# [Mr. Speaker]

Dhan contacted me and he wanted that the Committee on the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should go there and look into the matter. I immediately gave him consent on the telephone itself so that the Scheduled Castes Committee may go there and look into it themselves. But, so far as ballot in a calling attention is concerned, there is no separate ballot for South Indians or North indians or Scheduled Castes or non Scheduled Castes. I am sorry, the ballot has not favoured. I would have preferred it. This is not absolutely corect that no South Indians is there; it is irrelevant, because Mr. Asaithambi is there. He is a South Indian.

#### (Interruptions)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): It is very unfair to make any remark.

(Interruptions)

Only Scheduled Castes, are going there. We are all interested.

MR. SPEAKER: We are all interested.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: We are all interested. very unfair remark he has made

शी राज नारायण (राय बरेली) : अध्यक्ष महोवय, इस बारे में मेरा एक सर्वस्वन है । यह प्रका अनेरल है और जनेरल प्रका होने के नाते यह आप का पावर में है कि बाद इसके स्कोप को बढ़ा दें भीर हर पार्टी के एक एक प्रमुख लीडर को सवाल पूछने सा सीका दे हैं।

MR. SPEAKER: My reading of the rules does not permit me.

बी राज नारायण : डा॰ धारि.र हरीन ने राज्य समा में यही किया था। गर कोई मैन्नानल इम्पार्टन्स का सवास उठता था तो वह हर पार्टी के प्रमुख सीडरों को प्रकृत पूछने की इवाधत दे देते दे । सगर बाप बी यहां हर पार्टी के एक-एक इमपार्टेन्ट

JULY 28. 1978 Caste Hindurs & 980 Harijans clas (C.A.)

मेम्बर को सवास पूछने का मौका दे दें दी तारा मसका हल हो भाषेणा

MR. SPEAKER: That is a good suggestion and will be considered in the Rules Committee, (Interruptions).

Mr. Lakshminarayanan, I have already told you when you met me: I will tell Mr. Ram Dhan to take you also when they go there since you come from that constituency:

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED CLASH BETWEEN CASTR HINDUS AND HARIJANS IN VILLU-PURAM, TAMIL NADU.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Almora): I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance end request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported clash between caste Hindus and Harijans in villupuram, Tamii Nadu, on the 25th July, 1978 and elleged death of nine Harijans."

थी गगीराण बागड़ी (मगुरा) : भत्यका महोदय मेरा व्ययस्था का प्रका है। इस बक्त घर मंत्री डिल्ट्रस्तान के प्रयान मंत्री है----प्रधान मंत्रा के पास घर मंत्रायन है। इस लिए प्रज्ञान मंत्री को बुद इस पर बवान देना च। हिए । पीछे एक वक्त ऐसा सामा वा वन भारत के प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा था कि मनर हरिषनों पर मत्याचार होना तो में सत्याग्रह करूंगा। इससिए इस वक्त यह स्टेटमेंट प्रधान नंत्री को देनां चाहिए । श्रो रामधन को भी मौके परे जाना चाहिए। पिछनी बार तो बह यू एन मो में पले वये वे झौर हरिजनों पर होने वाले सरवाचारों की लिया करते थे। यह श्रय पुप क्यों है ? बह यब यू॰ एन॰ घो॰ में क्यों नहीं बाते 21

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): Sir, Government have learnt with great regret that 12 lives were lost in classes between Hari jang and caste Hindus at Villupuram town with about 65,000 population in Tamil Nadu.

According to information received from Government of Tamil Nadu, on the evening of the 23rd July, 1978, one vegetable vendor, a caste Hindu, was alleged to have been assaulted by some persons from the Harijan Mohalla in the town for having earlier teased a girl from that Mohalla, who came to buy vegetables. He sustained minor injuries. A case was registered by the Police that night. The vegetable merchants organised a hartal on the 24th July A procession and a public meeting were organised by them. After the meeting was over, some of the people set fire to a few cycle rickshaws and one or two thatched sheds. No other incident occurred on that day.

On the early morning of the 25th July, 1978. situation was reported to be peaceful. But suddenly at about 8.00 a.m., some persons in the Harijan Mohalla organizing themselves into groups are alleged to have set fire to shops and houses in the main bazar area. Similar arson directed against Harijan houses came to be reported, In all, about 200 huts and sixteen shops were damaged. The total loss on account of arson is reported to be around Rs. 10 lakhs, The situation was brought under control on the afternoon of the 25th itself by Police reinforcements, arriving from Cuddalore. The situation remained well under control in the afternoon and later in the night. On the 26th morning, 9 dead bodies were spotted in a tank in a village (Merudur) at the periphery of the town. No clashes or arson were reported before the recovery of the bodies at the place where the bodies were found. Of these 9 dead, identity of 2 is yet to be established. The other and Harijans clash (C.A.)

seven are Harijang aged between 12 and 35. None of the dead bodies are reported to have any burn injuries. On the 27th morning, three more dead bodies were found on the outskirts of the town. All the three are unidentified. Two of them, one male and one female, have burn injuries. A third is a body of a male aged about 13 with stab injuries.

According to the Government of Tamil Nadu, the situation was well under control and the town was coming back to normalcy on the 27th July. The Inspector-General of Police, the Collector and others were camping in the town.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious incident which has happened in this country and it deserves fullest condemnation. As you will see, certain questions arise out of the statement which the hon. Minister has made before the House. It states that ? hartal was organised on the 24th July. Why was this hartal organised? Was the police inactive and was no action taken in order to control the situation? Then, a procession was allowed to be taken out and a meeting was allowed to be held. Why was all this allowed by the police officers? Why did they not sense the tention, mood of the masses and mobs and allowed these things to grow? As early as September 1977, a tention was reported in the newspapers in this town and certain rallies were organised. Therefore, the police authorities should have been more vigilant, but this statement says that a meeting was held and procession was taken and nothing was done.

On the 25th July, all these incidents which are very serious have taken place, people were burnt by trying down to trees, houses were set on fire, a big market was set on fire, a big dry fish market was destroyed and gutted, a timber market was destroyed and gutted, and a serious loss has occur-

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### and Caste Hindus and

### fDr Marii Manober Joshij red. Now, as reported in the newspapers the loss of life has gone unto 13-14. All this continued to happen for three-four days. What was the

police doing, who were the police officers, who was the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, what was the Minister incharge of Home doing in that State and what was the Inspector General of police doing? No further went there and the whole thing went on.

Sir, a worst type of communal frenzy, caste frency is taking place in the country and the country is going to be divided-a danger is there at leastbetween caste Hindus and non-caste Hindus and Harijans. Should such a situation be allowed? Will the Central Government or the Minister incharge assure us and tell us what steps the Government are taking in this regard in order to evolve a national concensus on this issue so that such things do not happen? We are reminded of Mahatma Gandhi's efforts, which saved this country from breaking on this point. This is a very serious matter which challenges the very existence of the social fabric in this country. Very serious social consequences are going to take place. If such incidents are · allowed to continue, these will have their own recoiling effect in other States and other places.

My question is, whether the responsibility for this incident is being fixed and what punishment the State Government are contemplating for the persong responsible for this. Has the Minister any information on this? Have they advised the State Government to take prompt and drastic action against the erring officers. The policy of the Central Government has been to advise the State Chief Ministers to take on the spot measures and give drastic punishment to these officers whose negligence, or even may be connivance, has given rise to such sorts of incident. May 1 know, who are those officers. What was the role of those officers? If the Minister has got any information about it will be be also and to alace, this information before the House, as also state whether any steps for evolving a national concensus in this matter are being considered.

SHRI S. D. PATIL: The Lender of the House, the Prime Minister, had already called a meeting of all the leaders of the various parties and groups on the 20th and there they have come to an understanding that if such incidents occur and if the State Government does not undertake to hold an enquiry or institute an enquiry, the Members who desire to go may visit the spot and find out the facts on the spot.

As far as the questions raised by Shri Joshi regarding hartal, the procession and the public meeting which was organized are concerned and what the police were doing, these are strictly matters for the State police, we have not sufficient or detailed information on this point and I would not be able to enlighten the hon. Members on these points. However, we will ask for the information and when it is supplied, we will make it available.

As far as the general question of alrocities on the Harijans is concerned, it is a matter which is periously ungaging the attention of the Government and all efforts are being made. A conference of the Chief Ministers is also now being called and all efforts and cooperation of the various parties is also being sought. This is the action being taken by the Government,

भी भाग प्रमार समयी (उपपपुर): धाम्यक महोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रथम है कि कालिय प्रदेशन नोटिय दिया जाता है, यंस के बाद वह वापत यहां पाता है । जस के जेवाने में मिलिस्टेर सहित यह कह में कि हज को इन्कानेवन नहीं है जी किए वह कियी इसरे टाइज के लिए क्यों नहीं विवारित किया जाता ? अब उनकी इन्हानेवन नहीं है ती फिर स्टेटमेंट किस लिए देते हे ? यह कहते

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है कि कुलिस के बारे में इल्कायेंडन उन को नहीं हे सौर की यह हमा इस की इल्कायेंडन उनकी नहीं है सौर क्यों यह हमा इसकी इल्जायेंबत उनकी नहीं है तो बबाब किसलिए दे रहे है?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): Whatever Informations we have, has been given. Further information is being obtained and we want to see that such things do not happen, but I see here that there is retallation and counter-retallation.

It is true that the Police should have taken preventive action when they knew that something had happened on the 24th and the 25th. That is why I am drawing the attention of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to go into it fully and punish those who are responsible for it.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a matter where I must also express to you my difficulty. On question of this character, if I delay, naturally there will be agitation in the House. If I do not delay, because the primary responsibility is that of the State Government, the Central Government will not get all the information immediately and so it is between the two that I am placed. I myself had a little difficulty in selecting it and I thought that this could be taken up a few days later. But from past experience I knew that if I delay it, there will be a lot of agitation.

Mr. Basu.

असे मगीरान सामग्री : शाज के इस विंहान के बनाने में यह बात कहना कि डिले की बाथे, कहां तक उचित है ।

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Basu.

भी मनीराम बागग्री: घाप वावरलेस य वात कर सकते हैं, टेनीफोन से बाद कर बजते हैं। बाप एक दिन में सारे संबार से बाद कर सकते हैं।

\*\*Not recorded.

clash (C.A.) SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasai): Mr. Speaker, Sir....

and Harilans

भी भनीराम सामझी : चार दिन तक सरकार बात न्यों नहीं करती है ? सह कोई जवाब है ?

SHRI K. P. UNIIKRISHNAN (Beder gara): He has not yielded and what he asys should not go on record.

भी मनीराम वायड़ी : मापने कहा डिले करते हैं तो, मुण्किल, नहीं करते हैं दो मुण्किल । ऐँसे जरूरी सवाल पर वायरलेस,, टेलीफोन से फौरन पता चल सकता है ?

MR SPEAKER: I have caller Mr. Basu,

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: (Daimond Harbour): I am here, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not called you. I have called Mr. Chitta Basu,

SHRI CHITTA BASU: You are not Chitta Basu who has been called.

भी हुकमचम्ब कछवाय (उज्जैन) :

इनके वास पूरी जानकारी ही नहीं है ।

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Mr. Chitta Basu. Your question is not answered.

### भी हकम मन्द कंडनाय :

MR SPEAKER: I have called Mr. Chitta Basu. Please do not record. Only those members whose names appear on the list are called.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The issue is very sensitive and my purpose is not to arouse passion or unrest among any members of any community. But I want to highlight certain basis questions and in this connection I would, like that the Prime Minister should make it clear whether it is not a fact that he, in a conference of the leaders of the Opposition and of the

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### (Shri Chitta Basu.)

other Groups, made a categorical statement that a situation like this where atrocities are committed on Harijans or a situation of this nature should be properly dealt with. And, to begin with, an all-Party parliamentary team should visit the place so that the people of the area can understand the real attitude of the Parliament and of all. the Parties concerned.

In this case. I would only want to mention that the Prime Minister-I do not know why he has made that comment-said that it is a matter of an offensive or counter-offensive or in his words, retaliation or counter-retaliation. It has prejudiced the cause of certain communities and I am forced to make this comment. It would have been better for the Prime Minister not to make such comments at this stage.

Therefore, my first point is: whether the government propose, in tune with the commitment made by the Prime Minister, to send a parliamentary team to the particular town to go into the whole affair. That is No. 1...

SHRI A, BALA PAJANOR (Pondicherry): It is unnecessary, Sir. In the conference....

MR. SPEAKER: He will answer it.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: There seems to be some misunderstanding in the mind of my hon. friend. It is not my puipose to comment on the activities of the AIADMK government or of any government for that matter. It is not my purpose to comment on the Tam Nadu Government. My purpose is and I think that the Prime Minister has also made that point that there will be an all-party approach to the problem of this nature. It must not be the problem to be looked after only by the State Government or the Central Government. It is a matter which needs proper assessment of the situation and all parties efforts are needed to meet the situation.

My second point is that it is neccosary to pin point the real cause behind this incident. I quote "The Hindu" of the 27th July on this subject:

"The violence in the tower was sparked by an incident on Sunday when a Harijan girl was allegedly teased by a Caste Hindu in a vegetable shop".

To-day there is an important report in the Statesman.

in The Statesman. I quote the relevant portion of it:

"Apparently, a large section of Business community expects the Harijans to treat such incidents as a fact of life."

Here lies the crux of the problem. And this is the question of social attitude to women, particularly Harijan women. Harijans should not treat this incident, which concerns their sense of self respect and particularly the respect for their women folk, like that because Harijan women are also women. They are also mothers and they are also sisters. Attitude of disrespect and sometimes of contempt towards the Harijans or non-Harijans caste should be condemend by the House as a whole. I want that the Prime Minister should join me in condemning this attitude of any caste towards the womanhood of Harijans,

There are certain incidents of gruesome nature: I mention from the Statesman of to-day:

"12 year old Shakti, a Harijan boy and 4 others were caught, tied to a tree and beaten to dealth. Their bodies were demped into ponds."

"A 19 year old Harijan youth was strangled to death."

"A body of 20 year old Harijan woman and 25 year old Harljan man was charred beyond recognition,"

"In the main Harijan colony nearly 500 dwellings have been destroyed in fire."

#### "The total death toll is 13."

In these sircumstances, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would advise the Government of Tamiladu to make a proper probe into the whole affair so that the real culprits can be brought to book.

May I also know from the hon Minister whether the Government would advise the Government of Tamilaadu to immediately suspend the police officers for their utter failure in taking preventive measures.

From the statement made by the Minister of State in Ministry of Home Affairs it is clear that tension had been huilding up for a few days. The police officers failed to take proper steps.

Lastly, may I also request the Government of India to offer relief and succour to the victims who had lost their lives, who had lost their dwelling houses and who had suffered in any way. With these words I want that the Prime Minister should make a categorical announcement in this House.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I would not only advise but expect the Tamilnadu Government to find out the persons responsible and punish them severely. On that score I have no doubt. And if the representatives of Opposition from every party want to go there and enquire. I shall certainly have no objection because I have agreed to it. But there is a Parliamentary Committee for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which has representatives of all parties. If that goes, it will go on behalf of Parliament. That can go, or this can go.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already permitted them to go. I have already permitted the Scheduled Castes Committee to go.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Certainly there has been some negligence on the part of officers (Interruptions) 1846 L.S.-10 MR SPEAKER: It is a Parliamentary Committee on Scheduled Castes.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: There is already a Parliamentary Committee which can go and which should go. But I certainly want every incident to be probed into fully and all those responsible for such incidents to be punished very severely, so that they do not recur again.

SHRI T. BALAKRISHNIAH (Tirupathi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of order. It has been pointed out by the hon. Prime Minister in this august House that he has written to all the Chief Ministers. There is a responsibility. (Interruptions) Please listen to me

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

SHRI T. BALAKRISHNIAH: I am one of the Members of the Committee. On behalf of the Committee of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, recently I visited Madras where the I.G. of Police, all the Secretaries and other people were assembled (Interruptions). Please listen. I asked them a specific question:

"Did you receive any letter from the Prime Minister in this connection, in regard to the fixing of responsibility on the District Magistrate or the higher officers, in the case of atrocities on Harijans?'

They just denied that they had not received any letter from the Prime Minister. How can you trust that the Prime Minister can do justice to Harijans in writing to the Tamil Nadu Government? How do you feel that this Parliament or this Central Government can do justice?

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a point of order.

SHRI T. BALAKRISHNIAH: There must be some assurance by the hon, Prime Minister that he will do justice to the Harijans.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: If any officere in Madras have not received instructions, that cannot be my fault. I have written to the Chief Ministers about these things and also requested them to tell all the officers concerned in this matter. If it has not been conveyed to them, it is not my fault. But I shall certainly request the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to let me know whether this is true.

MR. SPEAKER: One other question was asked: Could any compensation be provided for the families of those who have suffered?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Really speaking, those who are responsible for this arson ought to be made to pay for this loss, and not the Government. Therefore, there should be heavy fines levied on the locality; this is the only way; otherwise Government will be brought in every time.

#### (Interruptions)

# MR. SPEAKER: Don't record. (Interruptions) \*\*

\*SHRI A. V. P. ASAITHAMBI (Madras North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I would like to commend the constant efforts of the hon. Members of this House who, in the recent past, have been frequently and passionately pleading for protection to the life and property of the Adidravidas on the floor of this august House.

I wish to stress here that the unfortunate incident in Villupuram in which the Adidravidas have been subjected to violent attack cannot and should not be compared with such atrocities being perpettrated on them in the northern parts of our country. In Tamil Nadu, I have no hesitation in

saying that there is no caste animosity or hatred among caste-Hindus and Adidravidas. This is mainly due to the untiring efforts of Periyar Ramaswamy Naicker and Arignar Anna who have broken the barriers of castes and communities

The incident in Villupuram has not occurred all of a sudden. Two ur three times earlier such incidents have taken place. The Lok Sabha might not have had the opportunity to discuss or know about them because of the Emergency or the President's Rule in Tamil Nadu. This latest incident is one in the chain of events that have occurred there. It is reported that the cause of this is the teasing of a Harijan girl by a caste-Hindu. It is clear that this is the handiwork of some anti-social elements and also unseemly exhibition of group rivalry. Caste feelings or caste animosity should not be given importance in this episode.

Here, I would like to state that this serious happening could have been averted if the Police Administration had taken prompt steps to control the situation. As pointed out by my hon. friend, Dr. Joshi, the mover of this Calling Attention Notice, the Police has not acted promptly and effectively. The incident took place on 23rd, and there were repetition of such ugly happenings on 24th, 25th and 26th and yet there was no scent of Police there. One begins to wonder whether there is a Police Department in Tamil Nadu, whether there is Home Minister there and whether there is a worthwhile Government there. I have to reiterate regretfully that because of the ineptitude of the Police during the past year or so such incidents are recurring, culminating in the gruesome murder of so many innocent people.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Not recorded.

<sup>&</sup>quot;The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

Here I would also like to point out that in Tamil Nadu cases are institu-Where ted just for the heck of it. cases are necessarily to be instituted. they are brushed aside, A case has been instituted against me alleging that I tried to murder Shrimati Indira Gandhi. I should say that the Police is being misused there. The Police by themselves are not functioning effectively. The Police in Tamil Nadu are also trigger-happy. In the recent Farmers' Agitation many deaths-in fact 10 people were killed-had taken place. In the Fisherman's Agitation similarly, murders had been committed. In this case, just because the Harijans and caste-Hindus were involved, and also because the newspapers flashed the happenings. we have had the opportunity to discuss about this here.

When this incident took place, the entire Police Department was behind the Chief Minister in Madurai because of the Corporation Elections there. Naturally they could not rush to Villupuram to the aid of the victims. Cuddalore is half-an-hour distance by car from Villupuram. The Police from Cuddalore should have come to Villupuram. Vellore is also half-an-hour distance by car from Viliupuram; yet the Police from Vellore did not come to Villupuram. Madras itself is one-and-half hour distance by car and the Police from Madras could have come to Villupuram. The Police could have come to Villupuram on the 23rd itself. Till Wednesday, the Police was conspicously absent. Looting arson, murdur continued merrily for four days and the Police was nowhere near the area of conflict. The Police personnel responsible for this criminal negligence must be proceeded against and they must be removed from service at once. An impartial judicial inquiry must be instituted forthwith. The hon. Speaker mentioned that the Scheduled Castes Committee is visit. ting Villupuram shortly. That is not enough. I would suggest that, instead of sending all-Party M.Ps. a delega-

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tion of all-caste M.Ps must be asked to visit Villupuram. Today morning I heard over the Radio that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, who usually takes shelter for any event under the plea of political institution, who imputes political motivation for any unseemly law and order problem, has this time stated that he would be constituting shortly an all-party Committee to go into this question...

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR. Sir. I object to that. He cannot discuss about Tamilnadu. It is irrelevant; This is a State subject. I appreciated the hon. Member's feelings about the eradication of caste-Hindu feelings in my area. For him to discuss about the Chief Minister and to speak about the law and order has he got a message from the Home Minister? Is he the man concerned to speak about it? (Interruptions) I object to his talking about the Chief Minister very seriously I have got the material. This morning I talked to the Chief Minister. As a responsible man I have got the materials from the Chief Minister. He has sent two Ministers; he has deputed two Ministers to go there. I can understand the feelings for them, (Interruptions) All right. Go on I follow you. Don't try to stop me by your barbaric methods.

SHRI A. V. P. ASAITHAMBI: An All-Party Committee should visit this area and should create a climate of peace...

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: In the Madurai incident, they got a rebuff. Even when the *Statesman* reported about that in their papers, I kept quiet. It is a prejudice unnecessarily created and will not serve any purpose. We are for the harijans; we are working for them. We will not tolerate such things to happen. Whatever may be the rules, I will not tolerate such a thing to happen in this House. You know pretty well we are fighting for their cause in this country. Out of enthusiasm out of poli(Shri A. Bala Paianor)

tical prejudice, do not unnecessarily make the baseless allegations. This is not a matter to be raised here. Let us not politicalise it.

SHRI A. P ASAITHAMBI: I am not saying anything against him.

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: Making use of MISA Shri Karunanidhi sent every one to prison. Let him not pretend. In Madurai Mrs. Gandhi and these people were together.

MR. SPEAKER: So far as the admission of the question is concerned, I called a meeting of the Leaders. You were also present there. And all of you agreed that in the matter of Schtduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. even if it was a State subject, we should give an opportunity.

So far as comments about the Government or the Minister are concerned, it may be right or it may be wrong; it may be wholly false. But, he has got a right to make that.

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: To make a statement that the police danced behind the Chief Minister is certainly defamatory. Can I say that tomorrow?

MR SPEAKER: This is a political statement and not a defamatory statement

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: That I cannot tolerate. I have my own responsibility to discharge here. That is why I am here. The party which cannot send more than one to this House cannot say that they are representing all the people,

SHRI A. V. P. ASAITHAMBI: welcome the statement of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu that he would be soon constituting an all-party Committee which would go to the area and endeavour to establish an atmosphere of amity and understanding. I suggest this this Committee should compromise of all caste-representatives. The hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs said that the death toll was 12. But the Newspapers say that it is about 14. I demand that the families of clash-victime must be given compensation immediately. From the newspapers we find that they have lost their hearths and homes: they are on the roadside. They are starying. But so far nothing has been done to give them succour. The suffering families must be sheltered in the nearby choultries of temples for the time being. They should be fed and given clothes to cover themselves. A delegation of all-caste M.Ps must visit and find out the basic cause of this conflict. Mr. Bala Pajanor was getting wild. I feel strongly that the failure of the administrators has led to this calamity. The Police Administration in the State has not been functioning effectively for the past one year in Tamil Nadu, ending in this grievous consequence. This should also be looked into.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Sir. It is possible that the concerned police officials may not have acted promptly but that is no fault of the Chief Minister. It is not right to bring in the Chief Minister in this manner. Chief Minister is very serious in this matter and he wants to see that proper remedies are found.

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: I am grateful to the Prime Minister.

has SHRI MORARJI DESAI: He aiready called an all-party conference. I am quite sure that necessary relief will be given. On that score I have no doubt. I will certainly be in communication with the Chief Minister and try to find out what is being done.

भी माम्येतवर असम्ब जावम (जामनिया): सरम में कई बार हरिक्वों पर प्रत्याचारों के विषय में भवसिंहई हैं। जब जब इस विषय पर चर्चा होती है तब तब काफी रोब सदस्यों की तरफ से प्रकट किया जाता है झौर सरकार की सोर से भी भाष्यासन मिलते घाए हैं कि प्रयत्न किया जाएगा कि इस प्रकार की गर्मनाक घटनायें घटित न हों। तमिलनाड में 24-25 तारीख से ये घटनाएं हो रही हैं भौर लगातार कल तक वहां थे घटनाएं घटित होती रही हैं। झाज भले ी हमारे यजा डी०एम०के०के माननीय सदस्यों को हमारे कथन से चोट पहुंचे लेकिन चार पांच दिन तक बहां पर बिल्कूल सब्धवस्वा रही है जिस के कारण हरिजनों की हत्थायें हई हैं, दकानें लटी गई हैं, जलाई गई हैं लेकिन पुलिस ने किसी प्रकार का हस्तकोप नहीं किया. न फायरिंग की ग्रोर न ही किसी भीर प्रकार को कार्रवाई की जिससे बहां पर जनता में विश्वास की भावना पैदा हो। बिहार में जिस समय इस अकार की घटना घटी थी तब बहां के मुख्य मंत्री तुरन्त घटनास्थल पर गए थे. स्पाट पर गए ये ग्रीर जितने लोग मरे ये उनको पांच-पांच हजार का मुग्रावजा दिया गया था। मैं जानना चाहता हं कि यहां की सरकार ने इस प्रकार में क्यों नहीं किया ? इसके विषय में में प्रधान मंत्री जी से जो गृह मंत्रालय का कार्य-भार भी सम्भाले हुए हैं, जानना चाहता हूं।

बहा पर पिछले तीन चार दिन से ये घटनाएं घट रही हैं। 24-25 तारीख के इन घटनाओं के घटने के बावजूद भी मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि केन्द्रीय सरकार के हारा बहा पर कोई केन्द्रीय टीम क्यों नहीं जेजी गई, सामूहिक रूप से लोगों की हत्यायें की कई हैं लेकिन केन्द्रीय टीम के न मेजे जाने का क्या कारण है ? पहले पढ़ने को मिला चा कि नौ लोगों की हत्या हई है, धाज का का का में पढने को मिला है कि लगभग पंड्रह लोग मारे गए हैं सौर कुछ लोब सायता हैं सौर इसने बारे में माज तक हम लोगों को फुछ जावकारी नहीं सिल सकी है। मैं जानना बाहता हूं कि धाज तक क्यों नहीं कोई केन्द्रीय टीम वहां भेजी गई है?

दूसरी बात मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं गृह-मंत्री से कि जब बिहार में बेलछी कांड हुआ था तो बहां के डी० एस० पी० और सर्वधित अधिकारियों को तुरन्त मुभ्रत्ति कर दिया गया था यहां पर वैसी स्थिति में जिन दुलिस अधिकारियों ने किसी भी प्रकार की कार्यवाही नहीं की तो झाज तक उनके खिलाफ इस प्रकार की कार्यवाही क्यों नहीं की गई है ?

जहां तक मुझावजे की बात है, यह ठीक है कि मुझाव जा आ के तक नहीं मिला है, झापके प्रयास से मुध्ध वजा मिल जायेगा, लेकिन जितकी जानें गई हैं, जिनका परिवार लुट गया है, जिन सां-बहिनों का सिल्टूर लुट गया है, सरकार इनके विषय में कौन सा कदम उठाने जा रही है ?

प्रधान संजी ने बताया कि हमने मुख्य-मंदियों का 20 तारीख को सम्प्रेलन बुला कर इस प्रकार की हिदायत दी थी, लेकिन हिदायत देने के बाद वहां पर कौन से कदम उठाये गये हैं इस प्रकार की घटनाओं के बारे में, यह मैं जानना चाहता हं?

मैं झासा करता हूं कि निकट घविष्य में इस प्रकार की घटनाएं नहीं घटेंगी, इसके लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार कोई कारगर कदम उठायेगी।

भी एस॰ डो॰ पाटिल : मानभीम सदस्य ने जो सवाल उठाये हैं, जो सुझाव दिये हैं, उनके बारे में हम जानते है (ज्यब-भाम। कम्पीनसेशन के बारे में हम उनसे इन्फ़ा मेंग्रात ले रहे हैं, वह भाने के बाद सदन को बतला देंगे। मब तक हमारे पास जो इन्फ़ार्मेशन माई है वह 27 की माई है डबसें 200 Caste Hindus and

श्री एस॰ डी॰ पाटिलों

कम्पन्सेशन का जिक नहीं है। जो बाब बातें हैं. बह बता ी हैं भीर जो भाषने सझाब दिया है पुलिस क बारे में, वह जहां तक हमको ठीक लगता है, अवध्य कार्यवाही करते हैं।

भी हकन चन्द्र कछ्यायः ग्रध्यक्ष महोदय.

भो राम कवार बेरवा (टॉक) : मध्यक महोदय.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Dr Ramji Singh. Do not record. (Interruptions) \*\*

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): Sir. I want to know from you whether what Mr. Kachwai said repeatedly in loud voice has gone on record.

MR. SPEAKER: No. It has not gone on record. Do not record, (Interruptions) \*\*

डा० रामबीसिंह (भागलपुर) : ग्राध्यक्ष महोदय, यह दर्भाग्य का विषय है कि इस सदन को एक बार फिर हरिजनों के साथ हए झत्या-बार के सम्बन्ध में घ्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव पर विचार करना पड रहा है ।

बस्तुतः एक तरफ हमारे 14 हरिजन मारे गये हैं और 500 गरीबों की झोपड़ियां जल गई हैं और दूसरी तरफ हमारे प्रशासन में से 2 डी॰ एस॰ पी॰ रैंक के, 3 इन्सपैक्टर रैंक के झौर 9 झाम्ब रिजर्व फोर्स के झादमी भावल हुए हैं। लगता है कि झायद हम लोगों को इन सारी चीजों के बारे में प्रशासन का सही तरीका डी घब तक मालूम नहीं हुआ है । ब्रखबारों में जो रिपोर्ट बाई है, यह हिन्दू की रिपोर्ट है, इससे स्पष्ट है ---

"A tense situation prevailed in the town for some time".

"A ban order under Section 144 Cr. P.C. has been promulgated in. the town".

## उसके बाद प्रखबार लिखता है :

"Even at this stage, the police failed to intervene effectively".

13 hrs.

भणवार में यह भी भावा है :

"Encouraged by this, the two groups went berserk after dusk and indulged in large-scale arson and loot"

### मखनार का यह मंतव्य है :

"This is inept handling of the situation".

इस सम्बन्ध में बहुत सी बातें सदन में बा गई हैं, लेकिन में बहत बिनम्प्रता के साथ पूछना चाहता हं----न्या गृह मंत्री को यह पता है या नहीं---कि क्या यह झंसट और कलह एक तरफ सबर्ण लोगों का हरिजनों से था, भीर दुसरी तरफ सवर्ण लोगों का मसलमान सम्प्रदाय से था । अगर यह बात ठीक है तो गह मंत्री को कहना चाहिए कि यह केवल ग्रराजकता फैलने का पंडयंत है। धनर ऐसी बात है, तो उस पर क्या कार्य-वाही की गई है ? इस तरफ भी व्यान देना चाहिए ?

हरिजनों पर प्रत्याचार के समाचार बार-बार झाते रहते हैं ? बजाय इसके कि ऐसी कोई घटना हो, धौर कोई मांग की जाये. श्री गोविंदन नावर घनजन करें, तब उस घटना की न्यायिक जांच की जाये, क्या सरकार कोई इस प्रकार का प्रावधान

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Par sal fait !----

<sup>\*\*</sup>Not recorded.

नहीं कर सकती हैं कि बहां कहीं भी ऐसी बटना हो, बाहे वह किसी भी राज्य में हो, बाहे उस राज्य में प्राप्ता डी० एम० के० सत्तारूट्र हो, भीर बाहे सी० पी० एम० या जनता पार्टी सत्तारूढ़ हो, वहां उसकी न्यायिक जांब मवस्यमावी होनी बाहिए । मैं माननीय प्रधान मंत्री से यह पूछना बाहता हूं कि क्या सरकार यह सिढान्त स्वीकार कर सकती है कि ऐसे सवालों पर , न्यायिक जांब मवस्य की जायेगी

कुछ लोगों को इस पर धापति हो सकती है, लेकिन जैसा कि मैंने पहले भी कहा था, जब तक ऐसे सवालों पर समरी ट्रायल नहीं होगी, तब तक हरिजन और कमजोर वर्ग के सोग मुकदमे में कम तं.र ही रहेंगे । क्या ऐसा कानून नहीं बनाया जा सकता है कि जहां इस तरह से सामूहिक हत्या का प्रयास हो, वहां समरी ट्रायल की जाये ?

क्या मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी को करुणा का आश्रय ले सकता हूं घौर यह प्राणा कर सकता हूं कि वह 14 मृत व्यक्तियों के परिवारों को प्रधान मंत्री के कोष से कुछ न कुछ दे कर सम्पूर्ण राष्ट्र के हरिजनों को सांत्वना ग्रीर संतोष वेंगे ?

छोटी-छोटी घटना पर बहुत बड़ी बातें हो जाती हैं ! आपने सुना होगा कि दिल्ली के पास कंझावला में गांव सभा की 120 एकड़ जमीन सडसस लोगों के बीच बंटने हांसी है, और जो हरिजन इससे संबंधित. है, उनके बिलाफ एक प्रोटेस्ट सम्मेलन किया जा रहा है । जब साज हरिजन बंधुमों का मात्म-सम्मान जग रहा है, मौर जब जनता सरकार उनको प्रधिकार देने जा रही है, तो जब तक रोकबाम के लिए पहले से कदम नहीं उठाये जायेंगे तब तक हरिजनों पर मत्याचार बंद नहीं हो सकता है ।

मैं विनयपूर्वक इन प्रक्तों के उत्तर बाहंगा।

SHRI S. D. PATIL: As far as distribution of land is concerned, only this morning I contacted the Lt. Governor and requested him to give proper attention to that problem, which is very sensitive. As far as the death toll is concerned, it is only 12 as far as the authentic information of the Government is concerned. (Interruptions). Regarding burning of huts, only 200 huts have been burnt, not 200 huts were burnt, not 500.

AN HON. MEMBER: Only 2007

MR. SPEAKER: Sometimes you invite trouble by using wrong expressions.

SHRI S. D. PATIL: I am sorry. 200 huts were burnit not 500.

भी मनो राम बागड़ी : मध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियक 376 के मन्तर्गत एक भौजित्य का अग्न उठाना चाहता हूं ।

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2 P.M. for lunch. 13.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha reassembled, after Lunch, at six minutes past Fourteen of the Colck.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

STATEMENT RE .: IMPORT POLICY

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Mohan Dharia.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE. AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHA-RIA): Sir, this statement runs to more than six pages. May I, with your permission, lay it on the Table of the House?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes. However, a couple of Members wanted some clarifications.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Sir, I lay the Statement regarding the Import Policy for 1978-79 on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

While placing on the Table of the House on the 3rd April 1978. the Foreign Trade policy for 1978-79, I had stated that the Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Technical Development) would receive during the period April-June 1978 suggestions and representations made in regard to the new policy and make its recommendations to Government, on the basis of which modifications could be made. A wide cross section of persons in industry and trade, including the principal Chambers of Commerce and Industry and other Associations availed of this opportunity. The Review Committee has already completed the bulk of its work and would by the end of this month be disposing of all requests and suggestions made upto the middle of July. 1978.

2. After considering the recommondations made by the Review Committee in the above manner, it has been

decided to issue a Public Notice today bringing into force those recommendations of the Committee as have been accepted by the Government, I have great pleasure in placing on the Table of the House copies of thus Public Notice. As soon as the Committee has completed its work, another Public Notice will be issued, covering amendments to the existing policy in the nature of inter-se adjustments among the banned, restricted and other lists of items included in the Import Policy.

3. For the benefit of the House, I wish to summarise hereunder the principal contents of the Public Notice being issued today :---

#### **ACTUAL USERS:**

(i) The definition of "spares" and "components" has been enlarged to include accessories and attachments

(ii) The policy does not permit the import of "consumables" by industrial users under Open General Licence. To give them relief in this regard, an addition to the automatic licences granted to them would be made to the extent of 10 per cent of the value of such licences, to enable them to import the consumables needed by them.

(iii) There are industries which are still passing through the phased development programme in our country. Suitable provision had been made in the earlier policy to take care of such programme, but the connected procedures were likely to result in difficulties and delays especially at the time of Customs clearance. This has been rutionalised in the new approach contained in the Public Notice.

While doing so, the number of industries included in the list has been reviewed and reduced as far as possible. 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 -1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 -

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(iv) In the case of small tools and precision measuring instruments, the policy did not earlier permit industrial users to use their automatic licences to import, within limits. any of the tools and instruments included in the banned list. This has been liberalised, having due regard to the present status of Indian industry. (A similar facility has been extended to exporters of engineering goods against their replenishment licences).

(v) Items included in the restricted list could not be imported as "permissible" spares in the earlier policy, that is to say under Open General Licence, by the concerned Actual Users. This has been now provided.

The demand for ball, roller and other bearings of internal diameter of 10 mm to 50 mm is more than what can be supplied by indigenous producers. Hence all such items of and above 10 mm diameter have been placed in the restricted list.

(vi) Various types of capital goods have been allowed for import under Open General Licence. Their components could also be imported by those, who are in a position either to assemble them or even make a modest contribution to their Indian manufacture; savings in packing and freight can also be had thereby. This enabling provision hes been made fully clear in the amendment now made to the relevant entry No. 497.

(vii) Various amendments have been made to permit easier flow of components and materials required by electronic industrial units, so as to give a boost to their indigenous production and also exports. This has been done by identifying specific components, which are made indigenously and leaving the rest for import under Open General Licence

(vili) Among the items under Open General Licence, X-ray films and other photographic films, of the type that are not being made indigenously have been now allowed for import by all persons. The earlier provision limiting this facilty .to Actual Users created difficulties to professionals and hospitals in getting their requirements.

(ix) The crude drugs required to be imported for Unani and Avurvedic purposes have been enumerated, to make their imports more convenient at the time of Customs clearance.

(x) The list of family planning items allowed for import under Open General Licence has been enlarged to include al litems as have been approved by the Drugs Controller, but are not produced indigenously.

(xi) Small scale industries requirring automatic licences for value less than Rs. 50,000/- are granted such licences on a "repeat" basis. It has been decided that in such cases there need be no sub-division of the total value among iron and steel items, non-iron and steel items and spares. They can utilise the licences as best as they like, for maintaining their registered industria activities.

### **REGISTERED EXPORTERS:**

(i) Exports of spares and Compo nents of Machine Tools, Internal Combustion Engines, Pumps and Compressors, Industrial Machinery, Motor Vehicles and Automobile Ancillaries, and Railway Equipments will be eligible to import replenishment at the same rate as that applicable to the respective parent product.

(ii) Certain export products had been omitted for import replenishment purposes in the earlier policy. A closer examination justified their restoration, including adjustments in

### [Shri Mohan Dharia]

the rates already announced in some cases.

Both the above provisions will be applicable to the exports made from 1st April 1978 onwards.

I would like to add that the list qualifying for of export products replenishment is open to import alterations additions and in the course of the year. depending upon the progress made in our export enorts vis-a-vis our industrial development.

woollen (iii) Appropriate products have been made eligible for the import of wool waste and synthetic waste as well.

(iv) The list of items included in the Appendix 26 to the policy is not available to the Export Houses for the utilisation of their addi tional licences. It has been reviewed several items have been deleted and a few items added.

(v) In view of the practical difficulties in the operation of the scheme and the price to be paid for uneconomic purchases, the limit of Rs. 1 lakh per item in the Restricted List applicable to Export Houses. for utilisation of their aditional liccences has been raised to Rs. 2 lakhs.

4. There are a few other matters relating to our foreign trade of which I would like to inform the House :---

(i) The scheme for the export of Gold Jewellery against replenishment of their gold content has been finalised and will be brought into force shortly. This will, I hope, go a long way to increase our export earnings and provide jobs for thousands of our Goldsmiths and Skilled artisans.

(ii) In the case of Man-made Fibres and Filament Yarn, the Committee headed by Secretary, Indus-

trial Development, will finalise its report shortly, on the basis of Government's Textile Policy. In the meantime, it has been decided to permit the eligible Actual Users to register with the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, their requirements of Polyester Filament Yarn for one more quarter.

(iii) A review has been undertaken of the scheme of Advance (including Imprest) licences with or without duty exemption benefits, so as to facilitate our export production efforts. It will be brought into operation soon.

(iv) Imports of second-hand machinery have posed problems at all times. After satisfactory verification of the nature of the items and their residual life, it is no doubt desirable to permit their import however, caution is required in judging A Committee. individual cases. under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Technical Development, is making a study of the subject to lay down appropriate guidelines.

(v) On the basis of the representations received, it has been deckled that the offices of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports located at Rajkot, Visakhapatnam, and Pondicherry will continue to function as before during 1978-79, on the understanding that they will coclosed down thereafter unless there is a substantial increase in the import/export activities handled through them in the current year.

5. With the amendments thus made to the Policy, on the basis of the recommendations made by the Review Committee headed by Secretary, Tech-Development, our nícal Foreign Trade Policy has been further reoriented and simplified. These measures are based on various recommendations and exercises made by the Ministry and I am sure the new Foreign Trade Policy alongwith these

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amendments will provide a stable base for the future. I would like to utilise this opportunity to express the appreciations of the Government for prompt work done by the Committee.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now Mr. Sudheeran.

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey): The Minister has now placed before the House the Import Policy; and I would like to seek a clarification from him. When commodities are available and they are surplus in our own country, is it fair on the part of the Government to import those items? (Interruptions). I would like to point out one important matter, as far as Kerala is concerned.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can only ask for clarifications.

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN; I am coming to the question. The recent decision of the Union Government to import natural rubber, has created a scare in Kerala, because Kerala contributes 94 per cent of the total production of natural rubber. More than 3 lakhs of people are involved in it. Majority of rubber-growers are very small holders. Because of the rainy season, less tapping is taking place in Kerala. So, there was a little bit of rise in prices. But it is purely a temporary phenomenon. How can Government take a decision, based on a temporary phenomenon? If Government decided to import rubber, naturally it will take 3 to 4 months to implement the decision. By that time, the rainly season will be over, and the country will be self-sufficient in rubber.

We are told—and it is a fact—that within 3 to 4 months there will be an abundance of rubber, and that we will be surplus in it. This reported decision of the Union Government is really meant to help big industrial houses engaged in the rubber industry. The price of rubber has fallen terribly in the country. Yesterday, the Keral<sub>a</sub> Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution urging upon the Union Government to revoke and reconsider its decision to import natural rubber. On behalf of the poor people who have been engaged in rubber plantations viz., small holders, I would appeal to the hon. Minister to reconsider and revoke the policy of importing natural rubber into the country.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): I am seeking a clarification from the hon. Minister because he has placed the Import Policy on the Table. According to Press reports-and reliable reports-the trade deficit may go up, to Rs. 1200 crores this year. If so, what is the policy of the Government, regarding the import of agricultural ckommodities which are available inthe country itself? It is a very basic question. Moreover, the international price of this agricultural commodity, viz., rubber is Rs. 900/- to Rs. 1.000/-. The total cost includingother duties when it reaches India, will be Rs. 1200/-. Then there is nobenefit by the import of rubber, if you consider the price prevailing in. the international market. All these factors have to be taken into account when you consider the import policy. Do the Government have any policy in the matter? Basically, the importis for fulfilling the gap of deficit inthe commodity whereas if you pay increased price for the local rubber thebenefit goes to the ordinary farmers, Shri Sudheeran has elaborately explained the situation. 95 per cent of the rubber is produced in Kerala. Now there is a temporary deficit because of the rainy season as tapping is very much less during the monsoon. As soon as the monsoon is overand the production is in full swing. according to the present estimates, the production will be about 1.65.000 tonnes which will actually create asurplus, after meeting the requirements of the country. In that back-. ground is it the policy of the Gov-

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### [Shri Vavalar Ravi]

ernment to work against the interests of the small farmers, whose number is 1.83 lakhs, and 1.5 lakhs of workers by allowing the import of natural rubber from abroad, which costs almost the same here?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I do appreciate the concern of the hon. Members. I hope the hon. Members may be aware of the measures taken by me so that....

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: We are grateful to you for that.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA:.... 80 that due protection could be given to the producers. It is the policy of the Government to see that the producers of all commodities, including plantations, get a remunerative price. To that extent, there is no question of diluting that policy.

It so happened that the prices, which were at the level of Rs. 750 to 800, started firming up. Even when they went to Rs. 1,000 or even Rs. 1,100 we did not take any decision. But when they crossed Rs. 1.200, naturally we felt that some action was called for. Because, it affected several industrial units manufacturing different varities of rubber. It is wrong to say that we acted because of pressure from monopoly houses. There are so many small units, particularly in Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bengal, and in fact all over the country and they have been affected. Therefore, Government had to take a decision to import rubber to the tune of Rs. 15,000 tonnes.

However, I would like to assure my hon. friends that I am prepared to have discussions with them, or the Chief Minister of Kerala, or other dinisters or officers, and if the prices could be immediately brought down, even though the decision has been taken to import rubber, if the prices

are immediately slashed-I do not say they should be brought down to below Rs. 800, but at least they must come down-then I am prepared to revise my decision, so that while our producers get a remunerative price, the industries are also run.

SHR1 JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): How does the price of imported rubber compare with the local price that was prevalent two months ago?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: We have to look at the economoic situation. While the Government has to take care of the producers or growers, simulaneously, they have to take care of the industries where thousands of people are employed. Naturally, the Government have to take a balanced view of the whole question.

AN HON, MEMBER: What about the consumers?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Of course, the consumers also. Under these circumstances. I would request mv friends from Kerala State, let them take appropriate measures so that the existing prices are immediately brought down. If there are any powers in my hands which they want me to exercise. I am prepared to be with them, to co-operate with them; there is no difficulty. But the prices must come down. If they come down, the Government will be prepared to revise the decision. Otherwise, Government will be forced to import rubber.

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN: The Minister is under a wrong impression.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You cannot have a discussion. Even the clarification was allowed as a special Case.