

I would like to ask the Prime Minister about the truth of this statement.

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** Thumba will be utilized for some things and Sriharkota will be utilized for other things.

**Prime Minister's meeting with leaders of opposition on crimes against Harijans**

\*150. **SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a general agreement emerged in the meeting held by the Prime Minister with the leaders of the opposition on crimes against the Harijans and law and order problems on the 20th, July 1978;

(b) if so, the nature of the general agreement; and

(c) the follow-up action thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL):** (a) to (c). There was general agreement on the following points in the meeting held by the Prime Minister with the Leaders of the opposition on the 20th July, 1978.

(i) There is need for the political parties to take up a crusade against untouchability and awaken social consciousness among the people in favour of removal of all social discriminations;

(ii) Every incident of atrocity on Harijans should be dealt with firmly and effectively. There is need for the State Governments to further tighten up their administrative and Police Machinery in this regard and to implement the suggestions offered to them by the Centre from time to time; and

(iii) In those cases of major incidents of atrocities against Harijans where it is felt that the State Government has not taken effective follow-up action, an all-party Parliamentary delegation might visit

the place of occurrence for making an on-the-spot enquiry.

These were communicated by the Prime Minister to Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories. They have welcomed these suggestions and have assured us to deal with every incident of atrocity on Harijans firmly and effectively. However, some State Governments have some reservations about the desirability of sending a Parliamentary delegation for making an on-the-spot enquiry.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Sir, may I draw the attention of the Prime Minister himself to certain suggestions, observations made by the Leaders of Opposition and other groups regarding the steps to be taken to tackle the problem, namely, whether Special Courts could be established for speedy trial of offences committed against the Harijans; whenever available, Harijan officers should be posted to deal with cases of atrocities on Harijans; and whether fire arms licences could be suspended/cancelled in areas which are specially prone to atrocities on Harijans even though there may be no substantive case made out against the licences concerned individually? I have read out from the note circulated by the Prime Minister's Office to the Members of the Opposition. When all these things are there, whether the Prime Minister took those suggestions, observations made by the Leaders of the Opposition to the Chief Ministers of the States when they met in the conference. If so, what has been the specific reply or specific steps taken by the State Governments with regard to those suggestions made by the Leaders of the Opposition?

**SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL:** Sir these points which the hon. Member had just now read out were agreed upon and discussed in the Chief Ministers' Conference. As far as the reaction of the Chief Ministers regarding Special Courts for speedy trial is concerned, generally the Chief Ministers were in disagreement except the Chief Minister of Bihar. The Chief

Minister of Bihar, of course, agrees to it. He also made a suggestion that if there is any need to make some amendment in the CRPC or even in the Constitution, that should be done. But barring the Chief Minister of Bihar other Chief Ministers were not in agreement with this. Then regarding other points, all the Chief Ministers were agreed on all the points.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Now the question that arise is whether the Government of India has taken pains to see that all the points on which the Chief Ministers had agreed have really been given effect to. If so, whether there is any statement or report with regard to this with the Government of India. Whether it is also a fact that these atrocities on Harijans are related primarily to the question of land dispute. If so, what particular steps have been taken by the Government of India in the matter of land reforms, particularly with regard to weaker sections of the community?

**SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL:** We are very serious that these suggestions which were made and agreed upon are implemented. Therefore, I have taken it in right earnest and I am holding conferences with the State Governments. I myself go there to review all these things.

Recently I had gone to Bombay and held a Conference of the official there i.e. officials of Maharashtra and Gujarat. I had also gone to Lucknow where I had held a Conference with the officers of the adjoining States. I am also going to Bihar on 15th and 16th to review this.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Why are the land dispute between Harijans and non-harijans not resolved?

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI):** These are matters for the States to consider and the States are being constantly reminded about it.

श्री राजेश्वरी राज : प्रधान मंत्री, सरकार ने जो वादा किया है, वह संवर्धन में सरकार से पूरका जाएगा

इस विषय में मुख्य मंत्री के बीच-बीच में हरिजनों के साथ जो प्रशासनिक व्यवहार हुआ है, क्या उस की जांच के लिए जो प्राय कोई एक नहीं योजना बाहरी है या नहीं ?

**MR. SPEAKER:** That is being discussed separately.

(Interruptions)

**SHRI B. RACHAIAH:** Is Government aware of the fact that cases are pending for the last six years in many of the States with regard to the atrocities committed on Harijans by others? If so, will he instruct the State Governments or have a discussion with the State Governments to speed up disposal of these cases with the help of the judiciary by their fixing up some dates to accord priorities in the disposal of these cases by the courts?

**SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL:** This matter was taken up in the Chief Ministers Conference and it was decided that Chief Justices of High Courts and Supreme Court should be taken into confidence so that courts are set up and cases are expeditiously disposed of.

**Production and prices of controlled Cloth**

\*152. **SHRI KACHARULAL HEMRAJ JAIN:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of controlled cloth produced during the years 1977-78 and 1978-79 upto 31-10-1978 by the textile mills and the mills run by National Textile Corporation, separately;

(b) the price range of the controlled cloth;

(c) whether any increase in price of controlled cloth has been allowed since April, 1977; and

(d) the extent of increase allowed each time and the justification thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI):**

(a) Production of controlled cloth by mills under the management of