

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, March 26, 1971 | Chaiti 5,
1893 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBERS SWORN

SHRI ASOKA KUMAR SEN (Calcutta Northwest)

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY (Nominated)

11 04 hrs

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ATROCITIES ON HARIJANS OF CHHOTI
KHATU, RAJASTHAN

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (स्वालिपर) - अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अखिलभारतीय लोक महत्वक निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर गृह-कार्य मन्त्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें :

“नागीर (राजस्थान) जिले में छोटी खाटू के हरिजनों पर किये गये अत्याचारों और उसके परिणामस्वरूप हुई दो व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु और मकानों के गिराये जाने के समाचार।”

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF STATE DEPT. OF
ELECTRONICS, DEPT. OF ATOMIC
ENERGY AND DEPT. OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.C. PANT).
Government have seen press reports regarding the incidents in village Chhoti Khatu in district Nagaur. According to information Received from the Government of Rajasthan three cases have been registered relating to the alleged incidents on 9th and 12th March of assault, robbery, unlawful restraint etc. and the alleged theft of a buffalo on 6th March. Cases are being investigated, according to law by the State CID. According to investigations held the infant, alleged to have been killed in the incidents, is alive. The Chief Minister accompanied by some other Ministers and members of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly belonging to opposition parties visited the village on 23rd March, 1971 to restore confidence among the weaker sections of the community.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे गृह मन्त्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री का वक्तव्य सुनकर बड़ा आश्चर्य तथा वेद हुआ। मेरी यह सम्झ में नहीं आता कि यह वक्तव्य सदन के सामने तथ्यों को लाने के लिए रखा गया है या तथ्यों को छिपाने के लिए रखा गया है। और अगर हमारे ध्यान-प्राकर्षण सूचना देखें तो उसमें हमने कहा है कि समाचारपत्रों में प्रकाशित खबरों के अनुसार दो व्यक्ति मारे गए और मकान गिराये गए। राज्य मन्त्रा महोदय कहते हैं कि एक लड़के के बारे में जो मरने की खबर थी वह गलत है। क्या इसका अर्थ यह है कि दूसरे आदमी के मरने के बारे में जो खबर है वह सच है? और अगर सच है तो

[श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी]

यह बात वक्तव्य में स्पष्ट शब्दों में क्यों नहीं मानी गई? दूसरी बात यह है कि मकानों के गिराये जाने के बारे में यह वक्तव्य सर्वथा मौन है। क्या राज्य मंत्री महोदय का कहना यह है कि वहाँ कोई मकान नहीं गिराये गए? उन्होंने प्रेस रिपोर्ट्स देखी होंगी मैं कुछ प्रेस रिपोर्ट्स सदन के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ जिनके आधार पर कि मैंने यह सूचना प्रस्तुत की है। राज्य मंत्री महोदय ने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा कि मुख्य मंत्री वहाँ गए। उनके साथ विरोधी दलों के नेता भी थे पत्रकार भी थे। पत्रकारों ने गिना है कि गाँव में भय और आतंक का वातावरण था। लोग दूकानें बन्द करके, घर के दरवाजे बन्द करके बैठे थे। कोई नहीं बाहर बहने के लिए नैयर नहीं था। लेकिन टाइम्स आफ इंडिया के कोरेसाउंट ने लिखा है कि जो पाँच औरने घायल हो कर जयपुर के अस्पताल में आई हैं उनमें कुछ पता लगा कि 9 मार्च को और 12 मार्च को दस गाँव में क्या हुआ? एक महिला के अनुमार स्थिति का विवरण इस प्रकार है, मैं आप की अनुमति में उस रिपोर्ट को उद्धृत करता हूँ :

"Thirty year old Pipli, mother of five children said, I and three others were dragged out of our houses on the evening of March 9 and beaten up mercilessly. Afterwards some people brought to the spot Jarhawali who was carrying her six day old child in her arms. She too was belaboured... Another woman also called Pipli was beaten up and kicked. Her plea that she was in an advanced stage of pregnancy fell on deaf ears. She gave birth to a child prematurely the same night. Ummeda, a chamar, was also alleged to have been beaten up and released only after someone had paid 1600 to the Pradhan. Ummeda has since been missing."

मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस सम्बन्ध में प्रकाशित सारी प्रेस रिपोर्ट्स

को उन्होंने पढ़ा है? अगर पढ़ा है तो उनका वक्तव्य सारे तथ्यों पर प्रकाश क्यों नहीं डालता? हम यह भी जानना चाहते हैं कि यह घटनाएँ क्यों हुईं? बड़ा दावा किया जाता है कि इस मध्यावधि चुनाव में एक लोकतांत्रिक क्रांति हो रही है। क्या लोकतांत्रिक क्रांति का यह चिनीना स्वरूप है जो राजस्थान में दिखाई दिया?

एक माननीय सदस्य : आपस में झगड़ा था।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : आपस में झगड़ा हो तब भी किसी को औरतों को जंजीर में बाँध कर घसीटने की एजाजत नहीं दी जा सकती। आपस में झगड़ा होने पर भी किसी 70 मान के बुढ़े को मकान भी छत पर लगी हुई टिनो के टुकड़े चला कर मारने की एजाजत नहीं दी जा सकती और मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जिस बीडवाडा ग्राम के प्रधान के खिलाफ आरोप है उस प्रधान को अभी तक गिरफ्तार क्यों नहीं किया गया? क्या राजस्थान की सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध में भी कुछ लिखा है? केवल दतना ही कहना पर्याप्त नहीं है कि पुलिस में मामले दर्ज किए गए।

एक भैम की घोड़ी का मामला दर्ज किया गया। लेकिन यह बात साफ-साफ कही जा रही है कि इन हरिजनों से इतना बर्दाश किया जा रहा है कि उन्होंने स्वतन्त्र पार्टी के उम्मीदवार को वोट देने का फैसला किया था... (व्यवधान)... अधिका महोदय, जवाब देने के लिए मंत्री मनीष मोजुद हैं। यह तो जांच में ही पता लग सकेगा कि यह लोमहर्षक कांड हरिजनों के साथ वहाँ पर क्यों हुआ? क्यों हरिजनों को इस भयानक कांड का शिकार बनाया गया? यह मान भी लिया जाये कि एक भैम की घोड़ी का मामला था तो क्या किसी को इसके लिए कानून हाथ में लेने की एजाजत दी जा सकती है?

क्या कोई इसके लिए घरों को गिरा सकता है, महिलाओं के जेवर छीन सकता है, लोगों को मार-मार कर उनके घरों से घकेल सकता है ? इसके लिए अदालती जांच का आदेश क्यों नहीं दिया गया ? और मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार राजस्थान सरकार को यह सलाह देने के लिए तैयार है कि सारे मामले की अदालती जांच की जाये और जांच के पहले सारे सबूतों को नष्ट न कर दिया जाये, लोग निर्भय होकर गवाही दे सकें इसके लिए डीडवाड़ा ग्राम पंचायत के प्रधान को तुरन्त गिरफ्तार किया जाये और सारे मामले को अदालती जांच की जाये ?

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पंत : अध्यक्ष जी, माननीय वाजपेयी जी ने समाचार-पत्रों का उल्लेख किया। उसमें से बताया कि इस इन्सिडेंट के बारे में उसमें क्या-क्या लिखा गया है। मैंने अपने स्टेटमेंट में राजस्थान गवर्नमेंट ने जो रिपोर्ट भेजी है, उतना ही बताया है। उन्होंने पूछा कि मकान गिराये गए या नहीं ? जो मेरे पास रिपोर्ट है उसके अनुसार कुछ मकान गिराये पाये गए।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : यह आपने कहा नहीं वस्तुतः में।

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पंत : मैं कह तो रहा हूँ। 6 मकान गिराये पाए गए।

Six houses were found destroyed on the spot.

दूसरी बात उन्होंने यह पूछी कि दो धार्मिकों के मारे जाने की सूचना थी—असलबारी में—और उनके काल-एटेन्शन नोटिस में भी इसका जिक्र है। मैंने इन्फेन्ट का जिक्र किया है, जुड़े का जिक्र नहीं किया है। इसमें छिपाने की बात नहीं है, मैंने महासिवाजन जुड़े का जिक्र नहीं

किया, क्योंकि उसकी जांच चल रही है। वैसे राजस्थान गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से जो रिपोर्ट आई है, उसमें उन्होंने यह बताया है कि यह बुढ़ा जो मरा है, वह नैचुरल-काजज से मरा है, मारा नहीं गया है। मैंने इरादतन इसको स्टेटमेंट में से निकाल दिया था, क्योंकि इसकी जांच चल रही है, इस लिए इसमें छिपाने की कोई बात नहीं थी।

आप ने कुछ औरतों का जिक्र किया जो अस्पताल में इस वक्त दाखिल हैं। सी० आई०डी० आफिसरों ने, जिनमें एड्मिशनल एस० पी० और ड्यूटी सुपरिन्टेंडेंट आफ पुलिस शामिल है, उन्होंने इसको जांच की है, उन औरतों से बातचीत की है और उनसे बातचीत करने के बाद ही वे गाँव में गए और अब वहाँ जांच कर रहे हैं।

जहाँ तक इन घटनाओं का सम्बन्ध है, ये निन्दनीय घटनाएँ हैं और मैं समझता हूँ कि सदन के हर सदस्य को इस तरह की घटनायें निन्दनीय लगती हैं और लगेंगी। इसमें जो भी दोषी पाये जायेंगे उनके खिलाफ उचित कार्यवाही की जायगी। मुख्य मन्त्री जी ने भी यही वक्तव्य वहाँ दिया है कि जो भी दोषी पाये जायेंगे उनके खिलाफ उचित कार्यवाही की जायगी और दण्डित किया जायेगा।

जहाँ तक इन कारणों का प्रश्न है, अभी माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि स्वतन्त्र पार्टी को वोट दिया, इसलिए यह हादसा हुआ, लेकिन किसी ने कहा है कि आपसो भगड़ा है—दो भिन्न बात सामने आई हैं, इसलिये जांच चल रही है, जब तक जांच पूरी न हो, मैं कुछ कह नहीं सकता।

जहाँ तक जांच का प्रश्न है कि किस तरह से इस मामले की जांच की जाये, यह राज्य

[श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पंत]

सरकार का मामला है और वे इसमें कदम उठा रहे हैं और राज्य सरकार ही इसको प्रागे चलायेगी।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने पूछा था कि केन्द्र सरकार राज्य सरकार को परामर्श दे कि इस मामले की अदालती जांच हो। प्रश्न केवल राज्य का नहीं है, हरिजन कल्याण के लिए केन्द्र सरकार प्रत्यक्ष रूप से जिम्मेदार है और उसकी अधिकार है कि राज्य सरकार को सलाह दे कि सारे मामले की अदालती जांच होनी चाहिए।

SHRI PILOO MODI (Godhra) : Apparently, the entire mischief in Chhoti Khatu occurred because the Bauris who belong to the Scheduled Castes had the temerity to vote according to their choice for Mr. Somani of the Swatantra party. I can imagine that it must have been particularly galling to Members of the ruling party who have styled themselves as the champions of the downtrodden. It must also have been upsetting to Mr. Sukhadia, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Mrs. Gandhi's valiant knight in shining armour, in her fight against poverty. It must have appalled Mr. Mathuradas Mathur, the Finance Minister of Rajasthan, to find that simple folk of Scheduled Castes would prefer the Swatantra party to that led by Mr. Jagjivan Ram yesterday, Mr. Sanjivayya today and God knows who tomorrow. But it must have been totally unnerving to Mr. Chama Ram, the villain of that area, the Pradhan of Deedwana panchayat, the paragon of virtues who has dozens of cases pending against him. Not one case being pursued to its logical conclusion, because of Mr. Chama Ram's intimate connection with the Finance Minister, Mr. Mathur. The Rajasthan Government having shirked the Adjournment Motion in the Vidhan Sabha and having turned down a request to entrust the investigation to the CBI, Mr. Sukhadia the Chief Minister, gallantly agreed to visit the area in the company of Mr. Mathuradas Mathur, the Finance Minister

and Mr. Devpura, the State Minister for Home Affairs, along with the Opposition members.

It is interesting to note what Mr. T. N. Kaul of the *Times of India* has to say in its issue of March 24. He says that if the purpose of Mr. Sukhadia's visit was to restore confidence amongst the terror-stricken people, the trip was apparently a failure as Mr. Chama Ram formed part of the Chief Minister's party.

He was seen by some people being patronised in the Chief Minister's party. It is further reported in the *Times of India* of March the 25th, that the Chief Minister on having completed his investigation, proceeded to Deedwana to have lunch with the very same Mr. Chama Ram, who is reported to have descended on Chhoti Khatu village with 50 to 60 persons of his own kind on March, the 9th, to beat up women, take away their ornaments and cash on the trumped up charge of a stolen buffalo and again came back on March 12th, to demolish a number of houses belonging to these Harijan families.

I have here photographs of the damage that has been done to the houses of the Harijans in this village. With your permission, I would like to lay them on the Table.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi): He should be allowed to lay it on the Table.

SHRI PILOO MODY: I had written to you in this connection and I have not heard from you. Apparently, you are not interested that the House and the country should see the conditions of the people there. I have also here a tape-recording of the evidence given by the women who were so severely and brutally beaten up. With your permission, I would like to play it. If I do not have your permission, I would not play it. The level of

violence in Nagaur constituency during the election was quite unbelievable. 20 jeeps belonging to the Swatantra candidate Mr. Somani, were damaged or burnt. About 40 workers are still hospitalised. They were even refused registration in Government hospitals and they had to be taken to private nursing homes. Mr. Somani wrote to the Chief Election Commissioner as early as January 15th, warning him against the reign of terror and the open incitement to violence advocated by his opponents, in addition to lodging 50 complaints with the police, with the Collector, with the officials of the State Government, with Chief Minister and other ministers, with the State Election Commission, with the Chief Election Commissioner and the Prime Minister herself. None of these brought forward even a reply except mere cyclostyled acknowledgments.

In view of all that has been said and published regarding the incident, which without any shadow of doubt is intimately connected with the election and even otherwise, I would like to know whether the Government of India will accept the responsibility of investigating the matter and conduct a full enquiry into the causes of incidents which have led to this criminal episode and this reign of terror.

I would also like to know from Government what machinery it will employ to investigate this matter, in view of the fact that Mr. Chaina Ram enjoys the patronage of the Finance Minister, Mr. Mathur, who enjoys the patronage of the Chief Minister, Mr. Sukhadia, who enjoys the patronage of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who we are told has only recently received a massive verdict from the people.

SHRI K. C. PANT My hon. friend has made certain insinuations against persons who are not here to defend themselves. I can only go by the facts before me, which show that when this matter came up before the Legislative Assembly on the 22nd March, the Chief Minister and Mr. Mathur, both of whom were mentioned by

Mr. Mody, showed their concern from this particular problem and this incident by visiting the village on the 3rd.

SHRI PILOO MODY In the company of?

SHRI K. C. PANT In the company of the leader of the Jan Sangh...

SHRI PILOO MODY And Mr. Chaina Ram.

SHRI K. C. PANT ... and SSP and CPI three parties.

SHRI PILOO MODY In addition to Mr. Chaina Ram .. (interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER Please do not interrupt him when he is replying.

SHRI K. C. PANT I was merely mentioning the fact that the Chief Minister responded very quickly when the matter was brought to his notice in the Assembly and both he and Shri Mathur, along with the opposition leaders, visited the village the very next day. This shows quick response to the situation and not any indifference to it. That is all that I wish to point out.

Then there was a reference to a lunch given by a gentleman, which was raised elsewhere also. The Chief Minister has clarified that the lunch was given by Shri Mathur.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Where?

SHRI K. C. PANT This particular lunch you are referring to was given by Shri Mathura.

SHRI PILOO MODY . Where.

SHRI K. C. PANT That, you ask the Chief Minister.

SHRI PILOO MODY : We are asking you questions

SHRI K. C. PANT : You have asked your questions and now I am replying. Then he mentioned the fact that 20 jeeps of Shri Somani were destroyed. We on this side of the House cannot imagine 20 jeeps being engaged by a candidate.

SHRI PILOO MODY : I expect a standard level of reply and not cheap jibes from the Minister.

MR SPEAKER : I expect it from both sides.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Then he referred to the fact that certain complaints were made to the Prime Minister, among others. I cannot say what was done to the complaints received by the State Government but we have received complaints from various parts of the country with regard to intimidation of voters. I may say that if you look at it from purely party point of view, in this matter we are more sinned against than sinning. We have had to take measures in various States to prevent intimidation of the poorer sections of the society, but if you go by facts they are more with us than with you.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Nagaur is a shining example.

SHRI K. C. PANT : All the complaints that we have received, we have forwarded to the State Government for going into them. I should imagine that along with others this too was received and forwarded to the State Government. As to the investigation of this particular incident, I have already said that the State Government is investigating into it. If they need our assistance, we shall certainly see what we can do about it.

DR. KARNI SINGH (Bikaner) : Sir, we in the opposition are not interested in a post-election *post mortem* of what has happened in the poll. We are sportsmen and we bow to the people's verdict. But in our mind somewhere there are some doubts raised, particularly after seeing the ballot papers yesterday, and these are not only in our minds, but these are shared by the nation at large, and I hope the government will have the courage to clarify the position before the people.

I have fought five elections and I come from Rajasthan from the same area as the one under discussion today. I have seen elections fought in Rajasthan in Nehru's time, in the time of the late Pantji, the father of the hon. Minister, and I realise that there is a great change that is taking place all over. The post-election scene is no longer the same as it was since 1952, 1957 or 1962. Today revenge has come into play. What you see in Chhoti Khatu is just one such indication of how the government sits back and allows the poor citizens who voted according to their own wishes to be victimised. I have seen this victimisation not only in Chhoti Khatu, I have seen it in my own constituency. The day my results were declared the people belonging to the Congress Party there immediately started their witch-hunt. Mr. Speaker, I am not given to making false statements and you know me for the last twenty years. I will say that if this witch-hunt is not stopped, it is going to be the end of democracy. It is not enough to be returned to this House in a very large majority; it is also important that this government, which have been given by the people this immense verdict in their favour must come and protect the poorer citizens, the poorer harijans who have been victimised by the governmental machinery.

In my constituency, I know that people who are supposed to have voted for me have been told that cases will be opened against them. I know that in certain cases where we had our public meetings, a few miscreants were asked to throw stones. The Collector and the

Police officers who stood nearby did not even raise a finger to protect the citizens until the citizens took the law into their own hands and dispersed the miscreants. In Jodhpur, the jeeps of Mrs. Krishna Kumari, a sitting Member of this House, were burnt,

he gave it because he was a soldier and he had the guts to stand up against the atrocities of the Government. May I know whether this Government will take steps to see that Mr. Ajit Singh's family is also given protection and that no harm is done to them,

MR. SPEAKER : May I request you to be relevant to the Call Attention ?

DR. KARNI SINGH : No civilised society and the Government can allow such reign of terror to happen as has happened in Chhoti Khatu. There is one thing that is becoming very evident. If the Government fails to protect the citizens, the time will come when the citizens must take the law into their own hands. I have seen that when the Government has failed to protect the citizens, the citizens have kept quiet because they are law-abiding. But how long can you expect them to sit back and watch these atrocities taking place, women beaten up, their houses destroyed, all in the name of democracy. I am afraid this kind of idea is not going to help.

I hope these questions will be answered in the way in which the hon. Minister's father would have given so that they can satisfy this House and the people at large.

SHRI K. C. PANT : My hon. friend referred to the general question of intimidation of voters. So far as the general question goes, it has received the attention of the Chief Election Commissioner even earlier and after the mid-term poll, he has made certain suggestions. He had proposed certain legislative measures also and these legislative measures which were to have been further considered by a committee of the leaders of the Opposition parties. But after this committee was constituted, the Lok Sabha was dissolved and this committee could not consider the matter further. That is where this matter stands. I believe, in yesterday's meeting of the leaders of the opposition parties with the Prime Minister this matter also came up.

We also know that Mr. Sukhadia with his partisan attitude having been returned to power through the back-door, not by the verdict of the people as Mrs. Indira Gandhi has been returned, and those people are interested in their chairs and that they are incapable of giving people the protection following the elections. I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government is prepared to step in any State where the Government in power has started witch-hunting against the people. Secondly, I would like to know what compensation do they propose to pay to these poor Harijans whose homes have been destroyed, whose women have been beaten up and whose children have been killed. Thirdly, I want to know what protection does the Government of India propose to give to the citizens who voted against the Congress Party. An ex-Army soldier, Mr. Ajit Singh, was the only man who gave protection to the poor Harijans and

The other two specific measures which were taken during these elections to guard against the possibility of intimidation were, firstly, that the number of polling booths was increased particularly in areas inhabited by Harijans, etc. where intimidation could be apprehended and, secondly, the method of counting was changed this time. As all hon. Members know, this time, the counting took place on a constituency-wise basis. This was to avoid the possibility of voting trends in any particular booth being known. Therefore, if you look at the problem objectively, after these measures, no one really can get an idea of the trend of voting in a particular booth. Voting is secret and individual voting, of course, it is difficult to know otherwise,

[Shri K.C. Pant]

but, even the trend this time it is difficult to know. So, I would not be very assertive in saying that such and such a village or such and such a locality did vote for so and so under these circumstances. It is not..

DR. KARNI SINGH : Then how did you come to the conclusion that the Scheduled Castes voted for you ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : It is not an isolated belief, it is a fact in the whole country.

SHRIMATI GAYATRI DEVI (Jaipur) : The hon. Minister does not know. Reports from that area say that when the women came back, they were asked. किस को वोट दिया है ? उन्होंने कहा ताटे को दिया है।

That is why he did not get that report

SHRI K. C. PANT : I do not expect these women to tell Her Highness that they have not voted for her... (*Interruptions*)

It is not unknown, Sir, that people in her position of life were told one thing and the voters cast votes the other way.

SHRIMATI GAYATRI DEVI : I am very sorry, Sir, I cannot take it from the hon. Minister. If this is the behaviour of the Government of India—this is not what is expected of them—from the way we saw the voting went (*Interruptions*) And as far as the women are concerned, they are in the hospital in Jaipur. They were going to come here to-day. I wish I had brought them but I did not expect this sort of behaviour from the hon. Minister. Otherwise, these women could have come here and when he comes out, they would have told him which way they voted.

SHRI R. K. SINHA (Faizabad) : Do you recognize Her Highness and Rajmats inside the Lok Sabha ? This is what I want to know.

MR. SPEAKER : They are not hon. Members. Then, what is the harm if he says, 'Her Highness, the hon. Member ?' (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, I had no intention of hurting her feelings. I would not have been called upon to give the reply if she had not intervened. I was replying to another hon. Member.

As far as the complaints received, my hon. friend asked me, 'Will the Government sit back and do nothing when complaints are received, from the State Governments?' Complaints are received from the State Governments where the Congress Party is in power and where other Parties are also in power. We have to be even-handed in our approach to all these Governments. We cannot be partisan in these matters and we treat all complaints alike and that is what we are doing even now.

I am glad Dr. Karni Singh mentioned the need to protect poor Harijans. This is what we are trying to do in all the areas to the extent possible. In Western UP, in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and other areas where we received prior intimation of possible intimidation, we did take whatever steps that lay in our power. We are certainly interested that voting is free and fair and that is the basis for democratic functioning. In West Bengal, as the House knows, we took various steps. I think the administrative machinery of this country can be congratulated for the manner in which these elections were held, peacefully and in an orderly manner and, by and large, in such an operation except for a few complaints here and there, the elections passed off, I think, very smoothly.

My hon. friend asked me about giving protection to those who voted against

the Congress. Our experience is that, by and large, those who voted against Congress in these elections are capable of taking care of themselves. It is those who voted with us, who are the poorest sections of the community, who need protection.

DR. KARNI SINGH : Does he mean that the citizens should be encouraged to take up arms ? What a ridiculous statement ?

SHRI PILOO MODY : The Minister is beginning to over-reach himself.

DR. KARNI SINGH : I think this is an extra-ordinary statement that is being made.

SHRIMATI GAYATRI DEVI *rose*.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, I am not speaking.....(*Interruptions*) This running commentary is not necessary because I am going to explain that every citizen is entitled to the protection of law.....(*Interruptions*). That is why I am telling you. All citizens are entitled to the protection of law. I think my hon friend and Mr. Vajpayee before him, emphasized that the weaker sections of the community deserve particular protection.....(*Interruptions*). That is all I say. In regard to the last question regarding protection to the citizen. It is a State subject—Law and order is a State subject. It is for them to provide protection. So far as we are concerned, when we come into the picture, as we did in West Bengal, we do our level best to provide every protection to the citizens that we can.

SHRI P. K. DEO : It is a matter of concern that the Stalin era has dawned this country in order to liquidate all sorts of opposition. As early as 8th February the Swatantra party in Rajasthan brought to notice of the Election Commission and

the Government of India that a reign of terror has been let loose in that part of our country and they wanted the CRP to be deployed there so that there could be free and fair election, but no steps were taken in that regard. On the 16th February, when the Maharaja of Kishangarh was shot at and killed, the Prime Minister *Suo motu* came with a statement for a CBI investigation and it was welcome by the Chief Minister. But 3 days afterwards the I. G. of Police and the Home Minister of Rajasthan Government came with a statement that there was no political motivation and the culprit has been apprehended, thereby to prejudice any CBI probe which was contemplated by the Prime Minister.

Now, coming to the post-election period, it is a matter of concern that victimisation of this sort is allowed to continue. I would like to know categorically from the Home Minister if Mr. Chand Ram who accused No. 1 in this case accompanied the Home Minister and the Chief Minister to entertain them in that particular village. And, secondly I would like to know this. It is not a fact that even though more than 100 cases are pending against Mr. Chand Ram and in this case it has been blatantly proved that he is at the root cause of all the troubles, he is being given the mantle of protection by no less a person than the Finance Minister and the local MLA, Mr. Mathuradas Mathur who once happened to be my colleague in this House ? Taking into consideration all these facts the House cannot abdicate its responsibility to look after the welfare of the harijans especially under Act. 338 of the Constitution. I would like to make a demand on behalf of the Swatantra party and all of us from this side that a categorical assurance should come from the Government that there will be a judicial probe into this entire state of affairs to be presided over by no less a person than a judge of the Supreme Court and that all files and papers should be handed over. I would like to have the reaction of the Government to my suggestions.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : And also what happened in Morena. Villages have been burnt by the Rajmata of Gwalior.

SHRI P. K. DEO : Have an enquiry, judicial enquiry.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Not a goonda enquiry but a judicial enquiry.

SHRI K. C. PANT : My hon. friend has again repeated what he has said earlier. Certain complaints were referred to the Government of India and I have already stated they were dealt with. The second point he made was whether a particular gentleman accompanied the Chief Minister. According to press reports, he did. But so far as I am concerned, I have no official information from the Rajasthan Government on the point. So far as the question of entertaining the Chief Minister is concerned, I have already said that Mr. Mathur entertained him.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Did he get that information also from the Rajasthan Government or from the press report?

SHRI K. C. PANT : I have already answered the last question

SHRI P. K. DEO : What was the answer to the last question regarding judicial probe?

SHRI K. C. PANT : I have already answered it. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had asked that question already.

So far as the root cause of the trouble is concerned, as I have said, there are two versions of the incident and two versions of what the root cause was. Until the investigations are complete, I cannot say which of them is correct.

SHRI P. K. DEO : It is not a question

of law and order. It is a question of Harijans who have been affected here, and it is our responsibility and the responsibility of this house. Why are Government abdicating their responsibility to probe into the matter on behalf of the Government of India and why are they leaving it to the Rajasthan Government who are a party to it?

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member may please resume his seat. Now, Shri H. M. Patel. The hon. Member is absent.

Some Hon. Members rose—

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कानिच घटेजन नोटिस के समय जिन सदस्यों का नाम होना है सिर्फ उन को हा मौका मिलता है मवाल पूछने का ।

SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM (Tiruchirapalli) : I have given notice of an adjournment motion...

MR. SPEAKER : When I am standing, the hon. Member should sit down.

SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM : By the time I could rise, you were already on your legs...

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member may kindly sit down. When I am standing, he should sit down.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA (Patan) : On a point of informatinn from you...

MR. SPEAKER : An Hon. Member has arrived late and he wants to take his oath now. He has requested that he may be permitted to do so now.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : On a point of information from you...

MR. SPEAKER : The Hon. Member seems to be a very active Member. Why should he not allow the hon. Member who wants to take the oath to do so ?

MEMBER SWORN (*Contd.*)

Shri Naik Balkrishna Venkanna
(Kanara)

11.42 hrs.

RE : GENERAL FLECTIONS

श्री ज्ञानेश्वर प्रताप मादव (कटिहार) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, कल सदन में जो रहस्योद्घाटन किया गया चंडीगढ़ में आय हुए ब्रेलट पेपर के बारे में, उस का लोक सभा में बहुत देर तक चर्चा हुई थी, लेकिन सूचना और प्रसारण विभाग का जो अल इंडिया रेडियो है उस के द्वारा उस को पब्लिसिटी नहीं दी गई। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस प्रकार से सूचना और प्रसारण विभाग... (इयवधान)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member may resume his seat now. The observations made by those hon. Members who are speaking without my permission will not go on record. *Interruptions* **

11.43 hrs.

RE : MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM (Tiru-chirapalli) : I had given notice of an adjournment motion regarding the tragic death of two airlines officers at the Delhi airport. It is not an ordinary accident that has happened. It has happened in the context of the lock-out, and, so, it is urgent and important.

** Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : No, I have not allowed it. It is just an accident. If some accident has happened, what has Government to do with it ?

SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM : It is not just an accident. There is a lock-out in the IAC, and two officers were used for jobs for which they were not accustomed.....

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member may kindly resume his seat...

SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM : I know that. You are standing just to prevent me from speaking and to make me resume my seat...

MR. SPEAKER : That is one way of making a Member sit.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : It has been customary in this House that when accidents of this nature take place, at least the hon. Minister just comes forward *suo motu* to make a statement. I hope you will direct the hon. Minister to make a statement...

MR. SPEAKER : I hope he will.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : As my colleague has pointed out, it has taken place in the context of a lock-out where officers were being made to do work for which they were not normally accustomed.

We should know the facts.

MR. SPEAKER : He is correct. I only said it is not a matter for an adjournment motion. But if the Minister comes out with a statement, that would be in order. I welcome it.

SHRI P. K. DEO : I had given notice of.....**