

12.10 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Reported repression on Adivasis in  
Maharashtra and West Bengal**

**PROF. MADHU DANAVATE**  
(Rajapur): I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

'Reported forcible eviction of Adivasis from their agricultural lands in Maharashtra and West Bengal and police repression on them.'

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF  
PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS  
MIRDHA)**: Sir, according to information obtained from the State Government, there had been large scale encroachment of forest land in the two forest division of Dhulia District. As on 15th July, 1974, 7719 acres of forest land were under encroachment in the two forest divisions. Efforts made by the Forest Department to secure the removal of encroachment through persuasive methods did not succeed. Therefore, the State Forest Department removed the encroachment in 2023 acres with the help of the State Reserve Police. The encroachment was not for residential purposes and, therefore, no Adivasi family was evicted from their residence. The State Government have also reported that allegations of repression by the State Reserve Police have been found to be without foundation. The State Government have taken steps to provide alternative employment and source of livelihood to persons who had encroached on forest lands. A scheme costing Rs. 21 lakhs for road-building, soil conservation, afforestation etc. is being implemented in that areas,

Government are aware of the problem of alienation of Adivasis land in this area. The State Government have informed us that they are proposing to amend suitably the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code so as to safeguard the interests of Adivasis.

The Government of West Bengal have been requested to furnish the relevant facts regarding newspaper reports alleging eviction of Adivasis from their agricultural lands in Jhargram area in Midnapore District of West Bengal.

**PROF. MADHU DANAVATE**: The cursory and scrappy statement made by the hon. Minister on the floor of the House gives no evidence at all that he comprehends the gravity and seriousness of the situation created in Maharashtra and West Bengal by the eviction of Adivasis and the unparalleled and unprecedented repression that is let loose by the SRP and Police on the Adivasis who are struggling for their legitimate rights.

As far as Maharashtra is concerned, Adivasi belts like the Chandrapore district and the Dhulia district are seriously affected by the agitation of the Adivasis that is going on there. The agitation is by the Adivasis, the Harijans and also the nomadic tribes.

I draw your attention to the fact that I had raised the issue of atrocities on Adivasis, Harijans and nomadic tribes in Manekgarh in Vidarbha district of Maharashtra under rule 377 on 26-4-74. In the course of my observations, I had categorically demanded from Government that the Union Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should make an on-the-spot inquiry of the struggle that is going on in Manekgarh in Vidarbha, Maharashtra and also to ascertain whether there were atrocities on Adivasis, Harijans and nomadic tribes. I also said that the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Sche-

duled Tribes should also investigate the matter.

I will just read the direction given by the Deputy Speaker then. When I specifically demanded that the Commissioner for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should make an on-the-spot inquiry and the Parliamentary Committee should also probe into it and report to the House, the Deputy-Speaker had given the following direction.

"Mr. Dandavate, I think, he has made a very constructive suggestion. He has referred to the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He has certain responsibilities and let him do his job."

I am happy to note that though rather late, the Union Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has already done his job. He went to Manikgarh and made an on the spot enquiry. I am pained to find that the statement of the Minister is less than whatever has appeared in the press. He has not even cared to contact the Union Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes whose office is very close. If only he had listened to the details furnished by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, such wrong, incorrect, cursory statement would not have been made in the House. I would like to read before the House the specific statements made by the Union Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in this regard. I am quoting from the Nagpur Times dated 16th July, 1974:

**"Manikgar Encroachers—Mane criticises Government's Eviction Decision.**

Mr. Shankarraro Mane, Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Government of India, criticised here today the decision taken by the Maharashtra

Government to evict the so-called encroachers on forest land in Manikgarh area of Chandrapur district.

Mr. Mane, a former Congress M.P. who toured the area on July, 13 and 14 told Nagpur Times in an interview that the problem was essentially a human one and it should be dealt with in that perspective. He hoped that the Government would see the issue in that light.

Mr. Mane said that out of 2068 families on the land in question, residing in 51 villages, 617 belonging to Scheduled Castes, 12 to Scheduled Tribes and 543 to nomadic tribes, 886 families were from others, including a number of those belonging to the other Backward Classes etc.

His attention was drawn to the problem and the plight of the large number of persons from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Nomadic Tribes, who have developed land there some time back, Mr. Mane said. He had written to Mrs. Prati-bha Patil, Minister of Social Welfare in this regard and asked her to look into the question.

Mr. Mane said that he could not understand as to how for the last so many years the Government allowed these families to settle on the reserved forest land, develop it and start farming. What were the Forest and other officers doing? As a matter of fact, the Government had *de facto* recognised the settlers by providing them with many facilities like schools, wells, panchayats etc. and also by recovering taxes from them. Their names were also enrolled in the voters' lists and they have voted in the various elections from 1971 onwards, Mr. Mane said.

It was the unscrupulous forest contractors who in collusion with or connivance of forest officers that destroyed the forest and the settlers only came later, Mr. Mane said.

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

He failed to see how the Government would be able to replant the forest which would take decades to grow to economic value...." etc.

He said there are political overtones to the problem. I had pointed to this House the atrocities committed at Manikgarh were so pronounced and tragic that even a cursory report of these tragedies would move any sensitive heart. When forest officers went to destroy a hut, a pregnant woman just to about to deliver was dragged out by the forest officer and both the woman and the new born baby died. When adivasis and scheduled castes men were removed in a truck, one child was left by a Harijan woman. A forest officer jumped from the truck and trampled a small baby under his feet and the child died. When scheduled castes men were taken to the Andhra border and left in the lurch, one thirsty child died for want of food and water. This is the manner in which they have been treated. The Home Minister is not able to give us the details. Fortunately, a prominent newspaper in Bombay, the Maharashtra Times, sent a special representative, Shri Dinu Ranadive to Manikgarh and he has written two special despatches in the Maharashtra Times dated 17th and 18th July. They have shown the houses that are destroyed and burnt. They have given the details of the interviews they had with those on whom the atrocities were committed by the police.

I would like to have a categorical reply from the hon. Minister to my questions. When I have raised this question under rule 377, why is it that the investigation made by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has not been brought before the House? Why is it that the Parliamentary Committee on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has not investigated into the problem?

MR. SPEAKER: He should conclude now.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, if he had made some reference to it, I would have asked some questions. In fact, Sir, you should have pulled up the Minister for not giving all the information.

There is another instance. In Dhulia district of Maharashtra there is a powerful movement led by the Socialist Party, the CPM and the CPI, which movement is growing in volume and intensity. In Dhulia district, which is the north Adivasi belt of Maharashtra, 4,000 Adivasi families have been evicted from 20,000 acres of Government forest land. I am seeking specific information on this point. Is it not a fact that in this particular belt the Maharashtra Government had appointed two special tehsildars to survey the transactions in lands of the Adivasis and that they have given their findings? Deliberately, the Maharashtra Government have not brought forward the findings of the survey because they know that if the findings of the survey are made known to the country, the lethargy of the Government would be thoroughly exposed and the atrocities committed by the police and the landlords on the Adivasis would be thoroughly exposed. These are the facts that I place before you.

In conclusion, I want to ask the Home Minister why he has given only a scappy note and not detailed information. Why did he not show the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Tribes the courtesy of meeting him? I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the details that I have placed before him are correct or not. Will he next time place before this House a complete report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Tribes and will the special Parliamentary Committee for Scheduled

Castes and Tribes go into the matter and investigate the problem? Even if you sit tight, the militant Adibasis in Maharashtra are not going to take it lying down. They have already raised their banner of revolt and they will continue to fight for justice which has been denied to them. I want the hon. Minister to reply to these questions. As far as West Bengal is concerned, my hon. friend, Shri Samar Guha, will raise the problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Every time members tell me that I do not limit the time. Now they can very well imagine how difficult it is.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The hon. Member has mentioned about Manakgarh in Chandrapur district and some incidents which took place there. The statement that I have made is particularly with respect to the recent incidents in Dhulia district. But I would like to mention that after the matter was raised here, about Manakgarh and other tribal areas, the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Tribes went to the spot, as suggested by the hon. Member, which he would have done even otherwise. Far from not meeting him, I met him immediately after his visit to the spot. I met him this morning also before I came to the House, to try to know first hand what has happened there. We are in touch with the developments. Shri Mane himself has written a letter to the Chief Minister. When I went to Bombay in connection with a Joint Committee, I met the authorities there and discussed with them what legislative, administrative and other measures are needed to meet the situation which was developing in a very serious way. As I mentioned in my statement, there was some lacuna in the tenancy laws regarding the transfer of land from the Adivasis to the non-Adivasis.

We have received information from them that they propose to issue an

Ordinance which will plug the loopholes. So far as legal lacuna is concerned, they will try to remove it.

As regards other matters, I have mentioned what steps we are taking to rehabilitate these persons who were evicted. They have also given reasons why they were evicted. It is because they had forcibly occupied and encroached upon forest lands. We have impressed upon them the necessity of rehabilitating them even if they were illegally in possession of those lands. We have told them that if they have to be evicted, they should be provided alternative lands and means of livelihood. We will pursue the matter.

As regards the atrocities committed, I will not go into details. They have given certain assurances. I would like to ensure the hon. Member... (*Interruptions*). The police have also been beaten; they have also been injured. I would not like to go into all those details. I would like to assure the House that we will again take up this matter with them and see that nothing happens which hurts the pride of Adivasis. All protection will be given to them and they will be rehabilitated.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I would like to know, as per the direction of the Chair, from the hon. Minister whether the Commissioner's Report will be brought before the House. Why were the findings of the Commissioner not brought before the House? He has violated the direction of the Chair. It is on record. I lodge my protest. Adivasis do not get protection in this House. Sir, I read out before you the direction given by the Deputy-Speaker. The Government refuses to follow the direction of the Chair. What should we do? When we violate your direction, you pull us up. But when the Government violates the direction of the Chair, you do not do anything. There is a direction from the Chair that the Report should come

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

before the House. I request you, Sir, in the name of Adivasia....

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you getting so sentimental, so emotional? The Minister has already said that they are going to issue an Ordinance to amend the Act and do everything. He has given a full assurance. What else do you want?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Whatever direction is given by the Chair, you please see that the Government follows the direction from the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not to issue direction from here. I have no authority to issue directions.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: What is the dignity of directions coming from the Chair?

MR. SPEAKER: I am not prepared to give any direction. The Minister has already given a very categorical and a very clear reply.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He has not said that the Commissioner's Report will come before the House. He has not said that.

MR. SPEAKER: He has given a very clear reply. Why do you bring in the Chair here?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Because the Chair has given a direction.

श्री मधु लिखडे (बांका) : कमिश्नर की रिपोर्ट आयेगी या नहीं इसका जवाब दिलाइये ।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Let the Home Minister at least say, as directed by the Deputy Speaker, the Report of the Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will come before the House.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already given a clear and categorical reply.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : सरकार को क्या प्राप्ति है रिपोर्ट रखने में ?

श्री मधु लिखडे : अध्यक्ष महोदय मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है और वह यह कि एक स्पेसिफिक प्रश्न पूछा गया, आपने पूछने की इजाजत दी है । तो आप जवाब क्यों नहीं दिलाते हैं ? सम्पूर्ण उत्तर आना चाहिये ।

MR. SPEAKER: He has given a categorical assurance.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Let him say that the Report will come before the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, he has given a very clear reply.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: No, Sir. The entire House wants that the Report should come before the House.

MR. SPEAKER: His reply was quite categorical. He gave a very clear reply.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Let him say that. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I am not aware of any direction given by the Chair to produce the report on these incidents to the House. All that I could learn from what the hon. Member quoted from the proceedings was that the Commissioner should go to the spot and enquire. The Commissioner goes to the spot from time to time and enquires about many

things. He gives a report every year which is presented to the House. Here, Sir, I have to consult him because there are certain things which he writes to the State Governments....

**श्री भटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (स्वालिदर):**

अब ता आप गृह मंत्री को निदेश दे ही सकत हैं कि वह कमिश्नर से पता लगा कर इस घटना के बारे में जाओ उनका रिपोर्ट है उसको सभा पटल पर रखें।

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA:** I will consult the Commissioner. He is a dignitary under the Constitution. There are certain things which he writes to the State Governments. I will consult him, how much of that he would like to include in his Annual Report in the light of the comments received from the State Governments.... (Interruptions).

**MR. SPEAKER:** The position is like this. You asked a question. The Minister replied, and in his reply he gave a very categorical assurance that the Act is being amended. You said that the Commissioner was not consulted. You read out the statement made by him. The Minister in his reply has said that he had already contacted the Commissioner and even this morning he was in touch with him. Now what should be the procedure? Should he read out the State Government's reply and then also the State Commissioner's reply? After all, he will be replying on behalf of the Government. In this report it is expected that he got the information from the available sources, and he has said that he contacted the Commissioner also. Besides that, what else do you want? Do you think that, while replying on behalf of the Government, he should say that this is Maharashtra Government's reply—or Government of India's reply or this is the Commissioner's reply and this is this officer's reply or that officer's

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reply? So far as the procedure of this report is concerned, it is a report which has already come to this House. Now I will have to settle this. The procedure I accept once will become applicable in future also. Now what should I do? Have I to ask him, to read, on the one hand, this Government's official reply and then also ask him to say that this is Government's reply, this is Commissioner's reply and so on?

**श्री भटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** मिर्धा जी ने अभी कहा कि कमिश्नर का पद संविधान द्वारा स्वाकृत पद है, कमिश्नर पर एक विशेष जिम्मेदारी है। अब अगर सदन चाहे तो कमिश्नर से आग्रह कर सकता है।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** मुझे एक सवाल का आप जवाब दे दें। मैं गलत हाऊगा तो मान जाऊगा। क्या जवाब सारे सांसद पर बेस्ठ होना चाहिये या नहीं? गवर्नमेंट ने क्या इतिला दी है कमिश्नर ने क्या दी है, क्या ये सब अलग अलग जवाब आने चाहिये या एक जवाब आना चाहिये। क्या इस तरह से आना चाहिये कि यह यह है और वह वह है? मुझ से डायरैक्शन मांगते हैं ता सांच समझ कर ही करना पड़ेगा। अभी डायरैक्शन इस तरह से मैं नहीं दे सकता हूँ। आपकी रीजनेबुल होना चाहिये। आपने कहा कमिश्नर को कंसल्ट किया है ?

He said he was in touch with the Commissioner. He talked to him earlier as well as only this morning. He has said it.

**PROF. MADHU DANAVATE:** I agree with your contention. All that I say is that after consulting the Commissioner and the Government of Maharashtra, let him come forward with some statement. Probably you have not read that statement. There is not even a reference to Manikgarh.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Madhu Dandavate, please sit down. He gives the reply on behalf of the Government and that reply includes it. He has made it clear. I can ask somebody to read his reply also.

परम्परा में याद रखूंगा। एक मिनट में खत्म हो जाता है तो जो चाहें मुझ से कहलवा लीजिये। आइंदा के निये और प्रेमीडेंट होंगे।

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** शैड्युल्ड ट्राइब्स के बारे में केवल सरकार का कहना काफी नहीं है। इसलिए कमिश्नर का पद है। रिपोर्ट उसकी अणु इसी वास्ते मंत्रिभवन में व्यवस्था की गई है।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** जब उनके बारे में मवाल अणु ता गवर्नमेंट का वर्णन भी चाहिये और उधर का भी। इसका मैं मान लूंगा। लेकिन एक प्रश्न के दा-दो जवाब कैसे मानूं।

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** दा दा जवाब हा सकते हैं।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have missed a point. There is no reference to the Maharashtra Government's attitude. He has said nothing either about the Maharashtra Government's attitude nor the Union Government's attitude as far as Manikgarh is concerned. There is no reference in the statement at all.

MR. SPEAKER: That you can ask.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: As far as Manikgarh is concerned, you have given nothing of either Maharashtra Government's attitude nor that of the Union Government.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member should not shift his ground. If he is saying that part of the information

has not come, I would not take a minute to allow you.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You please go through the proceedings. I have said it.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: As I have myself said, this statement concerns Dhulia, because that is a recent occurrence we thought that the hon. Members would be interested in knowing the facts about it. But we were aware of the point the hon. Member raised in a previous session. In fact the visit of the Commissioner is with respect to Manikgarh and not Dhulia. Therefore, I have given all the information saying that as desired by the hon. Members, the Commissioner visited the spot and he made inquiries and he was in touch with the Government of Maharashtra and also in touch with us and we are pursuing everything that flows from that report.

SHRI H. M. PATEL (Dhandhuka): Ask for the report of the Commissioner.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): My friend, Prof. Madhu Dandavate, has given a brief description of the barbarous atrocities committed on the people of Manikgarh. I want to submit that just at the moment the hon. Minister admitted that he had no idea that the Deputy-Speaker had given a special directive to him to consult the Commissioner, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and then inform the House about the matter of consultation.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he will henceforth consult the Commissioner about this special matter raised by my friend, Prof. Madhu Dandavate and whether he will place a report of the discussion held between him and the Commissioner on the floor of the House. You will remember that you admitted this

motion on Tuesday, today is Friday and they might have had a telephonic talk with Calcutta. Central Minister Prof. Kisku comes from that area and Mr. Subodh Hansda another Central Minister also belongs to that area and Mr. Mohato, the West Bengal Minister, visited Jhargram area. Atrocities are being committed there and agitation is going on. Many of the adivasi leaders have been arrested. Their meetings are not allowed to be held. I have visited that area. Cannot they get information by telephone? I think, Sir, you should pull them up for these things. They are trying to treat adivasi people very callously. In the All India Congress Committee they passed any number of pious resolutions in support of socialism, but is this the way of doing about it? This community is being oppressed and are exploited. They should get a better treatment. Only that will be real socialism. But what is this? This Jhargram area was inhabited by adivasi people; it was a forest area; hundreds of them lost their lives there while reclaiming the land there because of the wild animals. A Raja was given zamindari of that area and he brought many landowners here to oust the adivasi from these lands. This is what happened. Now, because of the new Land Act passed by the West Bengal Government many of the sharecroppers are being ousted to deny them the right to enlist their names in the settlement records for these lands, so that they cannot get the land as per the land Settlement Act. The Police is shielding them. In the name of Yuv congress or youth congress local MLAs cooperate with the police to throw out adivasi sharecroppers from the land. This is plantation time but they are stopped from sowing. Their saplings are uprooted.

The Congress talks about the process of land reforms and the law passed by the West Bengal Government, but I want to ask you whether this is the way in which a model law is to be evolved and implemented. Is this the

way of doing such things? The adivasis are the most exploited community.

Sir, the adivasis were cultivating these lands for the last 10 or 15 or 20 years. In the name of afforestation these adivasis are being driven out and they are not allowed to sow. Saplings are being spoiled, saplings are being uprooted. I can understand all this provided alternative land is given to them. But the Government have not done that. How can you deprive them of the land that they were cultivating for the last ten or twenty years?

First of all the Government said that they do not have any information. I mentioned to the hon. Minister the other day that agitations were going on in this regard. If you do not take any steps there will be further agitations. I want to know from the Government whether they are issuing instructions to the West Bengal Government to see that these adivasis are allowed to enlist their names in the settlement records as land-owners and to see that oppression by the Police and M.L.As. should be stopped. Also, are you giving any instructions to the West Bengal Government that unless and until alternative land is provided to the adivasis no eviction of adivasis should take place from their lands which they have been cultivating for many years? Sir, they talk a lot of about socialism; they talk a lot about the exploited community—adivasi community. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. What kind of pudding are you placing before the adivasis—the most exploited community?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, we have not received any information from the West Bengal Government. We sent them a wireless message and we even telephoned to them. Even before the calling attention notice came, we saw a statement by Shri



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Samar Guha regarding eviction of adivasis in the Midnapore District. On the basis of that report we approached them to give us all the facts of the case. As regards eviction notices issued by West Bengal Government, we shall convey to the State Government and shall pursue this matter with them and if and when we receive details about the eviction from them, I can convey it to the hon Member personally and see that they take steps to go ahead with the land reforms. This is exactly what the hon Member has said. This is the policy that the Central and State Governments have been following with respect to adivasis and we would impress upon them the necessity of pursuing all these things in the proper spirit.

श्री मूलचन्द डागा (पाली) अध्यक्ष महादय, जिस क्रिया और व्यवस्था से लोगों को पीडा होती है क्या वह हिमा है या नहीं? यदि सरकार की कोई ऐसी क्रिया है, जिस के द्वारा आदिवासियों को तकलीफ पहुंचती है तो यह क्रिया क्या की तारीफ में आती है या अर्हासा की तारीफ में आती है। प्रश्न यह है कि यह क्रिया क्या तक चलेगी। यदि सरकार उन लोगों के अधिकारों की रक्षा नहीं कर सकती और उन के जीवन-निर्वाह की व्यवस्था नहीं कर सकती और यदि वे लोग अपने अधिकारों की रक्षा करने हैं तो क्या वह क्रान्ति कहलाती है या हिमा कहलाती है?

यह जानना चाहता हू कि क्या सरकार को आदिवासियों की समस्या की जानकारी है कितने आदिवासियों को जमीन एलाट की गई है और बाकी का कब एलाट की जायेगी, वहाँ पर कितने आदिवासियों को फौज की जमान थी और कितनी फौजों को वहाँ से हटाया गया है। सत्री महादय ने बताया है कि राज्य सरकार ने यह सूचित

किया है कि वह आदिवासियों के हित में सम्बंधित कानून में संशोधन करना चाहता है। राज्य सरकार को इस बात के लिए धन्यवाद। वह बड़ी जागरूक सरकार है। सत्री महादय, बताये कि महाराष्ट्र सरकार सम्बंधित कानून में क्या तक संशोधन करेगी। भय यह भी जानना चाहता हू कि अब तक कितने आदिवासियों को को एम्प्लायमेंट दी गई है।

मवाल यह है कि अगर सरकार आदिवासियों के लिए उचित व्यवस्था नहीं कर सकती है और वे लोग क्रान्ति करते हैं, तो सरकार को उन के बारे में ठोस कदम उठाने चाहिए। वे लोग अपना पेट भरने के लिए जमीन चाहते हैं।

आप उन्हें जमीन देना नहीं चाहते, आप न उस के लिए कोई रास्ता निकाला नहीं न उन के लिए कोई एम्प्लायमेंट है। वे क्या करें? मुझे पहले बालन वाले बकनाश्रान जा कहा कि इस प्रकार का प्रत्याचार हुआ तो सरकार को उन आदिवासियों के प्रति ज़िम्मेदारी है। महाराष्ट्र की सरकार में पूछिए कि उन्होंने उन के लिए क्या व्यवस्था कर दो जिस में वे अपनी जीविका निर्वाह कर सकें। उन आदिवासियों का कान सी जमान दी गई। तीन सालों में आदिवासियों ने 25 साल के बाद भी लैंड रिफॉर्म के संबंध में कान सा प्रोटेस्ट कानून में कर दिया कि जिस से उन्हें जमीन मिले?

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा माननीय सदस्य न बहुत व्याप्त प्रश्न पूछा है कि कितनी जमीन आदिवासियों को दी गई, सरकार ने कितनी दी। मे समझना हू कि इस ध्यान-कर्म प्रस्ताव के संबंध में यह सारी सूचना देना संभव नहीं है हालांकि इस विषय पर बहुत भी कई दफा हो चुकी है और तब्य समय समय पर बताए गए हैं।

जहाँ तक उन्होंने यह कहा कि इस कानून का संशोधन कब तक हो जायगा इस के बारे में मैं निवेदन करना चाहूँगा कि महाराष्ट्र सरकार एक आर्डिनंस जारी करना चाहती है उनकी जमीन के कानून में संशोधन करने के लिए, तो हमें आशा करनी चाहिए कि जल्दी ही यह संशोधन हो जायगा जिस में जो कानूनी खामियाँ हैं वह दूर हो सकें।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): There is an inhuman reign of terror and I would like to know what the Committee of this House—the Committee for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes—are doing about it.

SOME HON. MEMBER: It is \* \*

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I do not know whether it is. \*\*

Has this Committee visited the places where atrocities have been committed on scheduled castes and scheduled tribes? If they have not gone there. I would like to know why have they not gone there.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री ज्योतिर्मय बसु, आप किसी को तो स्पेयर किया करें। जो हाउस की कमेटियाँ हैं उन पर रेफ्लेक्शन नहीं होना चाहिए . . . . .

श्री ज्योतिर्मय बसु : मैंने नहीं किया मैंने कहा कि गए नहीं जाना चाहिए।

Somebody from behind said it. I did not agree with that.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह जो आप ने रिमार्क किया यह रिकार्ड में नहीं जायगा।

श्री ज्योतिर्मय बसु : मैं ऐसा बोला नहीं। कोई पीछे से बोला, मैं बोला हम इस से सहमत नहीं है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : नहीं अध्यक्ष महोदय, कल फिर कोई कहेगा कि पब्लिक एकाउंट्स कमेटी भी\*\*

श्री ज्योतिर्मय बसु : बोला करें, हम इस को रेफ्यूट करेंगे। रिपोर्ट दिखाएंगे। और मैं ऐसा बोला नहीं।

The three places where this reign of terror has been let loose are—Nagri, Navadpur and Sahadal. The Adivasis tilled these lands for three to twenty years and this area is only technically forest. They have been paying occupation for decades and there are government receipts for the same. The Congress Government very recently decided to evict them systematically. Even sowed lands have been ruined and they have also been prevented from further sowing. Frequent atrocities are being committed and even cases of rape of Adivasi women have taken place. Government have filed 198 cases against Adivasis to divert the public mind. The District Collector made a propaganda that there is a parallel Government but he had to withdraw it later. They have deployed 500 State Reserve Policemen and they are playing havoc. They have demolished hundreds of huts belonging to scheduled castes.

They have taken to indiscriminate arrest; and they have not spared even boys aged ten to twelve and they have kept in jail for two months without trial. On the one side you have these starving, decaying and struggling Adivasis and on the other hand there is the mighty police raj of the Maharashtra Congress Government plus the mighty Purushottam Sena.

As regards the Purushottam Sena there are 30,000 acres of land under sugarcane; for each acre of land the owners paying Rs. 7 per acre; the owners of 45,000 acres of irrigated land

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

are paying Rs. 5 per acre, and the balance at Rs. 4 an acre. All this is collected to maintain the big Purushottam Sena, named after Shri Purushottam Patel, Congress leader and the headman of the co-operative bank finance sugar tycoons. They have employed 12 commanders, 100 havildars, 1300 watchmen, 200 horses, 120 rifles, jeeps and motor-cycles. Rs. 19 lakhs is their annual budget.

In Dhulia in Maharashtra, the matter under reference, the landless people are numbering about 2,61,000, farmers 2,19,000; 37 per cent of the tribals...

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about the eviction of the Adivasis.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Yes. Adivasis in Maharashtra. We are talking about Maharashtra and West Bengal. If you like, I can bring a map and an encyclopaedia and show you.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I do not need his guidance in this.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: What does the call-attention notice say? Let us read it. It says:

"...forcible eviction of Adivasis from their agricultural lands in Maharashtra...."

What am I talking about? I am talking about Maharashtra. (*Interruptions.*)

Dhulia is in Bengal. Mr Congressman? Dhulia is in Bengal, Mr Bhagwat Jha Azad?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: (Bhagalpur): I know that. You are talking much beyond Maharashtra. (*Interruptions.*)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am talking about Maharashtra.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Don't talk like that. I know where Dhulia is. (*Interruptions.*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let both of them please sit down.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Why does he come in between? (*Interruptions.*)

MR. SPEAKER: May I tell both of them to please sit down. Why does he go out of the way to annoy him?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: What did I say, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: Why does he go out of the way? Why does he not deal with his own motion?

He is unnecessarily annoying and provoking others.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA (Patna): He said, "Is not Dhulia in Maharashtra?" And he became angry.

MR. SPEAKER: No, this is not going into record, the observations about Dhulia and all these unpleasant remarks.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Is it unparliamentary?

MR. SPEAKER: No, that is not the question. We was expressly pointing to them and saying, "You Congressmen, you Congressmen". It was done in a very contemptuous manner. He was very provocative. Let him not be provocative. He can do without provocation. Let him go on without provocation.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: "You Congressmen". Shall he say "You Jan Sanghis"?

MR. SPEAKER: It was said in a very contemptuous way.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Muvattupuzha): The tone, the gesticulation and the reaction in the House—it is these you have to consider. It was said with contempt and derision. We are not to be treated like this.

श्री सटस बिहारी बाजपेयी : उन्होंने कुछ नहीं कहा था। थो ज्योतिमय बसु जो कुछ कहते हैं और जो कुछ कहते में समर्थ है उस को देखते हुए ता इस समय उन्होंने कुछ नहीं कहा—ये क्यों नागत्र हो रहे हैं ?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: On a point of order. In the course of these angry exchanges... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Mr Bosu, would you kindly accept my advice? When talking, you had better deal with the motion instead of going left and right.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Bhagwat is a friend of mine outside. But when he says that Dhulia is not in West Bengal and I retort by saying "You Congressmen", why should he get angry?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Does he want a reply? I will give it. I will say why I became angry. It is not a question of saying "You Jyotirmoy Bosu". I say you are derogatory in your language. (*Interruptions*).

13 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly sit down.

SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA (Arambagh): On a point of order. Mr. Jha has provoked this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing of this unpleasant incident should come on record. We will ensure that. Nothing unpleasant will come on record.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore): There is nothing unpleasant.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: On a point of order. What Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu said is on record; you confirm it. He said nothing unparliamentary. Why do you allow this wasting of time on this important call attention?

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE (Basirhat): Unparliamentary words may be expunged. But words do not matter; it is the mode and manner of expressing them that is being objected to.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a question of being unparliamentary. He is unnecessarily provocative.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Bhagwat is a friend of mine. If he has not been able to take a joke, I am sorry.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: He is not the wisest man here. We understand joke. But it is the tone and demeanour that is being objected to. You are derogatory. You say "You Congressmen". If I say "You, Madhu Limaye," he will understand it better. I understand jokes.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: In Dhulia district in Maharashtra, landless peasantry comes to about 2,61,000 as against 2,19,000 farmers and 37 per cent are tribals. That is the largest tribal concentration. There are 3.6 million Bhils out of 6 million tribals in the district. Besides there are Pawras, Gavits and Konkams. No real land ceiling has been imposed. Land reform is unknown in that area. The scheduled tribes and adivasis lost land in two ways—one by slave labour in their own land and another on the false pretext, on medical grounds and putting up documents showing fictitious loans at a very high rate of interest. Even unlawful legal ownership has been managed. In other areas also like Manikgarh in Chandrapur district near Nagpur and in Thana District evictions have taken place. In Thana District one scheduled tribe was killed. In Sutrakar, eviction had taken place on a large scale at the instance of a man called Chandu Halvai of Gopalan Samithi one person was killed and another injured. We demand that the SRP should be withdrawn

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

at once and ownership of Adivasi tilled land should be regularised in their favour. Inputs for development of agriculture should be given and a crash programme of afforestation should be started, because the Government-appointed forest officers have destroyed the adivasis sources of livelihood.

In West Bengal, there has been repression of Adivasis in Purulia in Ranibundh area. Thousands of tribals have been evicted from the Kausabati project area and have been rendered nomads and beggars. In Jhargram in North Bengal, West Dinajpur, Malda and 24 Parganas the same fate is facing the tribals. In Tripura Gomti Project, 15,000 evicted persons are starving. In Ranchi big projects have come up and people have suffered most. For reporting the fate of the tribals and the atrocities committed on them in Banda district, the local correspondent of *Times of India* was recently arrested by the district authorities. There is a news item in today's *Times of India*: "Graft exposure lands newsman in jail". He has been handcuffed and paraded because he has been highlighting the atrocities inflicted on the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. It is a very shameful matter.

I want clear and categorical replies to my questions.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: As regards allegations of rape on adivasi women, we asked the State Government whether these allegations are true. We have received a report which says that neither the concerned woman appeared before the District Magistrate nor any complaint was given. The District Magistrate asked them to make a complaint.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: What about Purushottam Sena?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: As regards the para military forces he has referred to, he raised it last year in the consultative committee also. This was gone into by us in consultation with the Maharashtra Government. They say they are taking all precautions to see that this force does not come into being.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: It is already in existence.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The Maharashtra Government have reported that the planners of the scheme have not taken any concrete steps for putting the scheme into operation nor any proposals have been submitted to the district authorities for approval. As a precautionary measure, the State Government have directed the district police authorities not to recommend to the District Magistrate, Dhulia, any application for grant of fresh arms licences.

The District Magistrate, Dhulia, has also directed the licensing authority not to grant fresh arms licence to the applicants in Shahadara and Talode taluks.

SHRI JOYTIRMOY BOSU: Do not take us for a ride. What about the Sena named after Purushotham Patel, which consists of 12 commanders, 100 havildars, 1,300 watchmen, 200 horses and 120 rifles besides jeeps and motor cycles? It was started by Purushotham Patel. Kindly give specific replies. Then, what about the evictions and demolitions of hutments?

RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Regarding the Purushotham Sena the Maharashtra Government themselves have said that they will not issue any licence to this sena or any other para military force.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I was talking about .....

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you interrupt him all the time? Let him give his reply. If he goes on interrupting like this at every stage, let the Minister not give any reply.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: That should apply to everybody.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The proposed amendment to the land laws will take care of the difficulties that the hon. Member has mentioned.

The last point mentioned by the hon. Member was about those persons who have been displaced as a result of irrigation and other projects. There is a clear policy regarding the rehabilitation of the Adivasis and others who are evicted as a result of this and I hope that under that policy these Adivasis would be properly rehabilitated.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: This Calling Attention Notice is of a general nature dealing with atrocities on Harijans and Adivasis in West Bengal and Maharashtra. Kindly look into the statement that the Minister has given. According to that, 2,023 acres of land were encroached with the help of the State Reserve Police and the Adivasis were removed, and that no Adivasi family was evicted from their residences.

What is the basis of this report? When you have evicted Adivasis from the agricultural land covering 2,023 acres, how could you say there were no residential houses from which Adivasis were evicted? I say, categorically, it is a wrong statement. The Minister must verify it.

The Adivasis live wherever they till the land. They make their homesteads nearby. How can it be that Adivasis were only evicted from lands and not from their homesteads and

that their homesteads were not demolished? I do not know from where the Minister got this report. I want to have a categorical reply to that.

Only yesterday, the Prime Minister categorically said that their Government is going stronger and stronger every day. This is the picture that you get every day. Daily, when you open any newspaper, you find there are atrocities committed somewhere on Harijans, Adivasis and other weaker sections of the people. Everywhere it is happening. Even today, the *Patriot* has given a 'news item entitled "Police atrocities on Adivasis". Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu has already mentioned that one Mr. B. D. Gupta, the Correspondent of the Times of India was arrested for the news item given in the Times of India because he correctly reported about the atrocities committed on the Harijans which will affect the Congress party in elections in several States. That is why he was only not arrested but he was manhandled and insulted in every way.

That is how the Government is run by Shrimati Indira Gandhi. There are terrible things happening in almost all the States. What have you done in Tripura? In Tripura, the tribals have been extinct. Their lands have been taken away. Who is responsible for that? Have you ever tried to ascertain the report from the Tripura Government as to how many tribals are still there and who evicted them from their lands? Your Government is responsible for all this.

As regards West Bengal, wherever you go, you find there are atrocities committed on Harijans and Adivasis. Shrimati Indira Gandhi should feel ashamed. She made a false statement that during the U.F. regime, the people could not go from one place to another. But here are some people who will corroborate me that during the U.F. regime, not a single Adivasi

[Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya]

was evicted from any land. Now, throughout West Bengal, you see that Adivasis and Harijans are being evicted from their lands. There is no guarantee of their land. Not only their share of crop but even those who have their own land are being evicted by money-lenders and others. What are you going to do about it?

You have one Parliamentary Committee on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and one Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. What is that fellow doing? What is the Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes doing? He is not appointed by the Speaker. Mr. Basumatari, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee is nominated by the Speaker. What is that fellow doing? The allegations have been made here on several occasions. I know, hundred and one times the issue has been raised here in the House. It is a matter of shame. But in spite of all these, the Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, never fee's ashamed. Only yesterday she was very loud in saying that the nation was going ahead.

He must answer to all my questions.

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA:** It is most unfortunate that the hon. Member has used such disparaging language against the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Shri Mane, who is the present Commissioner, is a very devoted and dedicated person. The cause of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is very dear to his heart, and his reports on various matters have helped the Governments at the Centre and in the States in improving the state of affairs. I do not think the hon. Member was justified in making the reflection that he did. On the one hand we expect the Commissioner to be effective to go to the spot and then make

reports, and on the other hand, without knowing the facts or without any basis for their observations the hon. Member makes such wild and highly derogatory remarks against such a high dignitary.

As regards the hon. Member's contention as to how is it that the Adivasis were evicted from their land and not from their homesteads, this information has been specifically given by the State Government that they were only encroaching upon land and when they were evicted from them, there were no homesteads or other things. Therefore, there was no question of evicting them from their homesteads. This has been ascertained from them. This is what they have informed us.

As regards the general question of Tripura Adivasis and other Harijans and Tribals, all I can say is that the policy of the Government in this respect is very clear and everything is being done by the Central Government and the State Governments to see that all the difficulties and atrocities are removed and the Adivasis are properly protected.

## NATIONAL LIBRARY BILL

### (i) REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

**SHRI AMARNATH VIDYALANKAR (Chandigarh):** I beg to present the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the administration of the National Library and certain other connected matters.

### (ii) EVIDENCE

I beg also to lay on the Table a copy of evidence tendered before the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the administration of the National Library and certain other connected matters.