

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: I am not saying that you should give all the rigs to Orissa. What is the fact, I am asking. Why are you saying like this?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Largest number of rigs is now working in Orissa, and Bihar. It is only because their need is the greatest. Rajasthan is also very badly affected. Certain interior areas need to be looked after and we shall see that all possible steps are taken to supply drinking water. We are also planning to create more storage capacities in the States in interior areas so that the FCI can look after the distribution work better. More centres are also being decided upon in consultation with the States and we shall see that food stocks are not stored in large towns at command stations only but also in some of the interior areas so that in times of emergency there is no difficulty for movement of foodgrains to needy places.

12. 52 hrs.

PETITION RE: CHANGES REQUIRED IN RAPE LAW

MR. SPEAKER: Smt. Geeta Mukherjee—Presentation of Petition.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shrimati Lata Mani and others regarding changes required in rape law.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): Why are all the three ladies standing?

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Home Minister has to make a statement.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Before the statement is made, you have the discretionary power. We have to raise the issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Dandavate, I have seen. There is no precedent. I cannot do it according to the rules. It

has never been done. There is no precedent.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You have allowed me to raise the issue. He is making a statement on the same subject. I am referring to that.

MR. SPEAKER: You will get chance under Rule 377 after that. It does not matter. For what you say there is no precedent. I cannot do it, it cannot be taken up just now.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: You can make your statement after the Minister makes his statement, in the light of that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Please allow me to make one submission. All that I am saying is this. The Home Minister is wanting to make a statement on a subject in which you have allowed me to make a special mention under Rule 377. Sir my point is this: After the Home Minister makes a statement, my raising the issue is meaningless.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: In the light of that statement you may make your remarks. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him to make a statement. Let him make a statement. Why are you interrupting?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am not saying anything about instructions in Speaker's Directions which are there. But ultimately there is something like the common sense which can always be accommodated under Speaker's direction.

MR. SPEAKER: No, common sense will also mean that he can take cognizance of the same facts which you might be putting there. Then again you can have an option to reply.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: But it is topsy-turvy, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: But I have seen that because I knew of the situation the common sense asked me to do this, that is allow you to read it out under Rule 377. So, I did that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, let the common sense be the common sense between you and me.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister make the statement.

12.56 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: ALLEGED LATHI CHARGE ON THE PROCESSION OF BLIND MEN IN NEW DELHI.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ZAIL SINGH): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the Government deeply regret the incident that occurred yesterday the 16th March, 1980, on Parliament Street when a procession of blind persons are alleged to have been lathi-charged by the Police. (Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Sir, he says "alleged to have been lathi-charged". Sir, he must make a proper statement. He cannot just make a statement like this. (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Is it alleged? Sir, let him see the newspapers. (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: Action should be taken for this.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, action has already been initiated for that. (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I have a point of order. My point of order is whenever the Minister makes a statement or under Rule 377 if a matter is raised by a Member.....

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am formulating my point of order. The procedure regarding submitting a statement by any Member of the House including the Minister is whenever any Minister or any Member of the House makes any statement for which he has sought permission, he has to give a copy of the Statement in advance to the Speaker.... (Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I do not want a ruling from you. Sir, Speaker's post has not been decentralised as yet. You are the Speaker. Therefore, when the copy of the statement is submitted, you always scrutinise it. Even my statement has been slightly altered and I accepted it as you wanted. Therefore, Sir, the hon. Minister should have sent a copy of the statement which he has read out now. Now, he has used the words alleged to have been lathi-charged". Sir, here is photograph of the lathi-charge that has taken place. When this has taken place, how could he say "alleged to have been lathi-charged".

AN HON. MEMBER: That is the Police language.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Therefore, Sir, it is incorrect and untruthful. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am referring to his point of Order. As a matter of fact, ordinarily, a copy of the statement should have come to me. But in the nick of time this item has come. It should have been done. Hereafter he should do it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: If you had given the statement, he would have corrected it.

सध्यस महोदय : ज्ञानी जी, इसके दोबारा पढ़ दीजिये ।

SHRI ZAIL SINGH: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the Government deeply regret the incident that occurred yesterday