Kashmir, which I have visited.

The State Government, by its callous attitude, did not take timely action against certain miscreants. Instead, the leaders of the ruling party are indulging in all sorts of provocative actions and speeches.

"It has been age-old tradition in Kashmir that the pilgrims going to Amarnath Cave are given normal facilities of travel and protection also. It is on this occasion that people from all over the country join this religious congregation and go to the journey of Amarnath Cave.

"I wish to draw the attention of the Home Ministry that people from all parts of the country who go there should be given police protection for their safe yatra. The highhanded action of the State Government in resorting to firing is both inhuman and unwarranted. I strongly protest against such high-handed attitude on the part of the State Government. The State Government has failed so far to take any action against the miscreants and, it is hoped, that the Central Government will intervene immediately and apprehend all such people who are out to disturb the peaceful communal atmosphere in the State."

(iii) REPORTED CLASHES BETWEEN CASTE—
HINDUS AND HARIJANS AT K JAGANNADHAPURAM
ANDHRA PRADESH

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY (Amalapuram): I wish to draw the special attention of this august House to a precarious situation prevailing for the last ten days in a village called K. Jagannadhapuram in Amalapuram Taluk in Andhra Pradesh. This village is situated in my parliamentary constituency namely Amalapuram. On 21st July, 1978 there were very violent clashes between the local Harijans and the Caste—Hindus resulted finally in six deaths and serious injuries to many others and consequently, there prevailed now a sense of complete insecurity to Harijans

who fled away from their homes in large numbers and so far none of them returned to the village. I have personally visited the place immediately after this incident and met the members of all the bereaved families. The root cause in this incident appears to be the evil practice of untouchability because it was clearly reported that the proprietor of a hotel in K. Jagannadhapuram did not serve tea properly and respectfully to four Harijans earlier. Then there were minor clashes between those four Harijans who were insulted and the hotel workers alongwith their proprietor. In fact, some communal elements interfered in this issue and thereby it was not allowed to be pacified. Almost after three weeks, there appeared to be open challenges and therefore, in order to be cautious enough a number of Harijans went together to a local regular Friday fair. But whatever might be their number on that day the Harijans have not indulged in committing even the slightest offence there. On the contrary, it is the caste—Hindus who brutally stabbed three of those Harijans there on that day and one of them died on the spot. I would like to make a humble submission to the Hon'ble House that this is an important and serious point of sequence to begin with in this whole issue and the entire press in India unfortunately gave an absolutely different version of this glaring fact and I have also found the B.B.C. was no exception to this misquoting the real cause of this communal crime.

Later, those Harijans who were enraged by that clear provocation by seeing an innocent Harijan was killed brutally and inhumanly before their own eyes, they wanted to catch the persons who stabbed Harijans and in their pursuit they were given the impression that their required persons were hiding in a particular house from which they were not coming out and then it appeared they lost all sense of proportion and set fire to that house wherein four persons were burnt alive and one succumbed to burns later. This is very unfortunate and ghastly human crime which I can never support at all.

However, I would like to draw the attention of this House firstly that neither any one of the national English newspapers nor our regional Telugu newspapers has reported the fact that there was a clear provocation by way of brutally killing a Harijan preceded the inhuman burning of a caste-Hindu house along with its inmates. In fact, the entire press in India gave a clear impression to the public that the Harijans committed first these atrocities whereas the fact is other way round. I am still unable to