

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, August 12, 1991/Sravana 21,
1913 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:
Mr. Speaker, Sir, heinous atrocities are being committed on Harijans in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other States such as Haryana and Andhra Pradesh. I have given a notice for Adjournment Motion. This is a very serious matter. Harijans are being burnt alive. Their children are being thrown into fire. Such incidents are not confined to any one place. Incidents of atrocities are being reported from all parts of the country. I would request the hon. Speaker to suspend the Question Hour and take up this item right away. Will you allow discussion on this issue.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shastriji, please take your seat first.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Please suspend the Question Hour and allow a discussion on the killings of Harijans in Andhra

Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh etc. This is a very serious matter.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:
That I will do. But where should the Harijans of this country go to seek justice? Whenever I raise this matter, you ask me to sit.

MR. SPEAKER: It would not help if you alone continue to speak. First you listen to me and for that you should resume your seat.

[*English*]

We will take it up at the proper time.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Please suspend the Question Hour.

(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: We want a detailed discussion in this House. Please allow it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Harijans are being killed. Please allow a discussion on this issue.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not like this. This cannot go on like this.

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:
All right, I shall resume my seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You just listen to what I am saying. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The point which you have raised is no doubt important and everybody heartily support you, but unless you listen to others viewpoint, no solution could be found. Therefore, I would request you that the issue which you have raised...

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: At a proper time we will take it up and we will discuss it. Please don't go on like this now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:
When will the discussion take place.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot dictate terms like this. This is very unreasonable.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we would like to know whether this subject would be taken up for discussion or not?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats Mr. Acharia and Mr. Sonkar. Sonkarji, since you were the first to raise this issue, you should be the first to give them a hearing.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: I am listening to what you are saying.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down first. It is not correct.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: When you listen, you should take your seat. When I am on my legs, you should take your seat according to rules.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: I had resumed my seat in deference to your direction, but you did not accept my submission.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not following what I am saying Sonkarji.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is no way to make your submission. I do not understand whether you want a discussion on this issue or you want to involve yourself in arguments with me.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:
Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the rules, discussion should take place and the Question Hour should be suspended. (Interruptions)

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir,

one fourth of our country's population comprises Harijans, but injustice has been done to them all along.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing can be done unless you take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have already given notice for the suspension of the Question Hour.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): I think all sections of the House will agree to suspend the Question Hour and take up this issue.

(interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You are asking questions, but when I am on my legs to reply to your question, you are not prepared to listen. How can we carry on like this? Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised a very valid point and I appreciate it. I am telling you that a discussion can be allowed on this issue, but you are seeking point by point explanation about the time and all that.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Point by point explanation you want. You know the rules as to when it can be done; we will do it according to the rules. When I have said this much, it should be more than sufficient.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr.

Speaker, Sir, let the leader of the House say something on this subject.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KALKA DAS: This is not the first time that such incidents have taken place. Atrocities on Harijans are taking place wherever the Congress party is in power. This is a burning issue. A discussion on this issue must be held.

MR. SPEAKER: Discussion can be allowed only under the rules.

SHRI KALKA DAS: Rules can be suspended. Rules have been framed to protect the people and not to kill them. Discussion on this subject should be taken up forthwith.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Sir, it is totally incorrect to say that such incidents are taking place only in the states ruled by the Congress Party. What is happening in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal today? Which parties are in power in these States? 2000 Harijans are living in forests in Midnapore. What is their condition? What treatment is being meted out to Harijans in Uttar Pradesh today? Therefore, the submission of the hon. Minister that such incidents are taking place only in States where Congress party is in power is totally incorrect.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIBASUDEB ACHARIA: No, no. It is baseless. Let the Question Hour be suspended and then we will have a discussion on this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow a discussion on this issue. People are being killed. It is a serious matter.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was about to request you. My submission is that we have discussed about the atrocities on Harijans in the 9th Lok Sabha as well. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will agree that for the last few days in succession in different states, there are reports of atrocities on Harijans. I don't want to give out the names of the states...that is why I say different states. It is not an ordinary situation.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter...

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will sit down on the floor of the House. Harijans are being killed in the country and you are not listening to my submission. I am asking you to suspend the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RABI RAY: It is not an ordinary situation. It has become extraordinary. That is why I am telling you. I wish that the leader of the House Shri Arjun Singh would say something after seeing the resentment of the people of the Congress and Lok Dal. He will definitely speak something and favour a discussion for the same. That is my submission.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, the problem of atrocities on Harijans is really a national problem. We only blame one Government or the other. But the problem is more serious than that and it is but natural that if newspapers are reporting and Harijans are being killed there is some anger, and this anger is reflected in this House also. I wish you fix up time for discussion. This should be discussed at length and in depth. Some concrete suggestions should come to stop these killings.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr.

Speaker, Sir, I have been to that place. Recently, I had been to Andhra Pradesh. MPs belonging to the Left Front and the National Front had also gone there. I believe any person will be moved after witnessing that incident. One doctor named Ravi Chander Kumar committed suicide after the incident. He was 29 years of age and was carrying out post mortem. I believe such a heart-rending incident had not happened anywhere in the world, not to speak of India. On the one hand police is arresting the people and on the other landlords amputate the limbs and throat of people, put them in gunny bags and throw them in water.

MR. SPEAKER: Please talk about the time.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not the question of time. Tragedy is that today Shri Arjun Singh is standing for it. We had met Arjun Singhji on 7th and the incident took place on 6th. We met him on 7th as the Leader of the House and we jointly requested him to give a statement to inform the House. Even on the 9th, the Home Minister on your direction said that he was discussing it with the Chief Minister and the Chief Minister had no information then Chief Minister would go there and inform the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Paswanji, not like this. You may speak about the time.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this would have been considered a serious matter if the Government would have given a *suo motu* statement, but I know what the Government is going to do. Therefore, I would submit that we have given an Adjournment notice, and for the first time the adjournment notice was given by Shri V.P. Singh. We demanded that there should be a discussion on this issue after suspending the Question Hour. Besides, there is no other important issue before this House that one fourth of India's population is living a life full of fear. Therefore, we would request to suspend the Question Hour and directly allow a discussion on this subject.

We have given the Adjournment Motion and a discussion may be held on the same. That day you had given an observation and I do not want to discuss it. You had said that it was a matter of the State Government. The matter of Scheduled Castes is not a state subject rather it comes under the purview of the Central Government. So, the Central Government is directly responsible for it. Therefore, I would request you that a discussion may directly be held on Adjournment Motion and the Government may be asked to reply.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, it is actually a question of involvement of the police. (Interruptions)

This is a grave aspect of that incident. (Interruptions)

The landlords have murdered. (Interruptions). Such a massacre never took place in Andhra Pradesh. (Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sonkar, please take your seat.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: I won't sit down today even if you will try to turn me out with the help of Marshal. I will keep standing on one leg until the Question Hour is not suspended...

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI B.N. REDDY: The Deputy Speaker, who is the concerned MLA, is involved in this. (Interruptions)

I demand the arrest of the Circle Inspector. In this conspiracy, both the Circle Inspector

and the Sub-Inspector themselves sent these people. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: That is right. We are saying that we will be fixing time for discussion. You are believing that the discussion is going on.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI B.N. REDDY: Sir, I want an adjournment of the Question Hour. (Interruptions) I demand an immediate discussion. (Interruptions) This is a very grave massacre and police are actively involved in it. It is not a question of casual approach. Actually, the police had acted in connivance with the landlords.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we never demand the suspension of the Question Hour except urgent issues. Today we are pressing for it because the incidents took place not once but on two days in succession.

[English]

In Andhra Pradesh, more than 60 Harijans were brutally butchered. Then, in Farukhabad, Uttar Pradesh, six Harijans have been killed yesterday. Harijans are being killed every day. We do not want to politicise this issue like the Congress (I) Members. They want to politicise this issue. (Interruptions) Because of the urgency of this matter, we want you to suspend the Question Hour and discussion on killings of the Harijans should be taken up immediately.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VENKATESHWARLU UMMAREDDY: Sir, there is no other urgent

matter than this which involves the problem of atrocities on Harijans.

(Interruptions)

More than 20 people have been killed in Andhra Pradesh and whereabouts of more than 20-23 people are not known. *(Interruptions)* The fact of the problem is that the police were in league when the total carnage was going on *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We are talking about the time to be fixed.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VENKATESHWARLU UMMAREDDY: Sir, under these circumstances I urge upon you to suspend the Question Hour immediately and then take up the issue of atrocities on Harijans. This is an important issue. *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Kindly let me have my say also.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ NATH SONKAR SHASTRI: I will not sit.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I do not want to trouble you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What Mr. Rajnath Sonkar Shastri says, will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party and on behalf of the entire House I would humbly and firmly say that as far as the oppression of weaker sections, Harijans and Adivasis is

concerned... *(Interruptions)* we would not like to desist from helping them or watching their interests at any level under any circumstances. We have the same feelings as the other Hon. Members have. I request you to fix time, let it be decided today itself, and there should be a detailed discussion. We are eager for it. You yourself fix the time, it depends on you.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRISRIKANTA JENA: Sir, the Leader of the House has already suggested that you can fix up any time by even suspending the Question Hour and all sections of the House want the suspension of Question Hour and discussion on this issue be taken up immediately. So, Sir, you can suspend the Question Hour and take up this issue for discussion immediately. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. VIJAY KUMAR RAJU: Sir, we demand the suspension of the Question Hour and discussion on this issue immediately... *(Interruptions)*...

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS: The Question Hour has been suspended on various important issues. It is a serious issue and it is a question related to the oppression of one fourth of the population of the country. Therefore, as the leader of the House said, this issue should be discussed just now after suspending the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not repeat. If you have to say anything, say it just now. Shri Sonkar, you also have to say something.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: I request you that if you are agreed with what we say and the Leader of the House is also agreed, and all the Hon. Members present here have got some sympathy towards Harijans, then why a discussion is not being

held after suspending the Question Hour?

MR. SPEAKER: Now, will you listen while standing or sitting?

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: We will listen while standing on one leg.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD): We have heard that the cock has one leg but for the first time we have heard that an M.P. has one leg.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, every section of the House wants that the discussion on this issue be started immediately. Now, my submission is that, if necessary, you can adjourn the House for five minutes. Let us all sit with you and fix up the time immediately so that the discussion can be taken up without further delay. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will see to it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It seems that there is a consensus.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I think there is a consensus that it should be done but we have to think about the way it has to be done. The hon. Home Minister should be involved in the discussion in this regard. We will call him. If a discussion is necessary today we will do it today. I will inform you about the time.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: I agree with you and will wait. Kindly allow a discussion by today evening. We are obliged to you for giving a patient hearing to the

atrocities committed on Harijans and taking a serious note of it.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, the House is painfully aware of being in the midst of the impasse which is to no one's liking. All of us want the Parliament to function in the larger interest of the country. I consider it my duty, therefore, to request you Sir, since you are the repository of the trust of this House, to do whatever you deem fit to resolve this issue so that all of us may continue to perform our patriotic duty for which we have been elected to this House.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL. K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Leader of the House has mentioned about the impasse that was created here last Tuesday and because of which the proceedings of the House could not continue Members of my Party and myself staged a walk out on Friday. I fully agree with the Leader of the House that none is happy over this impasse and if the proceedings of the House are stalled we would not be able to discuss the burning problems in the country, for which we have been elected here. Just now, a mention was made about atrocities being committed on Harijans in different parts of the country and similar other problems which should be discussed in the House. Members of my party and myself would definitely like to express our views on it. When we expressed our anger and agitation on last Thursday, we thought that the Government would try to identify the reasons behind our agitation and find out a suitable solution. There were some discussions on it here in the House and with the Government separately also.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when all the Parties met in your chamber to resolve the issue we realized that Government is unable to come up to the expectations under these circumstances. There might be some limitations But at the same time we felt that if this impasse continues it would be detrimental to

the interests of Parliament and Parliamentary conventions and therefore, we accepted the proposal of the leader of the House that the matter should be left to the Chair. You may do whatever you deem fit to resolve this issue. We had high expectations from the Government but when those were not fulfilled we left at it. That is why Shri Jaswant Singh said at today's All Party meeting that now we have no expectations from the Government, nor will we demand anything from it. We have left the matter with you. You may do whatever you deem fit. We will discuss the matter outside the House and I am sure that the way you will dispense justice, people will also listen to us and do justice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to say that we all appreciate what has been said by the Leader of the House Shri Arjun Singh and by the Opposition Leader Shri L.K. Advani and what has been done by the Leaders of other parties in the Chamber and outside this House to see that this impasse is over. We appreciate what they have done and I would like to say that we would like to thank them also for the understanding they have shown in this matter.

What has happened outside, what has happened inside the House, what has been said outside the House, what has been said inside the House is all known to us. We would not like to go into the details and analyse the things.

I think you have reposed your confidence in the Presiding Officer to take an appropriate decision in this matter; and the Presiding Officer should take an appropriate decision in this matter. While doing so, justice would be done. No party would be let down; no individual would be let down and an appropriate decision would be taken. I would not express what the decision would be taken here on the Floor of the House, but I would take a decision and then we will put a full stop to this matter in the interest of the

friendly functioning of this House and in the interest of creating a condition which is conducive for friendly, congenial and democratic working. I think we would all leave this matter behind and should proceed to do the business in the House. Many important matters are going to come before us and we would be required to discuss them, as has been said by Mr. Lal K. Advani and other Members also; we would be doing that. I thank you very much for resolving this matter in this fashion.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: This is one more proof of better late than never.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why democracy in India is strong and functioning.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Augmentation Of Water Supply To Hyderabad

*386. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for diversion of Krishna waters to augment water supply to Hyderabad is under consideration of the Union Government;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) the reasons for delay in according clearance to the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). A Project Identification Report for World Bank assistance was received from the State Govt. in February, 1991. The proposal is under examination.