

12-00 hrs.

RE. BRUTAL KILLING OF HARIJANS IN TSUNDUR VILLAGE OF GUNTUR DISTRICT

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have given a notice that more than 20 people belonging to Scheduled Castes have been killed in Tsundur village of Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh ... (*Interruptions*).... Even yesterday our colleagues from Andhra Pradesh were very much agitated. People belonging to Scheduled Castes including 400 Dalits have fled away from the village. The State Government was already aware of the possibility of such an incident. If the Government wanted, it could avert such a happening. The subject matter concerning the protection of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is the responsibility of the Central Government. But I find that since the new Government took over, the number of atrocities is continuously on the increase. A few days back three people belonging to Scheduled Castes were killed in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh. Recently more than 20 persons were killed in Andhra Pradesh. According to my information, members of almost all the political parties have demanded a judicial enquiry into the incident. A delegation of opposition members is going there today. Home Minister, Shri Chavan is present here. I would like to know from him whether the Government is concerned by growing incidents of killings of the members belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and what measures are being taken by the Government in this regard?

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed the Hon. Member from Andhra Pradesh.

(*Interruption*)

PROF. VENKATESHWARLU UMAREDDY (Tenali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a shameful incident has been

inflicted on Harijans in my own Constituency of Tenali in Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, the incident occurred in village Tsundur, is a naked attack on the very social order of the country. On the Sixth of this month, the upper caste people have organised an attack on the Harijans. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : That is not to be shown like that. Please fold it. This is not done.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VENKATESHWARLU UMAREDDY : Sir, in Guntur district about twenty Harijans have been cruelly murdered. The sequence of events is that one Mr. Yocob, a Fair Price Shop dealer was summoned by the MRO. While Mr. Yocob was going to MRO's Office, there was an attack on him by the upper caste people. This has resulted in a clash between these two groups; several people have gathered from both the sides; and there was a clash. Several people have been injured in the incident. After some time, the upper caste people—who are Congress workers of that locality—have mustered strength not only from that village, but also from neighbouring villages. They have come in lorries and tractors with all the lethal weapons and they have massacred about twenty Harijans in that village. It is an organised one for the reason that they have not only murdered, but they have also wrapped all the dead bodies in gunny bags and thrown them in the Tungabadra drain which is flowing near by. It is a small drain. Sir, so far—till this morning—seven bodies have been recovered and the whereabouts of about twenty other Harijans are not known.

We have been feeling that more than 20 people have been murdered and operations are going on to restrict water flow in that canal and they have been searching for the bodies. Sir, this is not for the first time that attacks on the down-trodden, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes

women and minorities have been inflicted in Andhra Pradesh in the past one and a half years. There were several other occasions where such attacks had been inflicted in Andhra Pradesh and even our leader, Shri N. T. Rama Rao as the Leader of Opposition, had reported all the incidents to the Prime Minister and the President of India. The law and order situation has completely deteriorated in Andhra Pradesh. Dacoities, highway robberies, rapes and murders and communal clashes have been going for political gains—even for changing the Chief Minister. Communal clashes have increased very much and now Sir, it has become the order of the day. There is no security for life and property of the people. The people, particularly the Harijans, have been victimised....(*Interruptions*)... We demand that the Government of Andhra Pradesh should be dismissed forthwith for the reason that there is no law and order in the State. Sir, not that I am not telling that the Congress people have done it. The Minister of AP who had gone there himself owned the responsibility claiming that their own people have done it. He said that the upper caste people belong to the Congress Party. (*Interruptions*)... Sir, we demand that a judicial inquiry should be ordered and high compensation should be given to the victims.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD (Chamarajanagar) : Sir, the country is going to celebrate its 45th Independence Day just next week. I know that long speeches, colourful cultural programmes, etc. will be there. Really speaking Sir, certainly it is not a day to be celebrated joyfully. I would like to bring to your notice as to what is actually happening in this free country....(*Interruptions*)... Even today, the Scheduled Caste Harijans have been killed brutally in Chundur village of Guntur district. Many of them have been kidnapped and have been missing. What is the reason for these killings? A Scheduled Caste

boy was killed in a cinema hall. This is the punishment they have given for the Scheduled Caste Harijans. Sir, we have always been talking of anti-apartheid in this country. What moral right has this country got to talk about anti-apartheid? We can see apartheid in every nook and corner of this country in the form of untouchability. How many people have been convicted in this country for exploiting the Scheduled Caste Harijans? Therefore Sir, I demand that this Government should hold a judicial inquiry and punish the culprits.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, more than 20 Harijans were killed by the so-called upper caste people in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. After killing them mercilessly, they put the dead bodies in gunny bags and threw them in a canal. This is a very serious matter. All the political parties demanded a judicial inquiry into this incident. We have precedents in the past also and we have discussed this kind of incidents in this House. Since the killing of more than 25 Harijans is a very serious matter, this should be discussed in this House....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : There are many others who want to speak. Please be brief and quick.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This kind of killings are taking place in Tripura as also in Uttar Pradesh. (*Interruptions*) We demand that you allow a discussion on this under Rule 193. Or you may admit an adjournment motion. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Loknathji, I will give you a chance. Please wait. I have called him

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, are you going to admit it under Rule 193?

MR. SPEAKER : I do not decide it here. I decide it in the Chamber

SHRI K. P. REDDIAH YADAV (Machhiliapatnam) : Sir, I also hail from the same constituency. It is my native place. All the facts have been brought before your notice and I am not going into those details. The fact is that the sub-inspector and the circle inspector were very much there. These brutal killings went on for five hours from 11 AM to 4 PM, in their very presence. No Government machinery works there. I request the Hon. Home Minister that he should immediately send a CBI team—as was done by Shrimati Indira Gandhi in 1969—to arrest those people, the Reddys and Telagas of that village. I do not call them the upper castes. They are the Reddys and Telagas of that village. They have perpetuated all these brutalities. The Congress leaders in connivance with the Chief Minister, are not going to bring these people to book.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : I want to bring a very important factor before you.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK (Buldana) : Sir, this is a very important issue....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Yadav. Please sit down.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK : This brutal massacre of Harijans is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER : One member has already said that. Why do you want to repeat it?

(Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK : I strongly condemn the upper castes who are responsible for the brutal massacre of more than 20 Harijans in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. This is a very serious issue. I have also condemned the failure of the police officials and the Government machinery who are responsible for not providing security even after staying for seven days in that village. In spite of that, so many people were killed. I request the Hon. Home Minister should immediately visit Guntur districts.....

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point. Please take your seat.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK : Sir, the Harijans are not going back to their villages. They are lying on the streets.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not correct. Please sit down.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK : The Home Minister should intervene....(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What Shri Wasnik says, will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going on record. Yes, Mr. Chandra Jeet Yadav.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : I think the entire House will agree with this and condemn this kind of brutal killings of Scheduled Caste and people who are helpless and poor. As soon as we got this information yesterday, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Rajuji and I submitted the full Facts to the leader of the House, Shri Arjun Singh.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I was also with you.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Yes, Shri Acharia was also there.

Seeing the urgency of it, we requested him that immediately the Government should get in touch with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He told us that the Chief Minister happens to be in Delhi; he will talk to him and will place the whole facts before the Chief Minister, and also that necessary action will be taken. But I am sorry to say that necessary urgency is not attached to such cases where poor people are killed. If a train accident takes place and five people are killed, the Minister immediately rushes to the spot. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is because the Railways is with the Central Government.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : This is also the responsibility of the Central Government. So far as the lives and protection of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are concerned, it is Central Government's responsibility. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Minister wants to say something.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : I would request the Home Minister to immediately send a Minister there and also order a judicial inquiry. It will be a good gesture if the Home Minister himself visits that place. I would like to know whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh was contacted or not. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : The Hon. Home Minister was on his legs. He wanted to say something.

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order in Zero Hour. However, I will allow you.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : You listen to me. I will explain how there is a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order in Zero Hour.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, my point of order is that while making the statement, Hon. Member from Tenali has definitely charged the Congress Party. Therefore, my objection is that unless an inquiry is made and the fact is established, no one can be named in the House. My point of order arises from this. My submission to you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : He has raised a point of order. Let me hear it. If I don't hear it properly I won't be able to rule.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : My objection is that till an inquiry is made by the Central Government or the State Government, Hon. Member cannot... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. If I don't hear him properly, I will not be able to rule. Let me hear him properly.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : The Hon. Member has grossly misused his position as a Member of Parliament. He should not have named the Congress Party in that statement. I would request you that you should expunge those remarks as he cannot take the name before an inquiry is made and it is established as to who is responsible.

Secondly, sir, I would like the Hon. Minister not to leave the matter to the State Government. It is a heinous crime. People have been killed in the presence of police. Therefore, the Home Minister is duty bound to make an independent inquiry and present a report to this House. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BH. VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU (Narsapur) : It is very clear from today's newspaper that the upper caste people belong to the Congress Party. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Let there be an inquiry from this House. I will request the Home Minister to send a team of this House to Andhra Pradesh. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : We support his proposal. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BH. VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU : We are welcoming him for finding out the facts.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Since a very senior Member of the Congress Party—the ex-Minister, who was hopefully the new Minister unfortunately not today, who could also have been the Home Minister—has made a proposal, the whole House unanimously accepts his proposal. Let it be today, here and now the House Committee be constituted. We support the Congress Party.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Let there be a House Committee, we support him. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. You had seen that the hon. Home Minister was trying to get up and say something. You should allow him to express what he wants to express. Only then the things can be clear. What you actually want is that there should be a response from the Government. So, you should allow him to respond.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : He has already suggested one thing. Now, I want to submit before you that since Shri Buta Singh has given a suggestion that there must be an Inquiry Committee constituted from this House, I say, Sir, if that is so, it should not confine itself to Andhra Pradesh alone but should include also other places. (*Interruptions*). Including Pilibit and Bihar also.

SHRI BH. VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU : (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : Do you realise that in the process, what you are saying is heard by none? That is why, if you want to make your points, you should make one after the other and allow the proceedings to proceed according to the rules. Otherwise, there is no point in speaking.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK (Buldana) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Inquiry will take its own course. The question which is more important today is that of provision of security to the harijans who have left their villages and who were not able to go back to their homes. So, the question is that, they should be immediately provided security. The Inquiry may take a week or may take even a month. What is needed today is the immediate security.

THE MINISTER OF HOME (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I quite appreciate the sentiments of the hon. Members. I had a talk with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh who left this morning and he is going straight to that village where this incident has happened. He will make personal enquiries into the matter and after I get the report, we will see

that necessary security is also being provided to all the Scheduled Caste people who not only have been affected but all the harijans who are living in that village.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Some of them have left the village.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : After we get the Report, we would like to make a statement on the floor of the House.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : What about the House Committee?

SHRI BH VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU : (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : Nobody is hearing what you are all saying. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shravan Kumar Patel. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : There should be a House Committee. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : O. K. You take your seats. You do not allow me to say anything. You are all the time shouting. I should also say something. What is this? You have made your point. Now I am standing to reply. You do not allow me to reply. How can we conduct the proceedings of the House like this? Let me say something. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : It should not be like this. If you make one point at one time, then there can be response to it. Now I do not allow you. When you were talking, I listened to you all. But, all the time you cannot do like this. Let the Leaders of all the Parties meet and decide about it; if they want to constitute a Committee and send it to all the States, let them do so. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera) : Where will it go ?

MR. SPEAKER : Wherever this problem is there. You decide between yourselves. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shravan Kumar Patel. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats when I am standing. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You first please take your seats. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Are you allowing discussion on this?

MR. SPEAKER : Now, such matters cannot be decided on the Floor of the House. If, in your judgement and wisdom, you want to appoint a Committee, you can do so. You have made your point and got a response from the Home Minister. The Home Minister told you that he will make a statement in the House. After this if you want to appoint a Committee, I am not against it. But, you decide between yourselves what kind of a Committee you want to appoint, what would be its jurisdiction, where they would like to go and all those things. Such things, on the spur of the moment, in the House, cannot be decided. I would not like to take a decision on this point in this manner. Now, it is for the Leaders to come together and in their wisdom take a decision. I am not saying that you do this way or that way. I have no objection to your doing it; I have no objection to your not doing it. But you cannot place this kind of an issue on the Floor of the House as if there are no other issues to be brought before the House.

Members sitting on the last benches were coming to me and telling me that they were not getting a chance to speak in the House. Now, you have discussed one issue and got this much of response. Should you not allow me

to go to the other issues? Please appreciate it and allow me to go to the other issues. If you want to appoint a Committee, let the senior Leaders of all the Parties come together and decide about it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOBHANA DREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : Who will decide?

MR. SPEAKER : You decide between yourselves.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What is the reaction of the Home Minister?

MR. SPEAKER : After this also you are getting up. You got more than you expected. Now you please keep quiet. Shri M. V. V. S. Murty.

SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTY (Visakhapatam) : The Vizag Steel Mill has so far cost Rs. 7,800 crores. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I would not always execute the duties of the Government. Please do not always ask me to do the duty of the Government. As far as the duties of the house are concerned, it is my responsibility. But for this I shall have to carry you with me. And all the time sitting here, without knowing the facts, if I am saying "Do this" and "Do that" that is not proper.

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV : We are with you.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR (Gopalganj) : It is for the Home Minister whether he agrees to form a committee or not. As far as my legal knowledge goes, a Speaker *suo motu* cannot form a committee.

MR. SPEAKER : We will discuss this later in the Chamber. There are other issues. Shri Murty.

SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTY : The full targeted production of the Vizag Steel Mill is three million M.T. per