

[Shri Surendra Pal Singh]

tion 24 of the Passports Act, 1967. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-1742/72.*]

12.39 hrs.

UNTOUCHABILITY (OFFENCES)
AMENDMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS
PROVISION BILL*

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE
(PROF. S. NURUL HASAN) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 and further to amend the Representation of the people Act, 1951.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 and further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : I introduce the Bill.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : May I make a submission, Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Panigrahi, I have already allowed a Calling Attention motion on that. It all depends on your good luck, whether you come through the ballot or not.

12.40 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) M.P. CHIEF MINISTER'S REPORTED
STATEMENT ABOUT JAN SANG HAVING
RECEIVED MONEY FROM US CON-
SULATE DURING ELECTIONS

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : Sir, I

want to draw your attention to a serious report that has appeared in the papers. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri P. C. Sethi, has made a serious allegation against Jana Sangh for having complicity with the USA Embassy and also for having received money from them for the purpose of elections. I quote what he has said in the House in reply to the debate there :

"...an officer of the American Consulate had visited this State during the elections and they had met some Jana Sangh candidates. In some places, they had tried to influence Muslim voters."

This is one of the extremely grave allegations, I should say, against a party which has been recognised by the Election Commissioner as a national party. For the security of the whole principle of our democracy and also the national solidarity, I would request the Central Government to have a CBI inquiry into this type of serious allegation. It would have been quite proper if this statement would have been made by a Central Minister on the floor of the House, I want to draw the attention of the Home Minister, He should come out with a statement on the basis of the allegations that have been made and whether any *prima facie* case was established by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. It is absolutely essential that the whole country should know whether there was complicity of the U.S. Consul, whether they tried to influence the election by offering money to a certain political party. Just a few days ago the CPM were accusing some political party of having complicity with KGB in West Bengal. These are the type of allegations made. If these charges are proved, I should say, they have no right to exist in this country as political parties—those who have foreign help, foreign connection and foreign money for the purpose of elections. I want to draw your attention to this because these allegations are of extremely grave nature. Therefore, the Minister concerned should come out with a statement whether a *prima facie* case has been built up against Jan Sangh and if so, what are the bases of the *prima facie* case. The whole country must know about it.

श्री अर० बी० बड़े (खारगोन) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी जो बातें जनसंघ के सम्बन्ध में कही

गई हैं, मैं आप से कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज हमारे अटल बिहारी जी वाजपेयी यहाँ नहीं है। लेकिन यह स्टेटमेंट अभी आया है, इलैक्शन हुए इस घटना को दो-तीन महीने हो गये, अभी तक मुख्य मंत्री की जवान कभी नहीं खुली, लेकिन अब जब उनके खिलाफ एलीगेशन लगाये गये, तब उन्होंने ऐसा झूठा प्रचार कराया है। इस के बारे में वहाँ के जो मंत्री हैं, उनको जवाब देना चाहिये, क्या इस के बारे में उनके पास कोई एविडेंस है? हमारे यहाँ जब से प्रकाश चन्द जी सेठी आय हैं तब से जो उनके मन में आता है बकवास करते जा रहे हैं, उन्होंने यह झूठी बकवास की है। यह सब झूठी बात है।

(ii) ALLEGED ATROCITIES ON HARIJANS IN A VILLAGE IN PUNJAB

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : With your permission, I rise to refer to a very important issue, of atrocities against Harijan men and women in the village Koulemajra, 24 kilometres from Patiala in Punjab. In this village there is almost "darkness at noon." In broad daylight Harijan peasants are prevented from going to the fields. They are not getting green fodder. The women-folk in the Harijan families in the village lock themselves up in their houses during day time so that they might not be subject to inhuman atrocities at the hands of political opponents.

In this particular case, drunken men described as "Dare Devils" freely move about the village abusing and threatening the Harijans and their supporters. A few days back, these persons were led by the *Sarpanch* who used to carry fire-arms. In this connection I would like to quote an eye-witness report that has been actually given by the *Hindustan Times* Reporter in a very significant despatch on 6th April 1972. This despatch says :

"When I went to this village some of the women not only sobbed and cried while narrating the incidents but even trembled at mid-day. Fear was writ large on the faces of the entire Harijan population nearly 55 families. There woes are the result of their having voted for the Congress in the recent Assembly election.

The worst part is that most of the Police action is on paper in spite of the higher authorities. The aggressors have the capacity to beg and buy impunity and bash and bully the weak.

Finding that Harijans were favouring the Congress, the pro-Akali Jats led by the Sarpanch first struck on February 29. Armed with guns, they went to the house of Ram Saran to punish him by misbehaving with the womenfolk. The matter was reported to the Police but no effective steps were taken to check the repetition of these atrocities.

Koulemajra village and Julkan Police Station are the typical instances of the lot of the Harijans and the functioning of the Police Stations in the rural areas.

The peasant proprietors treat the Harijans as serfs. There are scores of villagers in the State where the Harijans have been pressurised to work on low wages. In places like Shaheedgarh the Harijans were boycotted for months because they demanded higher wages

As the wheat harvesting season is approaching, tension is building up between the Harijans who want higher wages and the farmers".

Sir, this is the plight of the Harijans in India of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Ambedkar.

Let the Government make a categorical statement on all these atrocities that have been inflicted on the Harijans of this village in the Punjab. I am not at all concerned whether they are harassed because they have actually voted for the Congress. I have no sympathies for the policies of the Congress, but, even to Congressmen, I say : "We may disagree with what you say but we shall defend to the death your right to say it". This is the spirit of Voltaire that we would like every Party to adopt and in this spirit I have raised the issue. I would like the Government to make a categorical statement. Thanks to the *Hindustan Times*, they have brought out this story of agony.

Sir, let me end my reference by saying that there are many people in this country