

been detected as per the figures available with the Ministry and what action has been taken against them? How many persons have been booked for this offence?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, It is not correct to say that banks do not report detection of fake currencies. On the contrary, most of the cases which are registered are based upon complaints given by the banks. For example, in Delhi, in the current calendar year, upto 25-7-1988, 17 cases have been registered and three persons have been arrested. The total value of fake currencies is Rs. 967. Most of these complaints have come from the Reserve Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra and Grindlays Bank and some other fake currencies have been detected in market places.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Has any Press been seized in this Connection and where are these printed?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, banks detect fake currencies when people come and present them either for deposit or when they come to change the currency. That is how one comes to know of it. In market places, the shop-keepers detect it when somebody gives it for buying things. In most of the cases, the man who actually presents it is innocent. He has been duped somewhere earlier. We have to trace the sources of the fake currency. We have registered cases. It is crime. It has to be investigated and prosecuted vigorously. But it is not so alarming as we may think.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Entry of Harijans into the Nathdwara temple

S.N.Q.No 1., SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to State:

(a) whether Harijans are not allowed entry into the Nathdwara Temple in Rajasthan for offering prayers;

(b) whether Union government have directed the Government of Rajasthan to provide adequate protection to Harijans wanting to enter the Temple;

(c) whether Union Government are aware of the recent march to the Temple marking a popular protest against this practice;

(d) whether Government have also taken cognizance of the recent utterances of the Shankaracharya of Puri against the entry of Harijans into temples; and

(e) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) According to reports received by Govt. there is no ban on the entry of Scheduled Castes into the Nathdwara Temple for offering prayers.

(b) The Government of Rajasthan was advised to provide protection to the Scheduled Castes who want to enter the temple to offer prayers.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) and (e). On the basis of press reports, the Government of Rajasthan was requested to examine the question of taking action in the light of the Constitution and the provisions of Section 3, 7 (1) (c) and 15 (1) of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. The Government of Rajasthan has informed that they have got to examine the legal aspects related to prosecution as the only basis for the utterances of the Shankaracharya of Puri are the reported statements specially since he has according to the later Press Report (on 8.7.88), denied bulk of his earlier reported statements.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: Sir, my question was whether Harijans are not allowed entry into the Nathdwara Temple

in Rajasthan. The answer is: "According to reports received by the Government there is no ban on the entry of Scheduled Castes into the Nathdwara Temple." I have not asked whether there is a ban or not. I have asked for a simple fact whether Harijans are allowed or not allowed into a particular temple. Sir, it is a well-known fact that Harijans during the course of the last four decades of Independence have not been allowed entry into these temples. That being the case, what is the action which the Government is now proposing to take to enforce the civil rights in respect of Harijans in that particular area? In order to ensure Harijans' entry into the temple, the Government, it appears, failed in its efforts yesterday to arrange a march to the Temple of Nathdwara and that is the latest report. Sir, under these circumstances, what is the action which is proposed to be taken by the Government of India?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: Sir, I want to report to the House and the House will be glad to know that just now I received a report from the Chief Minister of Rajasthan that Harijans and all those who are *safai mazdoor* or we call *bhangis*, have all entered Nathdwara Temple and they were received by the son of the priest of the Temple. So, they were taken to the temple... (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: when?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: At about 11 A.M. I think today. Today they had entered and they were received by the son of the head priest and they were welcomed. It is not that....(Interruptions). I want to say that these people, those who have entered the temple just now, an hour back, are the local people and specially from the *bhangi* community. So, we can say that we have succeeded in persuading the priest and other people and the local people.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Why persuade? There is no question of persuasion.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: It is the right of the people (Interruptions).

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: Our object was... (Interruptions). They are of South Indian origin. Our aim was that Harijans must enter the Temple. (Interruptions). That shouting will not do.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: It is the right of the people... (Interruptions).

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: I am just saying it. I had instructed the Rajasthan Government that as there is no ban on entry of the Harijans, so they should give protection... (Interruptions). Let me explain. (Interruptions). They should enter the Temple, it is our policy, and it is the declared policy of the Government and so there is no use shouting about all these things.

Sir, I am glad that the Rajasthan Government listened to our advice and they have made the effort so that now the Nathdwara Temple is open to Harijans. There is no question that it is not open to them. (Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

[English]

What are you doing?

(Interruptions).

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: Sir, as you know that when I asked the Chief Minister of Rajasthan to take adequate measures for providing protection to all devotees, particularly the Harijans who want to enter the Nathdwara Temple to offer prayers now they have entered the temple and so we are all happy. We congratulate the Chief Minister.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: The chief priest should be prosecuted immediately.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: Sir, the point is, there is a specific duty cast on the State Government to identify areas where the untouchability is being practised and also to take sufficient and adequate steps to ensure that penal action is taken

against all such persons who are perpetrating these obnoxious social evils for several years. When that being the case, how is it that the State Government has kept silence for the last 4 decades and only now, only today declares that some action has been taken. It is not merely that.

I would like to ask the Minister one thing. The head priest himself was absent and he was away at Bombay. And the Minister is now stated to have persuaded the son of the head priest to do it, whereas it is his duty and it is his obligation that is cast on him and he has no right to object the Harijans' entry into the Temple. So, the question is, whether the Government would take necessary steps to take over the Temple under the management of the Religious Endowment Act and appoint a Harijan as priest of the Temple.

No.2, the other thing is, words spoken or any sentence written in encouragement of the practice of untouchability is a cognizable offence. The Shankaracharya of Puri has made a public statement and committed a punishable offence. Then, steps should have been immediately taken by the Government against any persons whosoever they may be. Why was it not done? (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: It was done earlier.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: Sir, he has asked me three questions at a time.

MR. SPEAKER: You reply to one of them.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: First, I would like to say that till these 40 years, the priests have taken this view that there is no untouchability practised in the Nathdwara Temple and he has given it in writing also.

I would like to read it out as to what the head priest has stated.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: When did he say?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: It is 15 days back. It is not just now. (*Interruptions*.)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: It is not true (*Interruptions*)

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: After this question was raised he said this.

[*Translation*]

It is a letter from the priest in which it is stated that according to the Pushtimargiya Sect which was funded by my fore fathers, any Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vashya and Shudra who observe 'Maryada' of the Sect becomes Pushtimargiya Vaishnva. Ours is a path of love by which one can observe 'Maryada'. One who believes in our principles becomes Krishna's favourite. It is well known that Nathdwara is a Pushtimargiya Vaishnav Temple and there is no ban on the entry of Harijans into it. The devotees of Shrinath Temple are Vaishnavs and also those who believe in Vaishnav religion.

[*English*]

He has categorically said that there is no ban on the entry of Harijans in the Nathdwara Temple. So, that is the position. (*Interruptions*.)

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: I have not received the reply.

MR. SPEAKER: About what?

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: I am asking the Minister to take over the temple and appoint a Harijan as priest. (*Interruptions*.)

MR. SPEAKER: No, Yes, Mr. Jaipal Reddy.

(*Interruptions*.)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether it is true that instead of arresting the Shankaracharya of Puri, they had arrested Swami Agnivesh and his Harijan followers while they were going to the Nathdwara temple? What are the reasons therefor?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: Shri Shankaracharya has denied his own statement. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: At least try to listen. You are not accustomed to listening.

[*English*]

How do I know it?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: The second thing is, two persons in Rajasthan had gone to the court (*Interruptions*) and it is also pending in the Supreme Court against Shri Shankaracharya. It is subjudice now and we are just watching what is the judgment of the Supreme Court and the other court. So, it has already gone to the court.

MR. SPEAKER: We cannot allow discrimination.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: We cannot allow discrimination.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I asked the question about Swami Agnivesh. It is part of the question.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Don't make a noise.

[*English*]

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: This country is not governed by the preachings of people like Shri Shankaracharya. It is our country which is supreme. In this country there is no untouchability, Shankaracharya or no Shankaracharya. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: What about Swami Agnivesh?

MR. SPEAKER: He has asked about Swami Agnivesh.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: Government has given all protection to

Swami Agnivesh. But, while he was going, there was some stone-pelting and there was tension and Section 144 was promulgated. In the Mandir area also, there were demonstrations and 1,000 or 2,000 people and gathered. Seeing all these things, the State Government thought it wise just not to allow him to go further. He was persuaded not to proceed further as there may be internal law and order situation.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: This is because of the class character of this Government (*Interruptions*). It is unfortunate that after 40 years of independence, Swami Agnivesh has not entered the temple. I am putting the supplementary. It is unfortunate after 40 years of independence, Swami Agnivesh had to take a march to enter the temple. (*Interruptions*) Has the Government of Rajasthan done everything to enable him to enter into the temple? May I know whether it has been taken up with the Government of Rajasthan and action has been taken against the Government of Rajasthan?

MR. SPEAKER: It is all irrelevant.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is enough.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Strike by Tamil Nadu Government Employees and Teachers

*204. DR. DATTA SAMANT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government employees and teachers were on strike recently;

(b) if so, details of their demands; and

(c) the steps taken to settle the dispute?