

12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

KILLING OF FOUR HARIJANS IN
TAMDI VILLAGE IN SAMBALPUR
DISTRICT ORISSA

MR. SPEAKER : We now take up the
Call Attention Notice. Shri S. M. Joshi.

SHRI P. R. THAKUR (Nabadwip) : On
a point of order, Sir. Before you admitted
this Call Attention Notice, may I know
whether you ascertained that these Harijans
were killed simply because they were
Harijans or they were sub-humans or
animals. Otherwise, this Call Attention
Notice should not be discussed at all.
(*Interruption*) Were these people killed
simply because they were Harijans or they
were a class of sub-human beings and ani-
mals ? Otherwise this calling attention
motion should not be discussed. That is my
point.

MR. SPEAKER : At my best discretion
I thought it should come. 16 members have
written about it.

श्री राम सेवक यादव (बाराबंकी) :
नहीं अध्यक्ष महोदय, वह है ही नहीं इस में
जो वह कह रहे हैं। इस में तो यह है कि जो
मारे गए हैं वह हरिजन हैं।

MR. SPEAKER : In such cases we re-
fer to the Government first and know
their views.

SHRI P. R. THAKUR : Unless it is
ascertained, it should not be discussed be-
cause from time to time this sort of
questions come up in Parliament.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY
(Kendrapara) : This is a very important
question. The whole country is concerned.

MR. SPEAKER : I quite agree. I
appreciate your point. There are a number of
news items which turn out to be wrong later
on. In this case I made it sure.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY :

How can we ascertain from the State Go-
vernment ? It is for the Government of
India to tell us and the truth will come out.
Such matters should be discussed in the
House.

MR. SPEAKER : We ascertain it from
the various sources. In spite of that some-
times such news turns out to be wrong. A
number of persons have given the call at-
tention. It is only proper that the whole
position is cleared in the House.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी (पूना) : अध्यक्ष
महोदय, मैं अबिलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के निम्न-
लिखित विषय की ओर गृह कार्य मंत्री का ध्यान
दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इस
बारे में वक्तव्य दें :

"उड़ीसा के सम्बलपुर जिले के तमदी
गांव में चार हरिजनों की हत्या का
समाचार।"

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, AND
MINISTER OF STATE, DEPARTMENT
OF ELECTRONICS AND SCIENTIFIC
AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (SHRI
K. C. PANT) : According to information
received from the State Government, on July 18,
1970 a group of about of 40 to 50 fishermen
raided a house in village Tandī in district
Sambalpur, Orissa. They brutally assaulted
four of the inmates and after putting them in
the house, set fire to it. There had been
some dispute between the assailants and the
deceased persons over fishing rights in the
village and on the day preceeding the inci-
dents one of the assailants had been assulted
by some of the deceased persons. The
deceased persons were Harijans and the
assailants are also reported to be members
of a scheduled caste. The police have
registered a case against the assailants and
nine of the thirteen persons named as accus-
ed in the first information report have been
arrested. The S.P. visited the village and
additional police has been stationed in the
village to prevent any recurrence of violence.
Investigations are in progress and are being
supervised by the Addl. S-P.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जब मेरे कार्लिंग अटेंशन पर आक्षेप किया गया तो मुझे तो आश्चर्य हुआ क्यों कि हरिजनों के बारे में हमारे देश में महात्मा गांधी ने तकरीबन 100 साल पहले से हम लोगों को अटेंशन देने के लिए कहा था, इसलिए मैं काल अटेंशन दे रहा हूँ। अब पूरे अपने देश में हरिजनों के साथ जो व्यवहार हाता है उस को लेकर लोग नाराज हैं, हरिजन लोग नाराज है। ... (व्यवधान)... अगर गलत है तो उस की यहाँ चर्चा होनी चाहिए। चर्चा क्यों बन्द करना चाहते हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : चलिए, वह तो बात हो गई। वह तो मैं ने कह दिया।

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : वही मैं बता रहा हूँ। सदियों से लोगों के ऊपर जो जुल्म होता है और एक जाति के खिलाफ होता है तो उस को अगर हम ठीक नहीं करेंगे और माइनारिटी को मेजरिटी बनने का मौका कभी मिलेगा नहीं, फिर हमारी यह डेमांडेसी, हमारा यह लोकतंत्र कैसा है? कम से कम यहाँ चर्चा हो। इस में दिया है कि दे आर रिपोर्टेड टु बी शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट। गवर्नमेंट कहती है कि यह रिपोर्ट है। गवर्नमेंट को कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं है... (व्यवधान) ... यहाँ जो प्रेस रिपोर्ट आई उस को पढ़ कर मैं ने यह दिया था। इंडियन एक्सप्रेस ने 28 तारीख को यह दिया है.....

“Over 200 caste Hindus armed with guns, spears and other weapons came in trucks and looted the property of Harijans. They poured petrol on their hutements and set them on fire. Even goats, sheep, bullocks and cows were roasted alive”.

(SOME HON. MEMBERS : Shame, Shame).

उस के बाद यह लिखते हैं कि

“Harijans alleged that the Police was giving protection to caste Hindus who

were supporters of the MLA of that area.

The Police moved into action only after Mr. Das visited the village yesterday seven days after the incident.”

जो कि मिनिस्टर है शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट के—

“8 persons have been arrested”.

यह हरिजन मिनिस्टर है यह वहाँ गए और यहाँ कहा जाता है कि जो एस० पी० है वह अब वहाँ जा कर उस को तहकीकात कर रहे हैं। मगर मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि चाहे वह हरिजन हो कोई भी हों, चार घादमियों को जिस तरह से जलाया जाता है वहाँ उस की जांच करने के लिए पुलिस वाले क्या सात दिन के बाद पहुंचे हैं और वह भी तब जब एक हरिजन मिनिस्टर को वहाँ हप ले गए और बताया कि हमारे ऊपर यह अन्याय होता है, तब वहाँ जा कर यह जांच वह करते हैं तो यह ऐसी स्थिति है।

हम लोग यहाँ बोलते हैं और हम लोगों की खुशनासीबी से वहाँ तो स्वतंत्र पार्टी की हुकूमत है जो कि लोकतंत्र के लिए चिल्लाते हैं ... (व्यवधान)... यानी हम सब लोक तंत्र वालों की है तो लोक तंत्र की हुकूमत और वहाँ ला एंड आर्डर का यह हाल है कि सात दिन के बाद पुलिस वहाँ पहुंचती है और वह भी जब मिनिस्टर को ले जाएंगे तब वहाँ पुलिस जायगी। तो यह अगर लोक तंत्र है तो यह लोकतंत्र किस काम का? वह यदि शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट का भी होता है तो क्या इस को हम लोक तंत्र कह दें? मैं आप के द्वारा सदन और सदन के द्वारा पूरे देश को यह बताना चाहता हूँ, यह काल अटेंशन नोटिस केवल गृह मंत्री के लिए नहीं है, यह काल अटेंशन नोटिस पूरे देश के लिए है और हम बार बार कहते हैं कि लोग वायलेंस कर रहे हैं, मगर किसी जमीन पर जा कर बच्चा किया तो बड़ा बार्यलेंस हो जाता है और

[श्री एस० एम जोशी]

हमारा घर जलाया जाता है, हमें जलाया जाता है तो वह कोई वायलेंस नहीं है ?

कुछ दिन पीछे मैं ने एक ऐसा ही कार्लिंग अटेंशन दिया था गृह मंत्री को, दिल्ली के नजदीक ही एक जगह है वहां पर हरिजनों को काटेदार तार से घेर लिया गया और किस ने किया ? ग्राम पंचायत जो है उस ने किया । किस की है मुझे पता नहीं मगर लोकतांत्रिक है । उस ने उन को गिरफ्तार किया । मैं और हमारे मित्र डांगे साहब गृह मंत्री के पास गए और कहा कि यह कैसे हो रहा है । तो बाद में उन का पत्र आया है चीफ मिनिस्टर दस्तखत कर के क्या लिखते हैं :.....(व्यवधान)..... मैं इसलिए कह रहा हूं कि अगर इस तरह से लोगों के ऊपर भ्रत्याचार होता है और लोगों को इस तरह से सताया जाता है, मारा जाता है तो हिंसा हिंसा की बात करने का कोई अधिकार आप लोगों को नहीं है । लोग करेंगे । देखिये यहां लिखा है :

"I had requested the Chief Minister of Punjab to initiate enquiries and to take suitable action. He has written to me saying that enquires revealed that entry into the house of of one Shri Ujagar Singh was blocked by barbed wire fencing under the orders of the gram panchayat with a view to stopping further encroachment on the panchayat land.

यानी इन का कहना है कि पंचायत लैंड के ऊपर यह एन्क्रोचमेंट कर रहे थे इसलिए उन को घर में हम ने गिरफ्तार कर लिया और उस के बाद लिखा है :

The barred wire fencing has since been removed.

यह क्या है ? यह कोई ला एंड आर्डर है ? हमारी मालूमता यह है कि पंचायत वालों ने कहा कि ढाई रुपये रोज में काम करो, उन्होंने कहा कि बाजार में चार रुपये रोज मिलता है

इसलिए हम नहीं करेंगे तो उन को यह सजा दी है । यह अगर लोकतंत्र है तो ऐसे लोकतंत्र के ऊपर हम लानत भेजते हैं इस इंसान को इंसान नहीं समझा जाता है । यहां लोकतंत्र की बात चलती है और वहां आदमियों को जलाया जाता है । यह सवाल उठते हैं तो हमारे ऊपर घ्राक्षेप किया जाता है । प्रेस वाले कहते हैं कि कास्ट हिन्दूज ने किया है । मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहना चाहता हूं कि वहां के फ्यूडल लाइसेंस जो है, जमींदार लोगों ने यह काम किया है और यह कास्ट हिन्दूज है, यह रिपोर्ट है । यदि यह सही नहीं है तो यह कौन लोग हैं इसका आप को पता है जिस से आप कह सकें कि शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट के लोगों ने हरिजनों को जलाया है ?

मेरा एक सवाल यह है कि वहां पुलिस कब पहुंची, कितने दिनों के बाद पहुंची ? क्या यह सही नहीं है कि मिनिस्टर के वहां जाने के बाद पुलिस पहुंची ? दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या यह रिपोर्ट सही है, सही स्थिति क्या है ? हमें प्रश्नों का जबाब मिलना चाहिये, वरना हम यह मानेंगे कि जिन लोगों ने इस संविधान को बनाया बाबासाहेब डा. अम्बेदकर जैसे लोगों ने—उस के बाद भी यदि इस प्रकार की घटनायें होती हैं, तो हम माइनोरिटी के लोगों को इस लोकतंत्र से क्या सरोकार रह जाता है, इस तरह से लोकतंत्र नहीं चल सकता है, यह गिर जायगा ।

SHRI K. C. PANT : The facts that the hon. Member wants have already been furnished in the statement. He wants to know what led to this particular attack. The attack was brutal and it is most condemnable, and there can be no difference of opinion on that. But it was a difference between to groups of persons over fishing rights. I have said 'reported to be Scheduled Caste' because that is the report which we have got from the State Government. It is not a report from a newspaper, but it is the State Government's report. One cannot fight facts. These are facts. These are the facts that the State Government have

reported to us and I have placed all the facts that I have before the House.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : पुलिस सात दिन के बाद वहाँ पहुँची, क्या इस का कोई जवाब आप के पास है ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : That fact is not with me. I shall ascertain it from the State Government.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : That State Government has no business to exist. That Chief Minister has no business to function.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : अगर पुलिस 7 दिन के बाद गई है—यदि यह साबित होता है कि मंत्री के वहाँ जाने के बाद गई है, तो क्या आप उन लोगों के खिलाफ कोई एक्शन लेने के लिये तैयार हैं ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : What action would he suggest ?

SHRI S. KUNDU (Balasore) : Suspend him and dissmis him.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : I am very thankful to you for having thought it fit to admit this calling-attention-notice, because this is not an isolated incident. If it were simply an isolated incident, I am sure you would not have given you rconsent. The matter is of serious public concern only for this reason that this is just one of the incidents in a whole chain of such incidents which have been taking place in the last year or two. That is why everybody is alarmed and worried over it. You will remember those incidents. I do not want to go into them now. There was one which took place in Madhya Pradesh, another in U. P. where one boy went to draw water from a well and another incident took place in Tanjor district in Tamil Nadu, where a whole lot of Harijans or agriculture labourers were burnt alive. Then there was another incident in Andhra Pradesh also. Now, we have got this incident coming on the top of all that.

I may just quote from *The Statesman*

of the 27th July regarding this present incident. The report is as follows :

“Mr. Das is also understood to have submitted a report to the Chief Minister yesterday about an incident which took place on July 13 and 14 in Bahabundh village.....”

—this is a different incident—

“.....of Dhenkanal district in which about 20 people were injured in a clash, five of them sustaining gunshot injuries over Harijan entry into a village temple.”

Over the question of temple entry, we can understand that it cannot be a case of Harijans. Fighting Harijans. Somebody else is interested. And this is in an area which we know is dominated of very strongly by old feudal interests. So, we know the people who must be doing this kind of thing. I am not prepared to believe the report that the State Government send here in order to save their skin and their responsibility in this matter.

In the same report from *The Statesman* there is a reference to the State from which you, Sir, come, where it is mentioned,—and to which I believe Shri S. M. Joshi also made a reference just now :—

“In Bhari and Jahangir villages they had been socially boycotted for the last five days in order to compel them to work on village farms at low wages. Compared to Rs. 4 and Rs. 5 a day which was the prevailing rate in the neighbouring villages, the Harijans of this village where being asked to work at Rs. 3 a day.”

This is the kind of thing going on. This continuous chain of incidents certainly constitutes a violation of the fundamental rights of the Harijans to which they are entitled under the Constitution. I am afraid certain State Governments which are not discharging their obligations in these matters are being allowed to go their own way. I want to warn the Minister about one thing. When this question of land reform

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

and land distribution has now come so much to the forefront, when agricultural labourers and poor peasants are trying to assert their rights there is every likelihood in the coming months of more incidents occurring—under cover of disputes over land, while really it will be a question of the cast Hindus, belonging to the upper castes, taking revenge upon poor agricultural labourers. This is an age-old social oppression and cast discrimination will get linked up with this question of economic interests, the conflict over land. So unless the Government are very careful and instruct the State Governments to take necessary action, and also take action against those State Governments which default in carrying out their obligations, these assaults of various kinds and of a barbarous nature against the Harijans are probably likely to increase now rather than diminish.

I would like to know whether in the light of all these incidents which have been brought to the notice of this house also over the last year or two, any fresh instructions have been issued by the Central Government to State Governments to see that deterrent action is taken in all such cases against those responsible. What kind of punishment is being given to them, is any punishment being given at all or is this whole matter being left entirely to the sweet will of the State Governments? Particularly those State Governments which are dominated by strong landlord and feudal interests or the interest of ex-Maharajas cannot be depended upon to make out justice to the Harijans who happen to be poor agricultural labourers and poor peasants in these areas.

Therefore, I would like to know what they are going to do to discharge the obligation of the Central Government in this matter of upholding the constitution instead of talking here about certain reports sent to them by the State Governments? Will they ask the Orissa Government to resign over this issue?

SHRI RANGA: Oh!

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Why not? They should be dismissed.

SHRI K. C. PANT: My hon. friend has referred to another incident on this ques-

tion. That came to our notice and we have asked the State Government to give us information thereon.

He raised the general question of many such incident having taken place in the last two years and the action the Central Government are specifically taking with regard to them. We are certainly as concerned as he is, perhaps even more. We have been taking various steps.

AN HON. MEMBER: What are they?

SHRI PILOO MODY: (Godhra)
Forward or backward?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Part of this relates to the Department of Social Welfare who can reply to their part. Part of it relates also to the home Ministry.

Last year and the year before last, there were certain discussions in the House. Then a committee was also set up under the chairman ship of Shri Elaya Perumal. They made many suggestions. One was about strengthening the panel provisions. That is now being processed in Government here. Apart from that, the Home Secretary has written to all the Chief Secretaries on the basis of the suggestions made by the Elaya Perumal Committee. One of the important suggestions there—it is a long note; I do not want to go into details—is that a Committee should be set up at the State level which would be a kind of co-ordination committee in which the IGP, the Harijan Welfare Department etc. would be represented.....

SHRI PILOO MODY: One committee recommends on other Committee.

SHRI K. C. PANT: So there would be proper co-ordination between the police and the Harijan Welfare authorities. Very often the complaint was that cases were not being properly proceeded with, that prosecutions were not being conducted quickly enough. Proper coordination has to be established between law and order authorities and Harijan Welfare Authorities. This was the object of this suggestion and this suggestion was passed on to the State Governments. Another suggestion was that the specific provisions of this Untouchability Act should be made a part of the syllabi of the training institutions for police officers

and other officers who have to deal with these matters. All these suggestions have been passed on, there are a number of other suggestions, and I am glad to tell the House that such Co-ordination Committees have been set up in a number of States—in Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Mysore, Orissa, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Not in Kerala and Bengal ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : We have not received replies from some States. These Committees will review the action taken and review the prosecutions to see whether there have been delays, whether the Courts have taken too long etc., and the police will also try to cognizance of such acts and officers will go into the districts and themselves see what the situation is like on the spot. All these suggestions have been passed on to the State Governments.

SHRI DINKAR DESAI (Kanara) : This is not an isolated question. I think it is more serious than we think. A few days before, in Orissa itself another incident happened as was narrated just now, and in that connection the Harijan Minister in the Orissa Cabinet issued a statement and that very statement was denied by the Government by a press note. What does this show ? This clearly shows that the Harijan Minister in the Orissa Cabinet was isolated by the other Ministers and proper action was not taken. Though 15 or 16 houses were burnt, no proper action was taken, and even relief was not given adequately. So, it clearly shows that the Orissa Ministry is not sympathetic to the grievances of the Harijans.

It is not only a question of Orissa. It is an all-India question. If you read the latest annual report of the Scheduled Castes Commissioner, he has given many instances of this kind. There are nine pages in this section, and he has stated that the total number of murders and rapes were eight. In one case a girl was raped and murdered. It is a shame to all of us. Eight murders during one year, this is what is happening. And that report also mentions that the attitude of the police was objection-

able. The police were not sympathetic to the Harijans. It is clearly stated in the report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which is submitted every year to the President through the Ministry of Social Welfare, and nothing is happening.

Even in the report in this section the title is "Cases of Harassment". When there are rapes and murders, the Scheduled Castes Commissioner gives the heading "Cases of Harassment". This is much more serious than ordinary harassment. When there are murders, houses are burnt, men are burnt alive, the Commissioner himself gives them under the heading of harassment. Untouchability is quite different from this question. This is a question of oppression, brutal murders. Such a thing did not happen on a large scale even in medieval times.

Just now the Minister told us that there was a committee recently ; they have made certain suggestions to the States and there the matter has ended. We cannot leave this matter only to the States. It is the responsibility of the Central Government also, more so under the Untouchability Act. That is why the Scheduled Castes Commissioner has to submit a report to the President every year. It is very important. That is why I suggest that the Government should immediately appoint a high power commission to go into this question only, not the general question of Harijans. There are so many questions relating to them, economic questions. For the time being, let us concentrate on this. My hon friend has said that the question of land reforms is also involved in this. It is a fact, but let us now go into the cases of murders and things like that. I should like to tell the Minister that many of them are afraid to come and say the truth in public because the attitude towards the Harijans is known. That is why they are afraid. The only way to get the truth is to appoint a high power judicial enquiry commission and that commission should go from place to place asking Harijans about their grievances.

MR. SPEAKER : For every hon. Member I have to remind that this is not an occasion for a speech. He should put only a question.

SHRI DINKAR DESAI : My question is simple. In view of what I have stated and what the Scheduled Castes Commissioner himself has said, will the Government consider the appointment of a high power commission to go into this question so that the Harijans may be encouraged and the truth will be found by the commission ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : I think the matter is being investigated. There are various committees and there is also the Scheduled Castes and Tribes Commissioner. With reference to the suggestion of one of my hon friends, I may tell him that among the suggestions that had been forwarded to the States there is one which says that the members of the Scheduled Castes who volunteer to give information about the incidents described or offences according to the law should be afforded necessary protection. He referred to some persons who may be afraid to give information. This aspect has been touched upon. The larger question of the implementation of the untouchability Act—that is the responsibility of the State Governments and Union Territories.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : I am grateful to you for having admitted this call attention notice. All sections of the House should condemn these inhuman atrocities which has been committed. When the hon. Minister was reading the statement received by him from the State Government he should have exercised at least some discretion in reading in between the lines. He could have taken some interest and should have told the States Government this statement will not satisfy the Members of the House ; it is serious question you will have to give full details. I am sorry that he has not taken that much of trouble. The Statement clearly says that there was some dispute between the assailants and the deceased persons over fishing rights in the village and on the day preceding the incident one of the assailants had been assaulted by some of the deceased persons. That shows that there was continuing tension due to the dispute in the village. The preceding day one of the assailants had been attacked. There should be some police station nearby and these things must have been reported to them and they should have enquired into this incident and taken action. So, he should come forward to

House with a more detailed statement. This is not one incident ; there are a number of incidents in Orissa. As one of the Ministers, Mr. Santhana Kumar Das had submitted a report, they must give fuller details. There is a controversy within the State Government itself on this issue. Mr. Santhana Kumar Das has threatened to resign on that issue. The Central Government should take these matters more seriously. Will the hon. Minister contact the State Government again and come forward with another statement giving fuller details or will the matter be investigated by the Central Government's agencies themselves ? Also, about the Co-ordinating committee which the Minister referred to, what happened to that committee in Orissa and what it is doing ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : My hon. friend was less than fair to me when he suggested or that the Government were not interested in the matter. As a matter of fact, after receiving this Calling Attention Notice, we tried to contact the Orissa Government yesterday; we failed to do so. We got a written report at night. We telephoned them yesterday, and in order to submit the information we tried to contact them again this morning. Unfortunately the telephone lines are out of order and we could not get them. (*Interruption*) Therefore, it is quite unfair to suggest that efforts have been lacking on our part.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : This only shows that you are treating this in a casual manner. (*Interruption*)

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam) : The answers given by the Minister show the interest shown by the Minister and the Government in this matter. But our opinion is that this kind of interest is not enough to solve such a big problem. He said that telephonic communication was out of order this morning. Oftentimes, when Harijans are burnt, and their lives and property are in danger by the action of caste Hindus, when their women are outraged, when their *cheris* are invaded and the huts with people are burnt, the communication lines go out of order; the prosecution goes out of order; the courts go out of order; the police also goes out of order. Merely keeping a statute in the book, namely, Untouchability (Removal of Disabilities) Act of 1955, is not going to solve the

problem. I am happy that he mentioned the Elayaperumal Committee report. I am having that report. I can remind the Minister that in many a case brought before the court, the prosecution has miserably failed. Mr. Elayaperumal was a Congressman; and he still continues to be a Congress man; probably he is now on the opposition side. But when he wrote this report, he was a full-fledged Congressman belonging to the ruling party. This is what his Committee has to say in para 32 of his report:

"While going through some of the judgments delivered by the various courts, the Committee discovered that some of the cases failed *inter alia* on account of the procedural lacunae and lack of interest on the part of police officials."

The Report refers to many instances. Why this incident has been brought to your notice and to the notice of the House is this. We know that the law and order problem is a State subject, but as Mr. Gupta has said, these instances repeat themselves in an unending manner, and the atrocious and inhuman treatment is being meted out day in and day out to Harijans. Only a few cases are reported in the newspapers, and many go down, because people are busy with their own problems and the affected are also very much afraid to report to the police and come to the court and give evidence against the caste Hindus. Therefore, I feel that the present incident is only symptomatic of deeper malaise and disease.

In the report referred to by the Minister there is a specific recommendation where they are not only for strengthening the Act but they themselves have said that a mere statute is not going to help it—but they have insisted on the need for a separate machinery which will have all the authority of investigation and even some semi-judicial power should be given to them. They have said that "it is in this background that the Committee is of the opinion that for the removal of social disability, there should be both social action and criminal prosecution, and hence a machinery different from the usual police *cum* court machinery for the removal of social disability should be established."

Therefore, mere reliance on the present laws and courts and such procedures will not help the Harijans. The Minister cannot say that it is only a law and order problem for the States. Under the directive principle of the Constitution, it is very much the responsibility and duty of the Central Government itself to give protection to the weaker sections, especially the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and to remove these disabilities. We celebrated the Gandhi Centenary Year, but still reports of such atrocities come. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Communication that went out of order will be restored, not only in this particular case but in all other cases and whether justice will be meted out by establishing a separate machinery as suggested by the Committee.

SHRI K. C. PANT: As I said, this particular incident refers to a quarrel between two groups of persons over fishing rights. But I do not object to the wider question being raised here for this reason that this would help strength an the resistance against discrimination against Harijans and we stand for strengthening that resistance. We certainly believe that all punitive measures should be taken, but this House can help in the educative process which must supplement punitive measures if this problem is to be tackled adequately.

He referred to certain specific suggestions by the Elayaperumal Committee. Perhaps he was referring to the taluk level committees and tribunals.

SHRI SONAVANE: That report has not been discussed in this House at all.

SHRI K. C. PANT: This particular matter was taken up at meeting of the States Ministers dealing with social welfare and some of them expressed some reservations. They have been asked to give their final opinion of this particular suggestion.

On the other question he raised, in answers to Mr. Indrajit Gupta, I tried to explain some of the suggestions. I would briefly refer to one or two of them. For instances, the committee to which I referred earlier—the coordination committee should review from time to time the working

[Shri K. C. Pant]

of Untouchability Act and recommend to the State Governments, action to be taken for better enforcement of the Act. It is essential that the magistracy and the police at the district, sub-divisional and thana levels have a thorough understanding of the provisions of the Act. Also officers should try to gain first hand information about conditions in their areas. Supervisory officers should make it a point to ensure that no avoidable delay is caused in the disposal of such cases on account of any deficiencies on the part of the prosecuting staff. The State Governments may make an annual review of the prosecutions launched under the Act. Regarding the training of policemen and police officers, as I said, we should include in their syllabi special instructions on the sociological and legal aspects of untouchability. Knowledge of the provisions of the Act should be compulsory for trainees who should be tested for it. Finally, voluntary organisations working in the field should receive due encouragement and assistance from the administration in their efforts to make available to the Harijans legal and administrative remedies to remove discriminatory practices.

MR. SPEAKER : Papers to be laid.

SHRI HEM BARUA : Before that, I want to make submission. I have written to you drawing your attention to the earthquake that has rocked Assam and certain parts of eastern India. The confidence of the people is being shattered in Assam firstly by the latest floods, secondly by the earthquake thirdly by the information of the people from East Pakistan, and fourthly by the strike of locoshed workers in Siliguri and which is spreading to Rangia. We are interested in knowing about the damages caused by the earthquake. I request you to ask the Minister to make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER : I will be sending it to them.

श्री मोलहू प्रसाद (बांसगांव) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है, और वह यह कि 27, 28, 29 और आज 30 तारीख को भी चार स्थगन प्रस्ताव दिये गये। पिछले

सत्र में दो अनुसूचित जातियों के आयुक्त की रिपोर्टों पर और पेरूमल कमेटी पर चर्चा श्रद्धुरी रह गई थी। हम लोग चाहते हैं कि उस को फिर शुरू किया जाये। लेकिन जो कार्य सूची हम को मिली है

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बैठ जाइये।

श्री मोलहू प्रसाद : हम ने इस पर कार्य स्थगन प्रस्ताव दिये हैं। आज देश भर में तो हरिजनों के ऊपर अत्याचार हो ही रहा है, लेकिन आप के सचिवालय और सरकार की तरफ से भी उन पर अत्याचार किया जाता है। आज बाहर उस के लिये आ का क्या उत्तर होगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं आप से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर ही हर चीज की दवा नहीं है। इस के लिये आप मुझ से अलग से कह सकते थे। मैं विजनेस ऐडवाइजरी कमेटी में इस लिये टाइम मुकर्रर करवाने की कोशिश करूंगा, लेकिन आप इस को इस तरह से प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर के जरिये रोज मत कीजिये।

श्री मोलहू प्रसाद : हम ने इस के लिये स्थगन प्रस्ताव दिया था।

SHRI S. KUNDU : For the last two or three days we have been submitting that about 50,000 workers belonging to the All India Railwaymen's Federation have staged a demonstration and they have submitted a memorandum about the payment of interim relief. Though we have been requesting Shri Nanda to make a statement; he is not paying heed to it. You can imagine what effect it will have on thousands of workers. So, I would request you, Sir, to direct the Railway Minister to make a statement on the memorandum submitted by the railway employees belonging to the All India Railwaymen's Federation.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Sir, a calling attention notice on interim relief is pending with you. I would request you to kindly ask

Finance Minister to make a statement on the question of interim relief. It concerns lakhs of Government employees.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

12.41 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

CODE FOR AIR BROADCASTS AND REPORT ON FILM CENSORSHIP

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Code for broadcasts on All India Radio by individuals. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—3740/70.*]
- (2) A copy of the Report of the Enquiry Committee on Film Censorship (Hindi version). [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3741/70.*]

NOTIFICATION RE. PYRITES MINING INDUSTRY AND METALLIFEROUS MINES (SECOND AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of Notification No. S. O. 2061 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 1970, adding Pyrites Mining Industry to the First Schedule to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, under sub-section (3) of section 40 of the said Act. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3742/70.*]
- (2) A copy of the Metalliferous Mines (Second Amendment) Regulations,

1970 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 949 in Gazette of India dated the 20th June, 1970, under sub-section (7) of section 59 of the Mines Act, 1952. [*Placed in Library See No. LT—3743/70.*]

EXPORT POLICY RESOLUTION, 1970

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of 'Export Policy Resolution 1970' (Hindi and English versions). [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—3744/70.*]

NOTIFICATION AND RULES RE. RICE MILLING INDUSTRY, AND ANNUAL REPORT OF BIHAR STATE AGRO-INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD., PATNA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Rice-Milling Industry (Regulation and Licensing) Amendment Rules, 1970 (Hindi version) published in Notification No.G.S.R. 553 in Gazette of India dated the 20th June, 1970 under sub-section (4) of section 27 of the Rice-Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 1958. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—3745/70.*]
- (2) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 554 (Hindi version) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 1970 issued under sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Rice-Milling Industry (Regulation) Amendment Act, 1968. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3746/70.*]
- (3) A copy of the Annual Report of the Bihar State Agro-Industries Development Corporation Limited, Patna for the year ended the 31st March, 1969 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and