

MR. SPEAKER: By shouting you do not provide any solution.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Now we are going to see what price is charged as the factory price and what price the consumers should be asked to pay. We are controlling the money which is generated in between so that blackmarket money may not be raised there.

This is the step which has been taken. We have gone into this matter fully. Because this matter was a little bit complicated and we had to discuss it in Cabinet and finally to give a decision, that was why I could not even give an indication of what we were considering.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: On a clarification.

MR. SPEAKER: No more now on this. I have already agreed to a discussion.

13.01 hrs.

NATIONAL LIBRARY BILL
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO JOINT COMMITTEES

SHRI AMARNATH VIDYALANKAR (Chandigarh): I move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do appoint four members of Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the administration of the National Library and certain other connected matters, in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Sarvashri Mahabir Das, Rattan Lal Jain, Shyam Dhar Misra and Patil Puttappa from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the names of the members so appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee".

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do appoint four members of Rajya

Sabha to the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the administration of the National Library and certain other connected matters, in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Sarvashri Mahabir Das, Rattan Lal Jain, Shyam Dhar Misra and Patil Puttappa from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the names of the members so appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee".

The motion was adopted.

RE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to tell the House before we resume the discussion on the Demands of the Ministry of Defence that I think that the Ministry of Home Affairs is much more important, and we shall take it up on Monday. We do not carry over the discussion on the Defence Ministry's Demands to Monday because on Monday evening there is going to be guillotine. So there must be some time left for the discussion of the Demands of the Ministry of Home Affairs. So the discussion on the Defence Ministry's Demands will be finished today. The Minister will reply at 2.45 P.M. today.

13.2 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377
REPORTED ATROCITIES ON ADIVASIS AND HARIJANS IN MANIKGARH IN MAHARASHTRA

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): With your permission, I am raising an issue about the atrocities committed in Manikgarh in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra. Since the protection of Harijans and Adivasis is the concern of the Central Government, I am raising this issue.

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

13.03 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

In the Manikgarh area which is in the Chandrapur District of Maharashtra, the Adivasis were subjected to untold atrocities. This is the forest land and under the garb of vacating the aggression committed by Adivasis and Harijans, atrocities were committed by the Forest Officer.

You will be shocked and surprised to know that 100 huts of Adivasis were completely burnt to ashes. Women who were pregnant were dragged out of the huts by the officer and one pregnant lady, who was to deliver within half an hour, was dragged out, and during the delivery the lady died. Her child also died.

Many Harijans and Adivasis were put in the truck and they were left on the border of Andhra. One child in search of drinking water was wandering here and there and as a result of that after three hours that child died.

You will be again shocked and surprised to know that when these Adivasis were being evicted in a truck, one child was kept down on the ground. The Forest Officer jumped from the truck and fell on that child. The child was trampled below the foot and as a result, the child died.

The matter was brought before the State Legislature and the Minister in charge, Forest Department, said that no such things had happened. On 20th April, I visited that spot. We made an on-the-spot inquiry and found that all these facts are correct. The local Congress MLA also confirmed these facts. They have been brought to the notice of newspapers. Prominent reports have appeared in Maharashtra.

We are demanding that the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should go there, make on-the-spot inquiries in Manikgarh area of Chandrapur District. Also, the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Sche-

duled Tribes should go into this matter and try to find out what are the facts.

In conclusion, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that whenever we have raised the issue of atrocities against Harijans and Adivasis in the House, it has had a deterrent effect. I am raising this issue so that the State Government also takes the necessary action.

Even those who are responsible for the carrying on of these atrocities should also be deterred from doing these things. That is why I have raised this issue. I am thankful to you. I am also demanding that the Government should enquire into the matter and the necessary statement on the atrocities should be brought before the House.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): A similar case was repeated in Bombay which was pointed out here by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. A Harijan boy was made naked and dragged in procession to the police station.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have allowed that matter to be raised.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Gwalior): It was raised in the House. A Harijan boy was taken in procession naked, to the police station in Bombay city. We requested the Home Minister to make a statement.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: On the same day, the rape of some women in Nagaland was also brought to the notice of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This question was raised on that day.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: You gave a directive to the Minister to make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I do not remember. If I had given a direction, they will take note of it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): The hon. Speaker had made another observation that the Minister might make a statement. Seven days had passed on that day, and though the hon. Home Minister was here, and he promised to make a statement, it has not been made. I suppose today is the 10th day, and yet, they have not come forward with the statement. We might as well dissolve this House and get away. This is terrible. (*Interruption*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why say "dissolve this House"? You have other ways. I do not understand; the House must assert itself. (*Interruptions*) Order, please. Anyway, there should be remedies.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Kindly make a positive observation.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: You made a positive observation the other day. You, in your wisdom, had said that both the things required serious action to be taken and the Minister should make a statement. This was conveyed by Shri Ragh. Ramiah to the Minister of Home Affairs. What is he doing? (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is enough.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Here in Delhi itself the other day a gruesome incident took place in which the wife and daughter of an official were put to death in R. K. Puram. What is the Minister doing? (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will you all kindly sit down?

SHRI DHAMANKAR (Bhiwandi): I agree with what Prof. Dandavate said and I also request that the Government should make enquiries.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have added force to it. I do hope that the Government has taken note of all the

things which the Members have said (*Interruptions*) Order, please. You do not allow me to speak.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You say only, "I do hope."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have no powers here except to regulate the House, and whatever powers I have, I derive them from you. (*Interruptions*). The only thing that I want to be careful about is not to act in an irresponsible manner and not escape my responsibility.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Let them make a statement (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kindly sit down. I do hope that the Government have taken due note of all these things. These atrocities keep on coming. Last week we had some very agitated discussion about them and the Minister had gone on record that he would be coming up with some statement. I do hope they will keep their word. If nothing is done in spite of it, the House has to find some way. It is not only I but the whole House has to find some way. We have to take some kind of decision about it. The House has to take a decision about it. (*Interruptions*). Directions from the Chair have to be taken with a certain amount of seriousness and the commitments made by Ministers in the House or any Member have to be made with a certain amount of responsibility and seriousness. If nothing is done, then the whole House has to take note of it and meet and come with some kind of decision. That is all I have to say.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): The helpless tribals in my area suffer from many atrocities committed on them. Why not at least a Commission of Inquiry be appointed to investigate into them?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Dandavate, I think, had made very con-

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

structive suggestions. He has referred to the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; he has certain responsibilities; let him do his job. This House also has a Committee to go into these matters. I do hope that the Chairman and Members of that Committee will assert themselves and go into such matters. There are various ways of doing things.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, we saw a circular that the Press should not be told about the Consultative Committee meetings; it says the Press briefings should be discontinued... (Interruptions) Some meeting was held with some people. My party was not represented there, nor were most other Opposition Parties present. Suddenly this circular comes and we have been forbidden from doing what was being done from 1965 onwards. Suddenly Shri Raghuramaiah feels that it is doing harm to the Government.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): Since it has gone on record, I want to say this. It is not as if somebody met secretly. I issued notices to all the whips of the parties in this House and in Rajya Sabha. Some parties could not come; it is their lookout. Those who were present took this decision and in pursuance of that decision I issued the circular. Yesterday also I told him. We shall call for a fresh meeting and we shall look into it. I resent this kind of rushing to make speeches and bring in my name.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The circular should be suspended.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You will have an opportunity to discuss this matter in the meeting... (Interruptions). I want to put a query to the Minister. If you want to function this way, you can. Mr. Vajpayee

raised a very relevant and legitimate question. The hon. Minister says that he would call another meeting and some decision could be taken there. Meanwhile, what happens to the briefing of the Press?

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: Mr Vajpayee's party was represented. On Tuesday we are meeting. How can I withdraw a circular which was issued with the consent of all the parties?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: No, Sir. On a point of order. I shall read out the names of the persons who attended the meeting.

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: I invited all; some attended.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You cannot take a decision like that.

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: Of course, we can... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your party was not represented there?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Neither Mr. Vajpayee's party from Lok Sabha.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: These are matters of detail. The matter should end there, when the Minister says that they will meet and reconsider the question. They are meeting on Monday or Tuesday.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The circular should be kept in abeyance.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What will happen when the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of External Affairs meets? I am going to brief the Press. I am not prepared to accept any limitations on my rights as a Member of this House.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU The pressmen have been terrorised, they have been bullied

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER I can only regulate. Kindly sit down. I think, I am correct in this that the functioning of Consultative Committees does not come under the rules of this House. It is, I think, largely a matter between you, the Members of Consultative Committees and the Government. At the most, it amounts to a gentlemen's agreement. If somebody breaks the gentlemen's agreement, if somebody does not observe the agreement, the House is not attracted, the rules are not attracted. Let us close the matter here.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 1974-75—
 Contd

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE—Contd

SHRI B V NAIK (Kanara) Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I continue with what I said yesterday. I may kindly be given a few minutes more.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER The Minister will reply at 2.45 PM. Then, we have Private Members Business at 3.30 PM.

SHRI B V NAIK This is a delicate subject. Therefore, I think it needs some time for development.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER It means, many of your other colleagues will not have an opportunity.

SHRI B V NAIK Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, yesterday, I started off for a couple of minutes with a statement about the motivations of an army man, whether he be a soldier, a sailor or an airmen. Certain points were also raised yesterday in respect of the changes in the role of the men from the Army, the Army officials, in regard to the recent riots in Gujarat.

Since what happened in Gujarat, what happened to the Police in Gujarat, what happened to the army men in Gujarat is intimately linked up with the morale of the Army, I would like to say only one thing. Hon. Member, Shri 'ndrajit Gupta said that the population of Ahmedabad went and garlanded the Army Officers and that the Army Officers accepted it because they have a partial tradition. The mere fact that they have accepted it, according to me, Sir, is a matter of disgrace. This has been raised on the floor of the House. I would like to give my point of view.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER The point is this point has been raised. We do not normally repeat others' points.

SHRI B V NAIK I won't. I feel that the point which has been raised by Mr Gupta puts the Army and the soldiers against the policemen—the policemen is the villain in one piece of the Badmash of the whole drama, while the Army men is a gentleman loved by the people. This would be disastrous from the point of view of national integration. This is the only point I wanted to make. It is not fair for us politicians, to put one wing against another wing and thereafter make certain amount of political capital out of it. The distinguished hon. Member Mr Gupta mentioned this. I was pained to hear this. That is why, I had to make a sort of deviation in regard to this.

Sir, the new challenges which have been put across to us are the challenges of the year 1974. I think, perhaps the high peak, the high noon of our Defence forces was reached somewhere at the end of 1971, with a victory for Bangladesh. Thereafter there has been a certain amount of consolidation. It was, what is currently being called as a sort of prophylactic, short remedial War. Thereafter, we have tried to politically consolidate our position in Kashmir. The position as far as the border between India and China being as it is the position