

Bill to the vote of the House. The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the inclusion of certain tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in relation to the State of Karnataka, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and Long Title stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SITARAM KESRI : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

WEAKER SECTIONS OF THE SOCIETY IN THE COUNTRY

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up further consideration of the motion moved by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan on 13th August, 1991.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Members that we have discussed this motion for 5 hours and 53 minutes. There is a large list of Members who want to speak on this motion. We have allotted five hours or eight hours or ten hours to Ministries also. So, we shall have to decide how much time we should give to this motion. This is an important motion no doubt. But then we have the limitation of the time also. May I request that this motion has to be completed today—may be within 45 minutes' time but not more than that.

Then, we shall take up the drought and the flood matter also which has been pending on the list for a pretty long time. The Demand of the Industries Ministry, for which eight hours were given, is being postponed. We should take up the Demands of the Ministries also. I hope the Members will understand the time constraint and will cooperate. Mr. Shyam Lal Kamal was on his feet. He may please speak.

SHRI SHYAM LAL KAMAL (Basti) : Honourable Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other day, I was dealing with the national problem of atrocities on Harijans.

25.14 hrs.

MOTION RE. ATROCITIES BEING COMMITTED ON THE SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER

In continuing that discussion, I would like to bring to the notice of the House, the Governments at the Centre and the State that adequate funds have been given for the development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, as the Budget has permitted. But I am sorry to convey my views that about 50 per cent of the grants is eaten away and devoured by the demon of corruption. Hardly 25 to 30 per cent reaches the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who are actually in need of it. The village touts who pose themselves as helpers of these Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes mislead them and cheat them. The actual beneficiary is not the member of the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe. Moreover, he has to bear the burden of all the loans that are given to him.

When some of the Scheduled Caste people, who want to get some loan for setting up some small scale or cottage industry, approach the banks, 10 per cent of the loan which they demand is taken away by way of commission straight away. And those who do not pay the commission, are not given loan with the result that the small scale and cottage industries suffer and actually perish and the liability is entirely borne by such Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs who want to come up and face the burden of society by way of removal of economic poverty.

Sir, there is a very subtle and queer method of committing atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes by the educated people, particularly, those who are in Government service.

Firstly, an imbalance is created by declaring the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as inefficient and unsuitable. But the Government has given avenues and provided a chance for their promotion from grade to grade. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who are dealt with by their senior officers, are not given justice. Their character rolls are spoiled at the time of promotion, some type of inquiries are instituted and it is said that since some inquiry is pending against them, they will not get promotion. This type of atrocity is being committed by higher class Government servants in a very subtle manner. The result is that now the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Employees Unions are perishing. There is voice of dissatisfaction amongst them. They are not actually appreciating good work or the grant or the help that is given and they are revolting against the Government because of such corrupt practices.

Sir, the political reason for atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is also not unknown. When the election comes, a search is made for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe officers and they are posted in districts, particularly so in the case of District Magistrates and Superintendent of Police. After the elections, for one cause or the other, within four to six months, they are removed from district. Only a few are allowed to continue in the district, so

that there may not be any complaint in the press or in political circles. Before the elections, it is shown as if 20 per cent quota is fulfilled. And after the elections, hardly 8 to 10 per cent are allowed to stay in the district and the rest are transferred to unimportant posts.

With regard to recruitment, I know a case in Lucknow District.

MR. SPEAKER : No please. Please do not go into all those details. I have a long list of speakers and time is very short. Please do not quote stories and cases. Come to principles and policies.

SHRI SHYAM LAL KAMAL : Generally, I do not do it Sir. But this is a very pertinent issue.

Sir, one Scheduled Caste person topped the list in the competitive examination. But when the recruitment was actually made, the person who stood second was enlisted, the Scheduled Caste person was denied a chance. A lawyer in Basti district was given a licence to run a petrol pump. The district supply officer asked him to go and start his sales. But after three days, he raided that man and caught hold of that man. The petrol pump is closed for the last five years. He is not given a permission. Nor has a denial been made that he could not run the petrol pump and that he could dispose of it. He invested lakhs of rupees in it.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI SHYAM LAL KAMAL : Sir, I visited Andhra Pradesh very recently and with regard to atrocities committed there, I would like to cast some reflections on the district administration including the police. On 7-7-1991, a Harijan boy touched the feet of a . .

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now. There is no time for all this.

SHRI SHYAM LAL KAMAL : There was another case on 9-7-91. The boy's father was beaten up on 4-8-91. A girl was molested on 5-8-91. Then a Harijan boy was beaten up. Section 144 was in force, but no arrests were made. Police were satisfied by simply registering a case.

MR. SPEAKER : You have to finish in one minute's time.

SHRI SHYAM LAL KAMAL : Sir, I would stress upon the need to improve the performance of the police. The Third National Commission on Police made some recommendations which were very valuable. The recommendations should be implemented to make police efficient.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Now, what Shri Sonkar Shastri speaks only goes on record.

SHRI SHYAM LAL KAMAL : I am sitting, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. I express my gratitude to you for having given me an opportunity to speak. However, I am constrained

to say that you are allowing me a very limited time. Incidents of atrocities on Scheduled Castes are taking place all over the country but I do not want to go into the details of these incidents so as to observe the time limit which you have fixed. Incidents of atrocities have been many and my friends have dealt with all these in detail during the course of their submission. Sir, I would only confine myself to the root cause of these incidents. Many Hon. Members have expressed their views in the House by making repeated references to these incidents. Flowing speeches are delivered, detailed figures are presented all sorts of questions are asked to which the Hon. Home Minister gives replies and with that the matter ends. So far as my parliamentary experience goes, I can say that hitherto only 3-4 hours used to be allotted for discussion on this subject, but it is heartening to note that you have allowed three days for this discussion. Already we have had discussion for many hours on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the course of their submission, the Hon. Members have said that the main reason for atrocities on the people belonging to Scheduled Castes is economic. A number of friends have said that if untouchables are given economic powers and thereby made prosperous, atrocities on them would automatically stop. There are some other who said that these atrocities would come to an end only by giving them political power. But in my view, the main reason for atrocities on them is social.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am trying to be very particular about the time that has been allotted to me, but I must place an example before you. Babu Jagjivan Ram was the Member of this House in 1977 and at that time he occupied a very high position. He was the Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister. As all know, he was economically well off. But when he was invited to unveil the statue of Dr. Sampurnanand in Banaras, he was greeted at the airport with the slogans—“Jaggu Chamar Vapas Jayo, Vapas Jayo. Juta Polish Kaun Karega—Chamar Karega, Chamar Karega”. When we reached the place of function and Shri Jagjivan Ram moved forwards the statue to unveil it, shoes and chappals were thrown at him and slogans were raised—“Jagjivan Ram Vapas Jayo, Vapas Jayo, Juta Polish Kaun Karega—Chamar Karega, Chamar Karega”. “Dilli se Chamda laya sandesh, Bhains charaya Ram laya sandesh, Bhains charaye Ram Naresh was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one more thing I want to say. The Home Minister has left the House. I do not know where he has gone? He should have been present in the House to listen to this debate as it concerns atrocities on Harijans which is a very important issue. Sir, the Kashi-Vishwanath Temple

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA
(Andaman and Nicobar); Shri Raju
Vilas Paswan is also not present here.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: You leave Ram Vilas Paswan. We do not want him to be present here as he is no more the Minister. We want the Home Minister to be present here. I do not want to be dragged into this controversy. This is a very important issue. We do not raise any objections when the issue relating to the temple is discussed. But if you happen to visit Vishwanath Temple in Kashi, you will find that the words "Achhut ka Mandir mein pravesh varjit hai" (Untouchables are not allowed entry in the temple). Sir let me give you another example concerning the same temple. Gold ornaments were stolen from the temple. When this theft came to light, a lot of hue and cry was raised. Our opinion was sought, press people's opinion was sought in the matter. We told them that since theft has taken place, thieves should be punished. Government should take swift action to nab the thieves. Thereafter, Kashi Naresh (the ex-ruler of erstwhile princely State of Kashi) issued a statement in which he said that the temple has lost its divinity and that he stopped visiting the temple some 25-26 years back. Through the columns of the local newspapers I asked Maharaj Kashi Naresh to tell whether the temple had lost its divinity 25-26 years ago when Harijans entered the temple?

Sir, I would like to narrate an incident that took place in this House. One 1008 Shri Lakshmananand Ji Brahmchari issued a statement in the newspapers that Rajnath Sonkar

Shastri had no right to ask such a question because he is a Shudra. He further illustrated his statement by saying that as a she-deer cannot give birth to a cub, similarly Rajnath Sonkar Shastri's mother being a Shudra cannot give birth to a learned person. Thereupon, I gave a notice of privilege motion in this House, and the matter was referred to the Privileges Committee. But there too casteism played its role.

15.30 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (in the Chair)]

Sir, I am constrained to say that matter of privilege was not pursued further and then we had to take it up vigorously. When 1008 Shri Lakshmananand Ji Maharaj was to come to Delhi himself, we told him that we have lakhs of followers in Delhi, he begged pardon.

Sir, as I said the reasons for atrocities on Harijans may be economic and political, but the main reason is untouchability. The reason is, therefore, more of social nature than economic. As long as the Home Minister and for that matter any Government does not solve this problem, atrocities on Harijans would continue to be committed. I was listening to the speeches of Shri Buta Singh and Shri Sita Ram Kesri. I am glad to note that they said in their speeches that these issues should not be politicised. But I must say that, whenever discussion on Scheduled Castes take place, it has become a fashion in the

House to say that politics should not be dragged into it and that the speeches should be objective. But ultimately all sort of politics is dragged into it. If we go through the initial part of Shri Bata Singh's speech, we shall find that he had said that this issue should not be politicised and we should make our submission with an open mind. Shri Sita Ram Kesri's speech was no exception. He levelled an allegation against Shri Paswan and when the latter came out with a prompt reply, it created a storm. Thereafter the issue took a political colour. Sir, the discussion which takes place here is purely political. When facts and figures are presented, it is said that "time is limited, there are other speakers too and their list is long." Sir, keeping in view the long list . . . do not ring the bell, I have to speak for 40 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please continue, but I told you in the beginning that you would get five minutes.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Sir, there is a village named Naripattudevra in Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh under Nandganj police station. An incident took place in this village 3-4 months back. What happened was that a boy working as a T.C. in the railways and dressed in pants and coat was passing through the village. He was accosted by some people who asked them as to why he was wearing pants and coat? He was asked to take off his pant and coat. All the people of the Mohalla gathered there and some of

them started making speeches. Arguments and counter-arguments followed with the result the arguments became so hot that the entire village was burnt down. Breast nipples of two Harijan women were cut with sword in that village. Though F.I.R. was lodged with the police station, yet no action has been taken so far. The Government says that there is Untouchability Act to take care of such incidents. The Hon. Minister is present here. I would like to ask him as to how many people were punished under the Untouchability Act during the last 45 years—India's post independence era. I would like to know as to how many people have so far been punished under the Untouchability Act? Babu Jagjivan Ram was the Defence Minister. Sampurnanand statue unveiling episode received worldwide headlines, but why did the Government fail to register a case under the Untouchability Act despite the fact that he was a member of the Union Cabinet? Today when murders of and atrocities on Harijans have become a daily routine, why don't the police register cases under the Untouchability Act? Sir, these are very strange issues. I do not want to go into them, but I am constrained to say that these atrocities are increasing at such a pace that it is difficult even to imagine it.

There was a character in Ramayan by the name of Shambook. He was beheaded and still today we say that Shambook was beheaded. In the modern times, thousand of Shambooks are beheaded despite the existence of so many laws. I do not know

whether any law existed during Rama-
yan era, but now that Act is there
why Shambook is not saved from
being beheaded ?

We come across another character
named Eklavya in Mahabharat. His
thumb was chopped off and today we
repeat saying that his thumb was
chopped off. What happened in
Tsundur recently ? Shri Paswan was
saying that hands and feet of many
were chopped off, but in a matter of
few days, the case would be hushed
up and nothing would come out of it.
Sir, therefore, mere lectures will not
serve any purpose. Our colleagues
claim that they are renouncers. They
talk of renunciation but such a renun-
ciation will not solve any problem.
All the people who claim that they
are leaders and social reformers,
change their colour just like a chame-
leon. There is a need to curb this
practice also. The most important
thing is that we shall have to go into
the depth of each and every issue and
see what is the problem and its root
cause. I would like to present some
suggestions in this regard.

We had already said that this pro-
blem is exclusively a social problem
and we shall have to clear our con-
science first in order to solve this
problem. I would like to quote an
example. In Meerut there was a Hari-
jan called Kaidas. He had been ailing
for a long time. On his way to collect
medicine, he fell down because of
fainting or something else, and he died
there and there. His dead body was
lying there for three days. There was

nobody to pick up his corpse from
that place. Some Christians were living
nearby. Shri Khurana please listen.
In Meerut, the Christians picked up
the dead body and carried it away
and when they started the process of
burial according to their customs,
some Hindus, people of Bharatiya
Janata Party reached there and started
saying that he was a Hindu and his
dead body should be handed over to
them. Christians returned the dead
body but as soon as they found that
they had no money to purchase the
wood etc. for his last rites, they left
the corpse as it was. I am quoting the
reports published in the *Blitz*. On the
one hand the Government is saying
that the Harijans are our own people
but how do you claim that they are
your people. Today, if somebody
tries to adopt Islam religion, such
charges are leveled that money is flow-
ing in from foreign countries and Arab
countries, and on the basis of that
money people are being converted as
Mohamdans. But we do not assess
our deeds. If some body is embracing
Islam, what is the reason behind it.
Even today, if some Harijan bride-
groom is passing while mounted on a
mare, the result is 'Kafara' episode.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, therefore, un-
less we follow certain rules and unless
we implement these rules, such atro-
cities will not cease to exist. I am
going to quote certain instances at
I hope that the Hon. Home Minister
will think over them.

Firstly, all the cases related to Hari-
jans and Scheduled Castes should be

brought directly under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Merely saying so that it is a State subject, will not serve any purpose. It is not a state subject. It is a matter directly related to the Central Government. Home Ministry should be directly responsible for it.

Secondly, whenever atrocities are committed on the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Home Minister should give the Statements twice in the House. As soon as any incident occurs, the Home Minister should give his first statement immediately after happening of the incident and inform the House that incidents have taken place at Tsundur and Farrukhabad, and these were the reasons, behind them. After a month or so, the Home Minister must make another statement in the House stating the action taken in the matter following that particular incident; and the House should be apprised of the specific information about the punishment awarded to the culprits responsible for the incident. When the Minister will make the statements twice in the House, the action will automatically begin, whereas in case of only one statement the case is hushed up in infancy.

Thirdly, I would like to state when Belchhi incident occurred, the then Prime Minister mounted on an elephant went to that village immediately following the incident. Fourteen people were killed in that incident. The people, who are sitting there this time, used to sit here that time. That time, Chowdhary Charan Singh ji was the Home Minister. That time it was

said that special courts would be set up for quick disposal of cases. When atrocities were committed on Harijans in Belchhi, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had said that the cases should be decided quickly and for this purpose, special courts should be constituted. I would like to ask the Home Minister through you as to how many special courts were constituted and the number of people against whom action has been taken on the basis of that report. We want a reply from the Home Minister. If the Home Minister is unable to reply at present, he can inform us about the facts and figures in this regard after a month or after 15—20 days. Mr. Chairman, please do, not ring the bell for a moment, I will take two-three minutes more.

Mr. Chairman, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Ram Lal Rahi is not present here. Shri Rahi had given a statement to the Press that arms licences should not be issued in the country now. What he has said in his statement is not possible. The licences for arms will continue to be issued and the people will demand licences for guns and you shall have to issue the same. But I would like to submit to you that at the time of issuing licences for the gun, the Home Minister should ensure that 100 or 200 gun licences out of one or two thousand gun licences should also be issued to Harijans. I am not giving any definite figures in this regard, the Government can fix the quota itself as it deems proper. Sir, one might ask a question when

a person belonging to Scheduled Caste, is not able to get food; how he can afford a gun, wherefrom he can get Rs. 40 thousand for purchasing a pistol. In this connection, I would submit when you are providing them scholarships, so many grants, and other assistance etc., and spending crores of Rupees in this way, digging wells, setting up industries for them why subsidy cannot be provided to them for purchasing guns and pistols. What is the hitch in doing so?

Sir, now I will say something about Indian Penal Code. There are so many lacunae in it. If a Harijan is killed, the case under section 302 will not be registered, instead a case under sections 166, 148 and 149 will be registered alongwith section 302, but the case will not be registered exclusively under section 302; If there is a dispute with a Harijan, action will be taken against him under section 107, 116 and he will be arrested under section 157 and 15—20 people from one particular side will be arrested, while only one or two persons from the other side will be detained. In this case, action will be taken under section 323 and it will be taken only when S.P. issues the orders. Sir, my submission is when action is taken under section 323, it does not require the order of S.P. The action should be delinked with the SP's orders.

(Interruptions) Sir, the role of Police is also doubtful now. They are not playing their role properly. If atrocities are committed at particular place and if Police reaches there within 24 hours, or even in 36 hours, still it is

a consoling factor. There are instances where police arrives after 72 hours and at certain places and in certain cases police does not go even after a year and a half and no action is taken on this report. Therefore, my submission is that, there should be some such arrangements through which Police may arrive on the spot very quickly.

Sir, every Government irrespective of the party, gives an assurance that wherever atrocities are committed on Harijans, the Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate of the concerned area would be dismissed. When Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav Government came to power in U.P. he also gave the same assurance and the subsequent Government also claims the same thing. But the whole process is only on papers, and when atrocities are committed, these assurances are only repeated once again, and nothing is done in real sense. Therefore, I would say that the difference between words and deeds should be wiped off. It should be reviewed and implemented immediately.

Sir, there is already a Harijan Cell. Its function is to investigate. When the case is sent to S.H.O. after investigation, he does not file a suite. He says that S.P. did not render any help to them. Therefore, I would request the Hon. Home Minister that this Harijan Cell should be given such a power as it can investigate the cases itself, and register a report, file a case in the court, and pursue the same in the court. Unless it is done, atrocities on Harijans will never be ended.

Sir, I wo'nt go into the Report of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission. It is the Report of an office. Such Reports usually come. If you give all the powers to the commission, it wo'nt fetch any particular gain. The atrocities on Harijans are being committed because of land disputes also. There are land disputes everywhere. In view of these disputes a decision was taken that barren and infertile land should be distributed among the Harijans. But actually how many persons got possession of this land. For giving possession action has to be taken under 198(4). I belong to Uttar Pradesh and I know that this has not been done. If you can tell me that this has been done under 198(4) even in one district—be it Benaras, Ghazipur, Jaunpur or any other, I would think that the enactment of law has served a purpose. I challenge no police officer has ever taken any action under 198(4) in my village. It is only on papers.

I would like to conclude by saying only one thing. Everyday we hear about reservation for Scheduled Castes. I will not go into the details as to who is guilty or what should be the percentage of reservation etc. I may tell you that backlog of the quota of reservation has not been filled even till today. It will not be filled because your intention is not clear. Earlier it was said that Harijans are not available. When they became available, it was said they were not suitable. When they became suitable, they said they are not capable. When the Harijans became capable it

was said they are not trustable. Even after that many many "ables" would be added.

I may tell you that an interview is being conducted in Benaras Hindu University. I received a phone call yesterday that about forty candidates of Scheduled Castes having first class are being interviewed by different departments of the University. I have already informed Kesariji and Arjun Singhji about it. Paswanji is sitting here. When his party was in power I had informed him also. He called his Secretary and dictated a letter. That letter was dumped there and the matter ended. Forty persons are being interviewed and in a University where there are four thousand lecturers and Professors only three belonging to Scheduled Castes are there. You would see for yourself that not even one would be selected out of these forty candidates. I will resign from my seat in the Parliament if it is otherwise. Our leaders shed crocodile tears on the plight of Harijans. They give long lectures but when they are in a position to help they forget their duty.

There is no reservation for Scheduled Castes in any legislative council, whether it is Uttar Pradesh or any other State. Not even a single person belonging to Scheduled Caste has got elected to the legislative Council on the basis of reservation but still our leaders say they are champions of the cause of Scheduled Castes. Same is true of Rajya Sabha. No provision has been made in the Constitution for the Scheduled Castes so that they can get

elected to Rajya Sabha or Legislative Council.

Shri Charan Singh got a person belonging to the Scheduled Caste elected to the Legislative Council in 1977. If your party has done something similar, it deserves to be congratulated. At least a serious thought should be given in this direction. (*Interruptions*) Some of my friends are trying to justify. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding. My friends are right in saying that they have already implemented reservation but I would like to tell them that will they remove the name plate displayed outside Vishwanath temple which says that untouchables . . . (*Interruptions*) . . . that name plate should be removed from the premises of Vishwanath temple, now that they are going ahead with the construction of Ramjanambhoomi temple in Ayodhya. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK : We will go with you there and stage a 'Satyagraha'.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : I would like to submit here that the matter of atrocities on Scheduled Castes is a serious matter. We should not indulge in allegations and counter allegations or try to justify. If proper attention is not paid in this regard, the situation may deteriorate.

When Mahatma Gandhi had given the name of Harijan to these classes, Dr. Ambedkar had said in the House that he wants to ask one question from Mahatma Gandhi. He said if

Harijan means children of God, then are those sitting in this House children of devil. Many people got irritated at that time. Loud protests were made against this remark. Today we try to justify when the matter of Harijans is raised. The matter is ridiculed. Allegations and counter allegations are made. I would like to submit that merely levelling allegations and counter allegations will not serve the purpose. We should have good intentions and try to implement the suggestions made from time to time for the upliftment of Harijans, by rising above petty political considerations. A question was raised in this regard in the morning and the Government had given some suggestions. Unless serious thought is given to these suggestions atrocities will continue to be committed against Harijans and one day India will become a butchery for Harijans. Then Harijans will be forced to embrace Islam and Christianity. It would be said thereafter that there is politics in it. Muslims are getting people converted and money power is being used. Similarly, Christians are luring people by money. I mean to say that the matter is very serious and it should be taken seriously.

I have put a few questions to the Hon. Home Minister and would like him to reply whenever it is convenient to him. But he must reply to them.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I now allow the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism Shri Madhav Rao Scindia to make a statement regarding the tragic

air crash of Indian Airlines plane near Imphal, Manipur on the 16th August, 1991.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, it is rumoured that he is resigning taking moral responsibility of the accident.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Accident of Indian Air Lines Aircraft near Imphal

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, It is with deep anguish that I report to the House on the air crash at Imphal, Manipur on the 16th August, 1991 which claimed sixty nine precious lives. As the House was not in session till today, I could not make this statement earlier.

2. The illfated Boeing 737 aircraft of the Indian Airlines was on a scheduled flight IAC-257 from Calcutta to Imphal direct on 16th August, 1991. It was under the command of Capt. S. Halder with Capt. D. B. Roy Chowdhury as the Co-pilot. Besides four airhostesses, there were sixty two passengers and one infant on board the aircraft. The flight had left Calcutta on time at 11.52 hours and was scheduled to arrive at Imphal at 12.55 hours.

At 12.41 hours, the aircraft had been cleared by the Air Traffic Control (ATC) Imphal to make an Instrument Landing System (ILS) approach. The prescribed visibility minima for

ILS landing at the Imphal airport is two kilometres whereas the visibility at that time was seven kilometres.

At 12.45 hours, i.e. five to seven minutes approximately before the landing, the aircraft had reported to the ATC, Imphal that it was commencing procedure turn at 5000 feet for the ILS landing. This was the last contact between the aircraft and the Air Traffic Control (ATC) and thereafter no contact could be established by the ATC with the aircraft. The ATC had asked two other aircraft of Indian Airlines—an Airbus A320 which was just airborne and a Boeing 737 which was due to depart from Imphal at that time to establish contact with the aircraft, but they also could not do so.

In accordance with the prescribed procedure, ATC Imphal initiated search and rescue operations for the missing aircraft around 13.10 hours. The assistance of the Air Force and para-military organisations in the area was called for to search for the missing aircraft. However, bad weather conditions for helicopter operations and difficult terrain hampered the search and rescue effort. It was only around 17.00 hours that a wireless message was received from the State Administration that the aircraft had crashed in the Thangjing hills about twenty five miles South-West of the Imphal airport.

As night landing facilities are not available at the Imphal airport, I flew to Calcutta the same evening and from there reached Imphal by 7 a.m. on the 7th August 1991 by a special plane accompanied by senior officials of the

Ministry, DGCA and the Indian Airlines. We also took with us about 65 relatives and friends of the passengers of the accident flight. I stayed at Imphal for two days and have returned last night only after ensuring that all possible assistance has been given to the relatives and friends of the passengers and all possible steps have been taken to recover the dead bodies and hand them over to the next of kin.

Nearly 300 relatives and friends of the passengers had come to Imphal. Despite the limited facilities available at Imphal, special care was taken to provide them with proper accommodation to meet their other requirements. A control room was also established at the place of their stay to cater to their needs and to disseminate latest information on the progress of evacuation. Besides aerial surveys of the wreckage site and several visits to the base camp of the evacuation operations, I had frequent meetings with the relatives and friends of the passengers to keep them apprised of the evacuation efforts and to allay their apprehensions. I had also visited the families of some of the passengers in and around Manipur to offer my condolences.

I have surveyed the site of the crash from the helicopter as it is not possible for the helicopter to land in its vicinity. The wreckage of the aircraft is strewn over a very steep slope of the hills in a densely forested area. It is possible to reach the site on foot only after five to six hours of arduous trekking from the foot hills. Continuous rains

had also made the terrain slushy and difficult to negotiate. These factors rendered the evacuation of the dead bodies to Imphal a formidable task. While all the bodies have been recovered, some of them are difficult to be identified. I should commend the diligent efforts of the Air Force and the para-military organisations in the evacuation operations. I should also make a special mention of the help given by volunteers from the nearby villages and Imphal, including the students from the Mountaineering School in the evacuation efforts. The State Government also rendered valuable assistance.

In accordance with the existing regulations in the matter, Indian Airlines will pay a compensation of Rs. 5 lakhs for each adult deceased passenger and Rs. 2.50 lakhs for the deceased infant in the accident.

The accident aircraft VT-EFL was purchased by Indian Airlines on 28th November, 1977 and was fitted with Dash 17A engines of Pratt and Whitney. Till the date of the crash, the aircraft had logged 29,727 hours and 33,570 landings.

Capt. S. Halder, the commander of the aircraft, had joined Indian Airlines on 22nd May, 1985. Prior to the accident, he had 3533 hours of total flying experience of which 1115 hours was as pilot in command of Boeing 737 aircraft. Capt. D. B. Roy Chowdhury, the co-pilot, had joined Indian Airlines on 24th February, 1989 and had 1197 hours of flying experience as Co-pilot of a Boeing 737 aircraft.

The Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) of the aircraft has been recovered while the Flight Data Recorder (FDR) is still to be recovered.

In accordance with the Aircraft Rules, 1937, the DGCA has appointed an Inspector of Accidents to investigate the accident. The DGCA officials have visited the crash site. While the departmental investigation has thus been started, I have already announced that a Court of Inquiry under a sitting Judge of the Calcutta or Guwahati High Court will be appointed shortly to investigate the cause of the accident. Necessary action is being taken in this regard.

The sorrow we feel on this tragedy cannot be described in words. Our hearts go out to the relatives whose grief we share. I am sure the Hon'ble Members join me in these sentiments.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): How many bodies could be identified in the meantime?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No questions are allowed. You can have a discussion, if you want.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): Calcutta airport falls in my Constituency. An air hostess has died who is my neighbour.

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA: Out of 60 bodies, 56 are identified. Nine are still on their way to post-mortem.

16. 01 hrs.

Motions Re. Atrocities being Committed on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the society—contd.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIBU SOREN (Dumka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on atrocities being committed on tribals and Harijans. Incidence of Tsundur village in Andhra Pradesh, is not the first of its kind, but such incidents have occurred on many occasions in the past also and will continue to take place in future. This is the reason for continuation of debate in this regard for three days in the august House. Shedding of crocodile tears and speech making is not going to pull down curtain on atrocities on tribals. I am also a tribal and many times have been the victim of such atrocities. For sale of land in Santhal Pargana and Chhota Nagpur, SPT Act and CNT Act respectively are in force. These laws were enacted by the Britishers, but after independence the Government has not paid any attention to the land left under these laws. At the sites of mines and factories, outsiders forcibly take possession of land in collusion with the administration. Through notification the Government acquires 100 acres of land at a time by acquiring 1-2 acre of land of villagers. People are neither paid compensation, nor offered alternative source of employment. This is the main reason of resentment. Forests for cultivation are cleared by tribals and the cunning people become owner of that land

forcibly in connivance with the administration resulting discontentment among the masses. Under the SPT Act in force in Santhal Pargana, neither the land can be exchanged for nor can be disposed off. The Government auctioned away the land of tribals. Repeatedly such incidents are refuted, but the Government itself is indulging in exploitation. So, how the mere enactment of laws is going to safeguard the interests of tribals.

Surprisingly, it is claimed that with the abolition of casteism, exploitation will meet its own death. Let me tell all of you what happens under these conditions. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs knows the ground realities, as he paid a visit in 1982 to my constituency. At that time it was well known among Harijans and tribals that the children born out of wedlock between nontribal and a tribal girl, would be designated tribals and allowed all the facilities enjoyed by tribals. Sir, non-tribals enter into matrimonial alliance with the tribal working women. After marriage benefits of service available to tribal woman are availed of by both the non-tribal man and his children. Later on the tribal woman is killed, and the death compensation and employment on compensatory grounds are claimed by the non-tribal man. All this treatment is being meted out to tribals. That's why, it is demanded that after marriage the caste of husband should only be the deciding factor and not that of the woman. Surprisingly, in contrast to whole of India being male dominated, in Bihar's Santhal-Pargana and Chhota

Nagpur areas it is mother, who is supreme. Horrible incidents and family quarrels are a common sight, because of claiming right to land on grounds of marrying tribal women. So how can the laws be trusted because these are ineffective there. For no apparent reason 14 tribals of Santhal-Pargana were killed in district Sahebganj. They were killed because of the collusion of police and moneylanders and one of them Father Anthony (Ex-MP) was also killed when he went there for negotiations. After the incident the Government of Bihar ordered an inquiry into the matter and a retired judge Vrishket Narayan Singh was appointed for the purpose who worked in tandem with the administration. This inquiry proved futile and the judge was suitably rewarded. So the tribals do not expect any good even after the completion of everything, because if they rise to safeguard their land, property and honour then the Government officials and administration oppose them tooth and nail.

Sir, in an identical shooting incident in Chaibasa, many persons were killed. Many factories are functioning in my constituency. Print media publishes loud claims made by the Government about progress and provision of employment to the people of my constituency, but I must submit that Jharkhand despite being rich in mineral reserves, is quite poor. Maximum atrocities are committed in my constituency, people are shabbily dressed and are surrounded by jungles. Forests used to offer means of livelihood for six months and all the means

of sustenance, but now due to the policy of the Government these have also vanished. We know how to protect the forests. Tribals never felled timber and fruit trees, but the Government forced them to cut jungles spread over 40, 50 and 1000 acres and in case of refusal they were prosecuted.

Sir, in the name of environment crores of rupees are being taken from America for tree plantation haphazardly. These forests will not be of any use and crores of rupees will go down the drain. All the money is being cornered by officials of the Forests Department and politicians, Let me tell you a fact about forests. If nature's gift forests can't be safeguarded, then how can these be replenished with American assistance. My constituency abounds in factories, but pollution is increasing and people are living like paupers. All the migrants took recourse to residential certificate to secure employment in my constituency. Land of tribals was acquired and jobs were also not offered to them.

Sir, land is a complex issue and all the land acquired from tribals should be handed back to them. For the present state of affairs in the country, people are mobilising themselves and they are mentally prepared for a long drawn struggle and on the other hand struggle is going on in some other form, with the jumping in of traitors in the fray. In my constituency situation is deteriorating fast, people are being killed daily and in the struggle arms are being used freely.

So, the issue of land is a serious one. Cause of all the struggle is the nonpayment of suitable compensation in the matter of exchange of land and the Government should also look into the matter.

Tribals want to protect jungles, but the Government does not give authority for this to them. Officials announce forests to be the property of Government, but even then these are being cut. For protecting jungles views of people living in the vicinity of jungles are not ascertained. Officials of Forest Department—Rangers and DFO etc.—are entrusted with the task of protecting forests who even do not know the names of a few species of plants. With the extinction of forests flora and fauna are also in danger.

Even with the construction of a number of power plants in my area, villages are not electrified and the power scenario is bad. Land of tribals has been acquired, but jobs have not been provided to them. With the concurrence of bureaucracy and officials works are undertaken. Officials do not associate themselves with the common man. All the officials whether they be Deputy Commissioner, S. P. and BDP, consider themselves to be over and above common man. DBOs consider blocks to be their fiefdoms and work accordingly. but the villagers also have their dignity. Enactment of laws will not enhance prestige of harijans and tribals and improve their plight. Villagers do not understand the complexities of prestige, but the people

who understand such things like we, are also treated indifferently. Enactment of laws will not serve any purpose, when the element of sincerity is missing.

Today, if a sub-inspector happens to be a Rajput, he commits atrocities on Harijans and Scheduled Castes. I hail from Chaibasa where an incident took place. The whole incident is being given the colour of communal riot. We tried to stop it. Those involved in such activities are protected by the Government whereas the victims should be given protection. The evil persons get the protection. Same situation prevails everywhere. The officials behave in vanity of their high posts as if they have to continue on their posts for ever. However, after retirement even they are suffering.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a man should have good intentions, all should be equally respected. When all human-beings are equal, they should be respected equally. If the Government acquires the land of the poor for construction of factory buildings their lives at least should be secured. The poor do not wait any compensation. If the money is deposited in Bank, then what is its use when people cannot get the money for hundred years? Our lives should be made secure, medical and educational facilities should be provided. Payment of the price of land would not serve the purpose. Laws are enacted but the deserving people are not benefited. There is a lane according to which Government provides job to those owners of land whose acquired land is more than three

acres. But there are a large number of people who had 2 acres of land and earned their livelihood smoothly, but when their land is acquired by the Government they are not provided any job. Job to a person is provided only when one's acquired land is more than 3 acres and the value of 3 acres of land only Rs. 15000.

Mr. Chairman. Sir, injustice is being done to us in this manner. Merely having a debate on the issue does not solve the problem. Being human beings everybody should be respected whether one is Government servant or farmer. What is the purpose of worshipping the god in the temple? We are tribals and worship trees and nature, but when census is undertaken we will be considered as Hindus. Some are embracing Christianity while others are adopting Muslim religion. The primary reason behind all this is the rift in the society which is creating different relationships and ideas. Time is moving fast today as a result of which there is turmoil everywhere in the country. We believed that injustice was being done in Jharkhand in Bihar. However, we have been astonished to hear about the injustice being done in Andhra Pradesh. How can equality be brought about? Equality could be brought about only through literacy. We have realised that the education policy is erroneous. People of Scheduled tribes and Harijans are very backward. How will they be uplifted? They can be, uplifted neither by pulling through rope nor by making them climb the stairs. Education facilities should be provided to us. Special coaching facilities for

IAS and IPS competitions should be provided to the candidates of SCs and STs. The Government should bear all the expenses on education of the people of Scheduled castes and Scheduled tribes. But this does not happen. Navodaya Vidyalayas and Central Schools are opened, but our children cannot go there. Special facilities should be provided to develop their mental faculties.

The Government incurs huge expenditure on the upliftment of the poor but those who deserve are not benefited. It is a matter of utter displeasure and disappointment. I have been elected as an M.P. for the third term. I speak rarely, but I have struggled a lot. I have faith in fighting. Fighting for the cause can only bring about equality. Special rules should be formulated to provide education to the children belonging to these castes. Many children among them are very brilliant. But they cannot get education and due to lack of good education they fail to get good jobs. If there is no education, there would be no equality. We cannot become big industrialists but we can become at least small shopkeepers. Our land was acquired for setting up Bokaro Steel Plant, but we do not get any piece of land for construction of a shop. The Government allots land for the construction of Co-operative housing colonies. The land purchased at the rate of Rs. 1000 per acre is sold at the rate of Rs. one lakh per acre. Sir, therefore the only alternative is that there should be separate arrangement for the education of the children of

scheduled tribes and Harijans. At least the brilliant students must get education. They can become good officials, engineers and doctors. This will bring about equality. The Government is not capable to formulate a policy or rule to stop this struggle. If somebody hits me I cannot save myself unless I have got the strength to retaliate. With these words I conclude.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :
(Andaman & Nicobar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I regret to say that whenever the atrocities on Harijans cross the limit in a state, or when they are killed or burnt alive or their houses are set ablaze, we bring a resolution in the House, discuss the matter here and we are satisfied that we looked into the matters of the Harijans and the tribals.

The question is that the issue regarding atrocities on Harijans and tribals is being discussed in the House for the last two days. Shri Ram Vilas Ji is one of my best friends, but he is sitting in the wrong place and still he is my friend. He has moved this resolution in the House. I have noticed that he has been feeling quite relaxed since very beginning, but when he has moved the resolution he must also listen to the views of the Members in that regard. I am glad that at the moment he is present in the House.

I would like to say a lot of things on this resolution. If even after 45 years of independence, the houses of Harijans and weaker sections are set on fire, members of SCs and STs and their children are burnt alive—in

whichever state it might be happening, whether it is Andhra Pradesh, Bihar or Uttar Pradesh and atrocities are made on them, it is a matter of great shame for us who have been elected as representatives of the people in the House. It makes us feel ashamed in our country as well as before the world. I am aware of the fact that atrocities have been committed on weaker sections for thousands of years. It is not a matter of only 40—45 years. The social system is such that weaker sections have always been suppressed and atrocities have always been committed on them. We all will have to think collectively over the problem, not from individuals point of view or from election point of view or on political lines. Rather we will have to employ efforts to combine history and culture in a social acceptable manner in order to take the country ahead. Majority of the rural people in our country are from weaker sections. It is a simple fact that if we fail to take these sections ahead our country cannot make progress. There cannot be two opinions about it. Today TV and radio are the modern media. Newspapers are published not only in Delhi but at state and district levels also. Science and technology have made tremendous progress. With the use of such a technology, newspapers are published and extensive information is made available to the people. Earlier all the facts did not come to light whenever atrocities were committed. But today the situation is different. We get opportunity to look into the atrocities which are committed. Therefore we must pay our atten-

tion to find out a way so that all of us cooperate to check these atrocities. I have often heard people saying that the congress party was in power for so many years and they are responsible for such a state of affairs. Whenever we get an opportunity, we also speak against them. But making allegations and counter-allegations will not serve any purpose. There should be a strong feeling among the people belonging to cross sections of the society, the educated, unemployed educated, weaker sections, the backward and the higher classes that we are all Indians and this is our country and we have to boost its image and prestige before the world. For this purpose a social movement must be started and this movement is not to be organised by a single party but by the participation of all parties. They should constitute a joint forum. The members of the forum would go to people and speak to them so as to remove the evils. A resolve will have to be made to bring a psychological change in the society. All the laws framed in this country are being proved ineffective because we do not implement them in the right earnest. We are here to enact laws, but these are not being implemented. Unless we come to realise that it is our duty to protect the weaker sections, their interests cannot be safeguarded. We have to deal with these problems very boldly. But since we lack such initiatives, we come across these incidents.

The hon. Minister is sitting here now. I would like to tell him that when a

person approaches the Government with an application about certain difficulties, the Government keeps quiet. But when the situation erupts and people take recourse to violence, the Government is woken up and offers to hold talks with all to find out solution to that problem. But by that time it becomes too late to find a solution. In this connection I would like to submit that whenever a problem starts raising its head that Government should not consume time. Because, if the problem is allowed to linger, it aggravates further. With the passage of time it goes out of control. Here I would just like to give an example. Harijans and Girijans live in almost every corner of the country but in Andaman-Nicobar from where I come, there are Adivasis but no Harijans. Harijans have not been identified there. It is so because at the time of framing the Constitution of our country and preparing the lists of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Adivasis of the islands were included in the Schedule. The mixed population did not have caste division. A Bengali is marrying a Tamil or a person from Uttar Pradesh. Thus there is a mixed society. We have not seen any caste-conflict there. But now we see that tourists coming there instigate the local populace that they are being deprived of the benefits of Mandal Commission Report. So, I would like to request the hon. Home Minister to look into these things. There is, at least, one place in the country, where there is no conflict on caste basis. Today, the whole country requires to learn this quality.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say one thing more Nicobar is a Tribal district. In order to give protection to the inhabitants an act called the Tribal Act has been passed. Entry of outsiders into this area is regulated through passes only. There the markets and shops are run on co-operative basis. But of late I have received a complaint that permission is being given to outsiders to open private shops there. It is a very dangerous thing. Every thing is being run there smoothly through Tribal Co-operative system without any sort of exploitation. Even the cinema halls and shops are run on cooperative basis. Such a good system is already there. But some vested interests and officers want to ruin them. They want to bring private traders and exploit the original inhabitants of the place. I strongly protest this move. I urge the Hon. Home Minister to instruct the local Administration there not to indulge in such things in future. He should look himself that the interests of the tribals are protected fully. Mr. Chairman, Sir, Sonkarji has already spoken for a full one hour and I have not been able to complete my speech. I say that the atrocities, wherever these are committed, on the Adivasis is bad. Such atrocities were committed in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and recently at Keshopur, in West Bengal. Two thousand Adivasis live there in the forest .. (*Interruptions*) .. in Andaman and Nicobar islands also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA
(Bankura): It is wrong .. (*Interruptions*).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acharia, you are a senior member. Please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I was just saying that two thousand Tribals live in the jungle of Keshopur. As has been said just now by Shri Soankarji and I also feel that the Central Government should not keep quiet over the report of a State Government regarding any atrocities on Harijans and Adivasis. I would like to request the Hon. Home Minister to amend the constitution if all sections of the House unanimously agree and send its forces to places of atrocities on Harijans and Adivasis. The State Government would do nothing in this regard. The amendment can easily be made if all the parties agree. I am sure that all the opposition parties would extend their support to this proposal.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the question of special courts is concerned, I may say that justice delayed is justice denied. As such I would like to request you to dispose off such cases quickly either by designating a particular court for this purpose or by setting up a new court so that the aggrieved parties could get some relief.

Lastly, I would like to say that all of us should give a serious thought over the dangerous situation prevailing in the country. If we do not take note of this, there will be a civil war in the country in which there would be large scale violence and we cannot save the country from such trauma. Now a

time has come when all of us should make a resolve to solve these problems. Then only we will achieve success in our effort. It is a most reprehensible act if the oppressed class people of the society are assaulted and killed. We are very ashamed of it. We should be resolute today to wash of this shame. I request all the Hon. Members as well as the Hon. Home Minister for this.

SHRI RATILAL VARMA (Dhanduka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a long discussion on it. In the Ninth Lok Sabha also, I spoke on this subject. At that time 12 Harijans had been shot dead in the Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh and the victims were dubbed as robbers by the assailants and killed. The then Chief Minister, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had announced a reward for the S.S.P. but later on it was revealed from inquiry that out of the 12 victims only one was a culprit and the remaining 11 were totally innocent, who were killed. Every Government says that the number of Harijans killed during its tenure was less but no Government says that no harijan was killed during its tenure. We have yet to see a Government in this country who dare make a claim that no Adivasi has been murdered. Whosoever became the Prime Minister, he or she only distributed the relief money to the victims—sometimes Rs. one lakh, some times Rs. 50 Thousands. But when a life is lost money cannot return it. Those who distribute cash relief do not know what befalls the family whose children become orphans after death of their

father or the woman who becomes widow after the death of her husband.

In Tsundur village of Andhra Pradesh, the victims of atrocities belonged to well-to-do families. Their only fault was that they used to pass through the Mohalla which was forbidden for them. A plan was chalked out well in advance to kill them. I am pained to say that the police personnel who were meant to protect them became their annihilators. When protectors become annihilators, nobody is safe. Had they been allowed to take the route which they normally took, massacre of 25 people could have been averted, but the police directed them to take the route on which a death trap had been laid for them. Mr Chairman, Sir, when they passed through that way, they were killed. These murders were so gruesome that even today tears start rolling down the cheeks of the people who were eye witnesses to this massacre if they are asked to narrate the incident. After committing the murders, the pieces of their bodies were thrown into a nearby nullah. Some of the bodies were put in the gunny bags and dumped into the nullah. If such massacres continue to take place even after 44 years of India's independence, the people will lose faith in democracy. This independence will be taken as slavery. What is most astonishing is that seven policemen were present there at the time of the crime. When murders take place in the presence of the police, we can well imagine the fate of the people where the police is not present. This massacre took place in broad day light between

11 AM and 5 PM and it is most shameful for the country as well as the politicians who are present here. Five years ago, similar murders of Harijans took place in Koramchedu and Neskonda villages of the same area, no action was taken, with the result that such incidents recur there. These incidents will continue to recur every year because we merely give assurances in the Lok Sabha by just adding new phrases to what we have said on earlier occasions. This does not help in checking these incidents. My submission is that such incidents must stop.

Harijans, Girijans and the people belonging to backward classes are a part of the society in the country. They are the fellow brothers of the people belonging to other communities. As long as they are not given equal treatment, as long as the mental attitude of the people does not change, these incidents are not going to stop. What to talk of five hours' discussion, even ten hours' debate on the subject will be of no use.

The District Collector, Mr. Nagarjun had also expressed shock at the massacre in the presence of the police. The killers belong to Reddy community, the same community to which the Chief Minister Mr. Janardan Reddy belongs. Mr. Chairman, Sir, since the killers and the Chief Minister belong to the same community and carry same views, no stern action was taken against the culprits. The people of that area say that bombs were thrown at the residence of the Deputy Speaker. These reports should also be looked into.

I would also like to touch upon Gujarat. In the entire country, Bihar topped the list in the matter of atrocities on Harijans followed by Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh has also now been added to this list. In Gujarat too, Harijans are killed. Sometime ago, Harijans of Tora village in Jamnagar district also were murdered. In that village, a Harijan youth was taken to a house and killed. But later on the culprits are discharged by the Court as innocents and Government takes no action. Samera village of Banaskantha district has also been victim of similar atrocities. So horrifying were the atrocities in that village that nobody dared to go there even for marriage. If a Harijan goes there for marriage, he is not allowed to ride a horse. No bridegroom can enter the village dressed in decent clothes. When our women-folk go out to reply to nature's call, they are subjected to eve-teasing and are even stoned. Harassed as they were, one day all Harijans deserted the village and went to the city. They squatted in front of the Collector's office for three months, but there too they did not get any assurance. Now they have been allotted separate land away from the village. Consequently, they are leading a peaceful life.

What I mean to say is that when they are segregated from the village and are settled separately, only then they live in peace and tranquility. In another macabre incident, five Harijans were done to death in Godara village of Khera district in our State. Of these five, one youth with a gun in his hand tried to save his life by

hiding in three houses one after the other, but the killers followed him till his last refuge—a room, and pumped 7—10 bullets into his body killing him instantaneously. How shameful it is if five persons—father, son and his relatives—are killed together in this manner. I am constrained to say that when I wrote to the then Chief Minister of Gujarat requesting him to provide employment to the family members of the victims, he said in a written reply that there was no such provision and hence no jobs could be given to the family members of those killed in the said incident. What I want to say is that the Chief Minister did not offer the posts of even peon or class IV employee to the dependents of the killed persons. Mr. Chairman, Sir, we shall have to give thought to such things and take some decisions.

A yet another incident of atrocities on Harijans took place in Bahrapura colony of Ahmedabad recently. A local congress corporator locked up five Harijans of one family in a room. When they started crying, they were taken out after breaking the door. The corporator had to spend 3-4 months in jail in this connection. He has been set-free recently. If this is the condition in Ahmedabad city, you can well imagine what would be the condition of Harijans and Girijans living in villages and remote areas.

The number of incidents of such atrocities and numbers in Gujarat is growing rapidly. There was a day when Gujarat used to be known as the birth place of Mahatma Gandhi and a peaceful state. Gujarat was a State

which sent the message of peace not only in India but to the World at large. Now the same Gujarat is witnessing growing incidents of atrocities on Harijans.

Mr. Chairman. Sir, though you, I would like to put forward some suggestions to the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs in order to check incidents of atrocities on Harijans. Wherever the hamlets of Harijans are scattered, arrangements should be made to group them together and settle them in one cluster. At the same time arrangement to provide them employment locally should also be made.

My second suggestion is that the families of the Harijans who are killed in such incidents should be paid at least rupees two lakhs as relief. Apart from that at least one family member or a dependent of the victim should be immediately given job. More and more Harijans should be recruited in the police force and in the Home Guards. It has been seen that the policemen have become predators instead of protectors. If Harijans are recruited in the police force and in the Home Guards, they would promptly visit the scene of crime and provide assistance to the people. Besides, there is a need to provide training in self defence to the youth belonging to backward classes. For this purpose, they will have to be armed with latest weapons in some of the Harijans settlements. If it is done, they would be able to defend themselves. At the same time avenues of self employment

will have to be opened for them through Government and other agencies. With a view to eradicating untouchability and tendency of discrimination on the basis of class, Harijans should be appointed as Priests in the temples run by Government trusts. The shops outside these temples should be allotted to Harijans so as to bring them closer to other sections of society. Women victims of rape should be paid at least Rs. two lakhs, half of which should be recovered from the person who is found guilty of rape so that the punishment may prove to be deterrent. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the present practice of carrying filth on the head in cities should be stopped at once and instead some better system should be introduced. They drag the dead animals and with the result the people develop a sense of hatred and they are very much agitated. My submission is that there should be a different arrangement for creating a different atmosphere.

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Mr. Chairman, Sir, the cases of atrocities and rape should be tried in the special courts only. In case of general courts, in the first instance the judgement does not come at all, and if at all it comes the culprits are not punished and they are declared innocent. Therefore, my submission is that the cases of atrocities and rape committed on Harijans should be tried in special courts and in these special courts, the Judge also should be from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or Harijan or backward community. If the

Government will make such arrangements, then only it will be the real efforts to provide them justice. Sir, besides, I would say that till the cases are under trial the witnesses and plaintiff should be provided protection. Since he does not get any protection he is being threatened before going to the court which is why he changes his statement. Mr. Chairman, Sir, along with this, the people of backward communities nowadays say :

“Jisne likha yah sanvidhan
uski hum hain santaan
phir bhi hota hai hatyakand.”

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now-a-days the atmosphere is deteriorated to such an extent that the framer of the Constitution had included so many things and provisions in the constitution to protect the rights of the poor but even today his brethren and progeny are in trouble and facing lot of problems. Atrocities are being committed on them. With the result a day will come when we may have to fight for the rights of those people, as is pointed by one of our colleagues. I will not say so. but I am sure a day will come when we may have to say that—

“aankho ke aansoon se na patther
pighalne wale hain
tu loha ban takra, maangne sei
na kuchh mila too takat sei khinch
la”

If our demand is not fulfilled, one day we will strike with full force, and the Government will have to give the recognition. I wish such things should

not happen. All people will live together like brothers in India. There will be an exchange of goodwill we shall live and die together. Mr. Chairman. Sir, in the end. I would request the Home Minister that the suggestion which I have put forth in order to maintain such an amicable atmosphere, if followed rightly it would bring forth good results and it may also be seen that it is followed in the states also. If it is not done, such killings would continue and all these national parties will continue to shed crocodile tears here. With these words I conclude my speech. Thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Shri Varma. whatever you have said just now about Lok Sabha Secretariat in your speech will not go on record. So it is being expunged.

SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is O. K., whatever should not go on record may be expunged.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the intention was to bring it to the knowledge of the chair. The Chair may please consider it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT-SWAMY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the incident which took place in Tsundur on 6th August was not reported in the newspapers on 7th but on 8th August. On reading the news in the newspapers we thought that there might be one or two stray incidents. But on

contacting Guntur, I came to know that 27 people had disappeared and they are still untraceable. I at once talked to the Prime Minister. I told him that it was a big incident and harijans were being killed in this way and I wanted to go to Tsundur. With his permission I went there accompanied by the Chief Minister of the State who was here those days. There I saw eight dead bodies laying on the ground. All the people of the village panicked and had left the village. On our arrival there, nothing except weeping and wailing was visible from every household. We learnt that it started over a small matter. A Harijan boy placed his foot on a chair in the theatre and the clash began. Later on, Harijans were going in a bus and somebody said, "Get up, you cannot sit, leave the seat for somebody else, these people belong to the high class", and thus the clash started. Later on a rumour was spread that some harijan boys indulged in eve-teasing and it could not be tolerated and revenge must be taken. It happened on 5th August, and police was deployed there and 50 police constables, 7 Sub-inspectors and one Circle Inspector were present there in the village. On 6th August, the harijans of the village were asked to leave the village and they threatened that if stayed on, they would be killed. And they began to flee. When the harijans started leaving that place they were there to kill the harijans. It is a heart rending story and brings tears in the eyes. People were slain one by one and thrown into Tungabhadra canal. We reached there on the second or third day. 2-3 dead

bodies were put in one gunny bag. All the corpses were taken to the hospital. The whole incident appeared to be pre-planned. The population of Harijans there is two thousand, out of which 200 are educated, some of them are graduates and some are even post-graduates. Naturally, the earlier atmosphere won't be restored there for long when harijans continued to respect them out of fear. It is possible that now the educated harijan may not behave as they used to behave earlier but it is observed that now-a-days it become very difficult to live like a civilised citizen even after getting education. It is not the first incident of its kind in Andhra Pradesh. When Shri N. T. Rama Rao became the Chief Minister for the first time Badrikupam was set ablaze within 15 days. I reached there the next day and saw that houses and people were set ablaze. We had to calm down the remaining people there and arrange ration for them. No such report has come till today.

Not only that, another incident took place in Karamchedu after six months. Seven harijans were killed. In this incident also Harijans of Andhra Pradesh were the victims. They were not only killed but there was an assault on the chastity of women. We have been witnessing all these incidents in Andhra Pradesh. The same thing happened at Nerukoda. After all why all this is happening in Tsundur is a question which is to be answered by you and me. All this is happening because they are getting educated and coming forward and are not tolerating

what their fore fathers used to tolerate. They want to march ahead. The people of upper caste think how is it possible that these Harijans have become proud. Sometime back their parents and ancestors were at the service of upper castes and today speak to them as equals. The world is changing fast and so is our society but there is not much change in the villages. All this is because of jealousy and nothing else. I had said earlier also that the killings have taken place because of the negligence of police and merely punishing the Inspector or Sub-Inspector of the area will not serve any purpose. The Director General of Police should be removed. I feel that these things will not continue for long. They have tolerated for years and now they will not tolerate any more. If we leave the problem half way it will never be solved.

Today, all the political parties want that there should be equality among people. This was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Ambedkar. We should make efforts to realize their dreams. If all the parties make concerted effort in this direction, the dream would definitely come true.

Yesterday, an agitation started in Guntur when the Chief Minister announced that the next of kin of the deceased would get Rs. one lakh, one acre of land and employment to one family member of the dead in a Public Sector Undertaking or Government department. Lot of hue and cry was raised against it and a propaganda was launched. What happened on Guntur yesterday, could be repeated

in future. The Hon. Prime Minister had sent me there for taking stock of the situation. After seeing the situation for myself it becomes my bounden duty to inform the House about it appears that the killings were preplanned and deliberate. That was the most unfortunate thing. If we want to serve the country, we should try to check this malice. This evil should be nipped in the bud itself.

It has been said that police was present there but in fact there was no police in Karamcheddu and there are many such villages where police cannot be present all the time. Therefore, to find a permanent solution to the problem, I would appeal to the leaders of all political parties to solve the basic problem itself.

With these words, I have tried to express the anguish I have undergone after visiting the area where the incident occurred. I have conveyed it to the Hon. Prime Minister also.

17. 00 hrs

[English]

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRI A. ASOKARAJ (Perambalur): Sir, on behalf of AIADMK Party I rise to say a few words with heavy heart because even after forty years of independence, the atrocities on Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other minority communities are still continuing.

Sir, if we go back and see as to what had happened in the past, that too in this Parliament, it has become a ritual to discuss this when it has taken place in any corner of the country. So, when the papers are publishing about certain atrocities taking place in any corner of the country, we should not forget that many atrocities are happening daily in each and every corner of the country and they are not published or made known to the outside world. We can understand very easily that the atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are increasing and they are not at all decreasing or diminishing.

Here some Members have said that many atrocities had taken place in many places. I do not want to go into the details because by telling all these things, we are not going to do anything. At the same time, the latest atrocity which had taken place at Tsundur village is not only almost in the memory of the Members of this Parliament, but also in the memory of each and every public of this country.

Whenever such atrocities had taken place in any part of the country, we can understand that precious lives were lost, properties were looted, cattles were taken and ladies were raped. There are the general things and nobody can deny it.

If we look at the atrocities of the past happening, the revenue and police officials are highly responsible for all these things. And because of their commissions and omissions, these things are happening.

I would like to tell that the atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being done mostly in villages. One reason is untouchability. Still we say that there is no untouchability. There are laws against untouchability. But what is happening actually in this country? I hope the Hon. Minister with his rich experience will take into account all these things and take severe measures. Unless and until we take severe measures, we cannot expect the officials to act with proper care.

Sir, the atrocity or untouchability is not only communal, on community basis, but also we should see manner in which the upper caste treat the Scheduled Caste officials. In my constituency, in a remote village, there is a nationalised bank. Even in that bank, the branch manager is telling the people particularly, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who go there for loan, to get out of the premises and says that the place will be polluted and like that. It is a tendency of the people that we should understand.

Suppose if any reports have come and when they are scrutinised, the concerned authorities are taking only the statements of the higher officials, which are against the truth. So I would like to say that certain things are to be borne in mind so that these people can be saved. We should go into the reasons as to why these atrocities take place on these people. According to my assessment, there are

Only four main reasons and those reasons are alienation from land, indebtedness, poverty and illiteracy. So I request the Government to take necessary steps to remove all these problems which come in their way. I also request that the constitutional provisions contained in Article 16(4) and Article 335 providing for reservations in service for the members of the SC&ST, should be effectively implemented.

The Hon. Members who come from remote villages, know the problems which the members of SC&ST face in the villages. One of their problems is housing. Most of these people live in thatched houses in rural areas. And because of thatching fire accidents happen quite often. My request to the Government is that all these people should be provided with pucca houses.

Another problem is of drinking water. Many of the atrocities on them do take place because of non-availabilities of drinking water. When a SC&ST person tries to take water from the well which belongs to the higher community, the clash occurs because the people belonging to a higher caste will not allow SC&ST people to draw water from their well. So it is very necessary that the Government should provide drinking water facility to these people.

When I go to villages I find that these SC&ST people do not have a proper burial ground. And it is also a pity that they do not have a proper pathway to the burial ground. This is

also one of the causes of clash between SC&ST people and upper caste people.

I do appreciate and accept that Government is doing something for these people. But the fact is, as has been pointed out by one of the Hon. Members, suppose the Government has allocated a pot of water for these people. But the tragedy is that not even a tumbler of water reaches them actually, because most of it is usurped by corrupt officials and intermediaries. So I request the Hon. Home Minister that the Government should devise a method by which the facilities provided to these people under IRDP and other schemes, reach them directly. At present, the loans which are being disbursed by the banks, are being disbursed in the name of creating assets. Now what is happening is that a major part of the loan is taken away by people as benami. So I request the Government to see that their economic condition is improved so that they can lead a life worth living.

About special courts, for the Tsundur incident the Government has appointed a special court. But my request is that the special court should be appointed at the place where the incident takes place so that the people there can plead their cases in a better way.

Unless and until we do all these things for these unfortunate people, I do not think there is any other way to help them.

If we are not going to take the measures in a proper way and if we treat

that people in the same way, then we should not forget that these people will not be quiet for all the time. They will raise in rebellion and the end will come. I, therefore, request the Hon. Minister to look into it and do the needful.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now Prof. Savithri Lakshmanan. The time at our disposal is very very limited. Kindly cooperate. We will literally have three minutes. There are one or two Hon. Members also to speak. Each will get two minutes.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram) : I will try my level best. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Of course, in three or five minutes justice cannot be done. But the time at the command of the House is very limited.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

[*English*]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipur-dwars) : After all we have not come to idle away time. If we are not given time to speak what for are we here? (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Paswanji, what do you say? Now the time is coming to a fag end and some Hon. Members want to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : We shall also express our own views. We should be given time. (*Interruptions*).

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Sir, I will try my level best to speak like a Super Fast Express. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI CHITTA BASU : There should be certain pattern. Are we here on your mercy or anybody else's mercy?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No. it is not so.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : Sir, you can give some time to the RSP and Forward Bloc also because they would like to express their opinion. The Minister was saying that the discussion on drought and flood will not be taken up wholly today. Therefore, you may increase some more time so that these two parties—RSP and Forward Bloc—can express their views.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes. Now Prof. Savithri Lakshmanan.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Sir, this being my maiden speech in the Tenth Lok Sabha, let me start with paying my homage to my beloved leader late Shri Rajiv Gandhi

In this context, I recollect with profound pride that it was he, our dear leader, who moulded the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation Limited in the year 1989. The

Corporation was incorporated on 8th February, 1989. To the best of my knowledge, this Corporation has sanctioned 84 projects costing Rs. 179.25 crores for the well being of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The projects may include supply of auto-rickshaws, purchase of private lands for landless labourers etc. I am not elaborating. My intention is only that late Rajiv Gandhi too was on the same line which was brightened by our 'Rashtrapitha' Mahatmaji, Hon. former Prime Ministers of India—late Panditji, late Shastriji and late Indiraji. Rajivji tried his level best to replace the stones and thorns by roses.

Sir, on the days of the dawn of our Independence, nearly two hundred Scheduled Cast and Scheduled Tribes students were getting post-matric scholarships for SC and ST, in an year, all over India. But now it has increased to about fourteen lakhs in one year, showing the deep concern, solicitude, anxiety upon the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the four Congress Prime Minister who ruled this country for forty years and who adorned our country with international fame.

I remember very well that there are four other Prime Ministers too, for a period of four years.

Our new Prime Minister, with his colleagues, is well-versed in the policies which were adopted by his predecessors. Yet, atrocities on Harijans are increasing year by year. The official statement showing the offence-wise figures of IPC crimes against SC committed by Non-Scheduled Castes in

the country says that there were 15,403 of such offences in 1986, 13,529 in 1987, 15,207 in 1988, 15,726 in 1989 and 16,562 in 1990. Why it is increasing regularly ?

Sir, we are trying to give adequate representation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in all fields of life even by reserving seats for them. In this Lok Sabha too 20 per cent of the constituencies are reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes where the Scheduled Castes, according to 1981 census constitute 15.75 per cent of the country's population and Scheduled Tribes, according to the same census, constitute 7.8 per cent of the total population. I know very well that nearly 85 per cent of the total Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population resides in rural areas. Those who live in urban areas are the residents of slums. More than 78 per cent Scheduled Castes are estimated to be below poverty line. Their literacy percentage is only 21.38 as against all India average of 41.3 per cent. Thus comes out the vocabulary of accounts regarding Scheduled Tribes. What is happening in our country beyond all our sincere efforts to uplift the economically, educationally, socially, financially backward classes and castes people who are our brethren ?

Sir, to build up a nation we need the sincere and truthful efforts, starting from an individual. A mother with her kid approached Mahatmaji seeking his advice to the child to avoid the bad habit of eating sweets. Mahatmaji gave another appointment to them and

after a few days when they came back, he advised the boy not to take so much of sweet. The mother asked a question: Why this advice was not given in their first visit? Then with his famous toothless smile Mahatmaji replied that during that period he too was fond of that bad habit of taking sweets and how can he advise the boy to be away from the same bad habit. He added, now he is free from this bad habit and he is eligible for advising the boy. Sir, I expect and request this eligibility when we began to mourn about the atrocities on Harijans. Sir, to me, a man who is keeping a wife in a village and another in a town even if he is in one of the highest positions of our country, especially if he is representing the Scheduled Castes, has no moral right to speak on atrocities on Harijans only because of the reason he is doing atrocities on two helpless Harijan ladies. Otherwise he may start at east confessing his own sin on every time he opens his mouth to protest against the atrocities done by the antinationals all over India.

Sir, I fully agree with the statement of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan that every flower has the right to smile. But I regret to say that roses are crushed elsewhere in India by their cultivators themselves.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention to Question No. 125 (Starred) raised in this august House. The hon. Member put a question inquiring the number of times programmes on Shri B. R. Ambedkar Saheb were screened by Doordarshan during 1990-91 and the number of times the programmes

relating to Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru, were screened during his birth centenary year and, to my surprise, came the third enquiry, the reasons for the differences, if any. What reasons the hon. Member expected to be? Thank God, there was not much difference. But, common men are much more interested in answers to such questions. Suppose, there is a great difference in these two numbers, the so-called suppressed class or caste may begin thinking: Eh, our Baba Saheb is getting lesser time than their—see, I fear such classification may occur—Nehru. What a pity it would be! And from the very next day, they may begin praising their representative in the House for raising this question and revealing a big secret—if it can be called like so. He may be respected as their hero. To me such heroes and their 'services' are creating headache to solve the never-ending problems of our nation regarding SC & ST.

Sir, the discussion on atrocities on SC & ST is allowed on the recent unfortunate events happened in A.P. But Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this House, through you, the atrocities on these class of people in UP, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Kerala or anywhere else in the country.

I am happy to hear the measures taken by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh immediately after rushing to Tsundur. But I am unable to forget the incidents which took place in Mr. V. P. Singh's Constituency when he was in Prime Minister's chair and his party was ruling the State, not once, not twice but thrice came the news

from his own State during the eleven months' National Front-Left Front—joint front dynasty supported by BJP. My friend Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik revealed a clear picture about Orissa, Bihar etc.

Years back, when late Indiraji was in opposition, unfortunate atrocities on Harijans were happening in a place called Belchi. There was not even a road to reach there by using ordinary conveyances. Please recall the memories of the mother of this nation, Indiraji, reaching Belchi upon the back of an elephant and consoling the depressed class by herself.

I urge upon the whole nation through you that selfless and earnest efforts from all parts of this country are needed for the uplift of this suppressed brethren.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chitta Basu to speak now.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: We are four Members here. There must be some regulation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your names come next.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Why my name is next?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your name is there immediately after Shri Chitta Basu.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Is it certain?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is sure.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Then I agree.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I request Shri Chitta Basu to speak?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I have no objection even if somebody precedes me.

I will be brief because I know the constraint of time. This provides me an opportunity to express my deep concern in this august House for the atrocities that are being perpetrated on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. There seems to be no end to this.

I would like to remind this House that there is a general feeling among the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes that Parliament, the judiciary and the executive are helpless in the matter of protecting the rights of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

For the millions who live in the countryside, the words liberty and right to live have no meaning. A time will come—as the time is not very far off—when the vast mute millions will understand the worth of them and go against those who are out to perpetrate the crime on them. I have got only one grievance against the Government and that grievance is a very simple one. I would request the hon. Home Minister to look into it.

Sir, we have got the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission. That Commission regularly produces reports. It has been the habit of the Government to ignore all

the recommendations of the Commission. Allow me to bring to the notice of the Hon. Home Minister certain important evidences or findings made by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission. According to the recent report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (April 1990) during the period between 1981 and 1986, 4022 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people were murdered that is the rate of murder exceeded one per day. Again, it continues to say that in the same period, over 1,15,000 crimes against dalits were registered under IPC. In addition, thousands more cases were registered under the Protection of Civil Rights (PCR). This is not the report given by me; these are not the charges made by me; these are not the charges of any individual or any private person in our country. These are the charges made by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission which today enjoys the statutory recognition. Now, the Government is to give an answer. That answer has to be given. I went to know whether these charges made by the Statutory Commission are to be ignored, ignored for all time to come or to be taken seriously. The Hon. Home Minister has to answer to this.

Sir, it is known to many of us that 84 per cent of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people lives in the country-side. What is the condition of the country-side? They say that it should be treated above politics. Please

look at the situation in the country-side. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are forced to live under brutalised regimes, most brutalised regimes of oppression, unchallenged hegemony of the landed gentry in the country-side. Is it not your duty to protect them against such a brutalised hegemony in the country-side? The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission go on to say that atrocities are perpetrated more on the economically weaker sections among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They say that in a survey conducted by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, done in 1987 and published in 1990, about the annual income of 100 victims families of seven states ranging from North-South and Western India, it was found that 41 victims fall in annual income group with an upper-limit of Rs. 3500 and only 13 fell in annual income group of Rs. 10,000. Therefore, assault and onslaught are more on the poorer sections among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Sir, I do not like to discuss or bring in more facts. One important finding of that Commission is that between 1981 and 1986, the general crime per lakh population fell by 10 per cent whereas in the case of crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the fall was only 4 per cent. There has been general fall in crimes by ten per cent. But in the case of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, the fall is only four per cent. That means, the Scheduled Castes and

the Scheduled Tribes are being increasingly becoming the victims of the crime. This is also because of very important social and significant factor that these young men and women in the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes category have now come to realise that they are also human beings, they have also the constitutional rights, they have also to enjoy the human rights, they have also to enjoy the right to live and they go on raising their voices against the repressive measures. They are asserting themselves. If the Government does not take into consideration these things, I think, merely discussing ritual matters here is not going to end the slavery of these vast masses of our country. This is not for me to say. But the main factor is to fight against feudalism in the country. And for that, there should be a special emphasis on the implementation of the land reforms for fixing the minimum wages, not only fixing the minimum wages but also enforcing the Minimum Wages Act. Plainly speaking, emphasis is to be given to strengthen the economic muscle of this vast downdrodden section of our society. Unless that is done, I think, it will be a ritual expression of sympathy. I am opposed to that idea. These issues are not the political issues. These issues are not the issues concerning some good words and sweet words. These issues are basically the economic issues and basically the political issues. And the political and economic substance of the issue is to be tackled. And I hope, the hon. Home Minister will understand the basic problem and take necessary corrective measures.

[Translation]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in every session, there is a discussion on atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and every time the Government give an assurance that something will be done. But the Government has not been able to protect any caste. History bears testimony that a caste which is not strong enough, cannot survive. Why was a Scheduled area earmarked for the Scheduled Castes even during the British time. They knew that Harijans and Adivasis could not rule and they were being killed. D.P. Sahib was also slain in the jungle. It was thereafter that a Scheduled area was earmarked and it was said that jungle rule will not prevail anymore and the rule of Governor General will prevail. This is in the fifth and sixth schedule of the Constitution. The Government is not paying any heed to the Constitution what to talk of paying heed to us. Even to day atrocities are being committed but what has Constitution done to protect them. Why does the Government not follow what is there in the Constitution. The people belonging to Scheduled Caste were forced to embrace other religions just to save themselves. But now nobody can be saved be he a Muslim, a Hindu or a Christian. When you seek their vote you take full responsibility. Election is a political question. There are over one hundred and fifty Scheduled Castes in West Bengal but the BJP, Congress or the Janata Dal could not win even a seat from there. All the votes have gone to leftists. They do not have even a single

Scheduled Caste Member of Parliament or legislator. The present Government provides them all security and has saved their honour from time to time. There is equality and there is no restriction on interdining. Whether one is Mukherjee or Banerjee. They dine together along with the labour class. I would like to submit that the representatives of Scheduled Castes are betraying their community. Unless the Adivasis and Harijans do not leave the Congress, atrocities will continue on them. The Leftists are ready to sacrifice their lives for them in West Bengal. The Leftist Government has given land to the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and done everything for them. I, therefore, want to warn the people of the country that they should not give vote to those cheats and should leave their party who have betrayed the Scheduled Castes. They should choose a party which is ready to sacrifice everything for them. Only then can they survive. Will Rama save them? No I don't think so. They are exploiters and will commit atrocities. They do not treat man as a man. They treat the down-trodden as untouchables. Why then will they remain with the BJP. The Congress has remained in power for the last 40 years and they have looted and committed atrocities on the Scheduled Castes. There are some representatives of tribals in the Congress Party but slowly the winds of change have started blowing. There is disturbance in many tribal areas. The Government is also adamant. If you do not courageously face the situation, you would not be able to stay in the tribal area. The gun

will not work there nor will military power be helpful. The situation has deteriorated to such an extent. I, therefore, want to warn the Government that it should not play with the sentiments of these castes. They do not want your pity? Do you pity people in a democracy? I have right and we want it and we will fight for it. Unless we get equal rights there seems to be no solution other than what the leftist forces have shown. During the elections there are other problems. In some areas the Scheduled Castes are not allowed to cast vote. Where are the representatives from those Scheduled Caste areas. They simply buy votes and merely give lecture about precious votes. They have not called even a meeting. I, therefore, say that the party which harasses and is behind those killings should be left. The Scheduled Castes will have to select a Party which can serve their interests and champion their cause. Only then, they can survive.

[English]

SHRI PETER G MARBANIANG (Shillong): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think the honourable mover of this Motion on the atrocities meted out on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes.

Sir, I belong to a Scheduled Tribe community. I want to thank all the friends who have mentioned the different aspects of the atrocities committed and for the remedial measures given by them. I welcome them.

Sir, I want to say only one thing on this issue that is about the Atrocious Order of the Government on withdrawing the rights and privileges of the Scheduled Castes people who are being converted into Christianity. Sir, it is very strange that when the message of love and resurrection came to India in 62 A.D., that till today, there is a discrimination in this beloved country of ours against Christianity. I must say very frankly that there are more than ten million Scheduled Caste people converted into Christianity in this country of ours. They have been deprived of their rights and privileges because they have been converted into Christianity. This is very very unfortunate.

Last time when the 52nd Constitution Amendment Bill was brought to the House by my friend Shri Ram Vilas Paswan to include Neo Buddhists in the list of Scheduled Caste to allow them to enjoy the rights and privileges of the Scheduled Caste people guaranteed by the Constitution, we moved an amendment to the Bill requesting the Minister to include the Dalit Christians also in the Bill. There was an assurance given by the Minister. He requested us to withdraw the amendment and he will bring a new Bill to include Dalit Christians also in the constitutional order. However, till today I have not seen anything coming. I hope this atrocious order of discrimination against the Dalit Christians will get the mind of the Government and some measures will be taken to include Dalit Christians in the list of Scheduled Caste.

Assuming without admitting that Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe are Christians, I would say that there are more than one million Brahmins converted into Christianity.

I want to inform the House that on 4th April 1991 after a political rally in Delhi a group of people went to the Methodist Church and desecrated the Cross in the Church leading to fasting by the Bishop of that Church. These are acts which we must remember should not be meted out to anyone. Therefore I appeal that when we talk of measures to improve the condition of these people or to do away with the atrocities on the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people, such social injustices meted out to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people by our political parties should first be stopped.

We must remember that Christians are one with India. They are a part and parcel of India. In all the States and Union Territories we have Christians. We are pledged to give our support to the unity and integrity of our great country, that is India.

Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next Shri Roshan Lal. I would request the Hon. Member to finish his speech in five minutes.

SHRI ROSHAN LAL (Khurja): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, at least the Scheduled Caste MPs in the House, who are the most sufferers of this social stigma should be allowed sufficient time to express their heart-felt

feelings about these atrocities. Secondly I am making my first speech in this august House and I hope you will kindly help me.

I am thankful to you for giving me a chance to speak on the floor of this august House on the atrocities committed on the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and the weaker sections of the society.

The Scheduled Caste, who are considered by the caste-Hindus to be those ordained by the God to serve the higher castes in unpleasant, disgraceful and menial task, comprise about 15% of the total population of India. About 90% of these castes live in rural India and are illiterate. More than 75% of them are engaged as landless labourers. A distinctive feature of the Hindu society is its peculiar social structure based on caste hierarchy and values. Untouchability practised by one man towards another is the worst outcome of this system which has become an integral part of our cultural heritage. Mal-treatment, manhandling, atrocities, torture, murder and rape of women of the Scheduled Castes by the Higher Caste people have been of a common occurrence in our society.

The practice of untouchability and cruelty in various forms, implicit or explicit has always found a place in the thought and actions of our saints, religious leaders, social reformers and free-thinkers in India. It is however regrettable that even our educated masses are not unanimous in denounc-

ing this social stigma. On the contrary, a good percentage is still found supporting this evil.

To escape this stigma and outrage of this old-age malady, thousands of Scheduled Castes have become converts to other religions but even this could not bypass the scars of untouchability and atrocity. Even after 40 years of Independence, various steps having been taken to eradicate this evil, negligible success is there. On the other hand, these have led to social tensions, suppression of overt reactions and putting a false veil on caste prejudices. Thus, untouchability and atrocities on Scheduled Castes have eroded the solidarity, prosperity and integrity of our nation and plagued the principles of secularism, Democratic socialism and social justice to which we are committed. Scheduled Castes are still being denied the use of public wells and compelled to drink only unhygienic water from other sources. Their children are not admitted to village schools where the children of caste Hindus attend. Though they worship the Hindu Gods and Goddesses and observe the same festivals of Hindus, yet the Hindu temples were closed to them. Thus, being deprived of social, religious and civic rights, they had no opportunity of bettering their conditions and so lived the life of a 'bygone' and 'dead age', dragged on their miserable existence with insufficient accommodation, insanitary conditions and social segregation and were treated by the Upper Castes as sub-human, less than men, if not like animals.

The Indian Constitution grants Justice, Liberty and Equality to all. Any discrimination in public life merely on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex and birth is prohibited. It favours promotion of education and economic interests of the Scheduled Caste by the State besides their protection from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

But on the other hand, untouchability is an integral part of Hinduism. Even recently, in 1969, Shri Shankracharya of Jagannath Puri is said to have stated and justified the practice of untouchability as a matter of religion in the Vishwa Hindu Dharma Sammelan held at Kashi.

The Brahmins created the Varuna and the caste system. Naturally, it would have been a surprise if they had not ranked themselves topmost in the caste hierarchy. The Scheduled Castes were out of the Varuna system and had no share in the social, political and judicial powers. On the contrary, they were slaves and were offered, as at present, to friends, gifts to temples and were bought, sold and mortgaged in the same manner as the land or cattle or the other property of their owners. The master had the right even to kill a slave. During the modern times, we find that the situation, which existed since Manu not only continued but worsened. It is evident that the discrimination and harassment of people belonging to the so-called Scheduled Castes are more rampant in the rural areas than in the urban areas. This is a future which

can be observed every day although incidents concerning injustice, done to the people of the Scheduled Castes are not reported as much as they deserve to be. It must be mentioned that this institution of untouchability and cruelty is not beneficial even to the caste Hindus materially or otherwise.

The Scheduled Castes suffered a lot in the society. They were forced to live a sub-human life in the society. They were denied social interaction with the rest of the community.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Roshan Lal, please conclude.

SHRI ROSHAN LAL : Untouchability and atrocities on the Scheduled Castes is not only a system of unmitigated economic exploitation, it is also a system of uncontrolled economic exploitation. That is because there is no public opinion to condemn it and there is no impartial machinery of administration to restrain it. There is no appeal to public opinion for whatever public opinion is there it is the opinion of the Hindus who belong to the exploiting class and as such favour exploitation. There is no check from police or the judiciary for the simple reason that they are all drawn from the Hindus, and take the side of the exploiters. There should be social and economic equity which will result in the upliftment of the society. The Chundur incident in Guntur District was very alarming. It was an unforeseen and unthought of incident. When a man was killed, his legs, feet and

neck were cut off, put in a gunny bag and thrown into a canal. Such a heinous crime and an inhuman crime has not been heard of in our history. There was a firing ordered by General Dyer in Jallianwala Bagh when there was a mob in that meeting. But this incident is even worse than that firing. This crime had occurred due to social disparity and unless that is removed, harmony cannot be found in our society. We had been to Chundur village when a parliamentary delegation had been there under the leadership of Paswanji. We saw the condition of the victims of that incident and we heard their worries and sorrow.

Sir, as has been mentioned by various speakers, a special court with exclusive jurisdiction should be set up. A judge should be appointed who will visit the site, remain there for 15 to 20 days, make a thorough inquiry and then record the evidences. The persons who are found guilty should be punished.

As far as compensation is concerned, compensation should be realised from the property of the persons who were responsible for this crime and who had done this crime. And only then they will feel that this incident should not have taken place.

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be provided with arms and should be trained to handle weapons. The Government has to give free licences and free arms to those people to protect themselves from such atrocities.

Then, Sir, there should be a committee for all sections of the society comprising of right thinking, same thinking and broad-minded people to educate the people who have ill feelings against the SCs and STs and Harijans so that they will live above caste feelings and put an end to such incidents in future.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As there are some more Members to speak, I think the time of the House will have to be extended.

MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, the time of the House may be extended for another half-an-hour.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the wish of the House that the time be extended for another half-an-hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes Sir. (*Interruptions*).

18. 00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Many Hon. members are anxious to speak. But they should be brief.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolspur): For how long will it be extended?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: By half an hour.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): Two or three speakers are

there. If they strictly adhere to five minutes only, it will be over by 6.15 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let it be understood that half an hour's extension means that the Home Minister also shall have to complete his speech by 6.30 p.m. The Hon. Members should speak only for five minutes each. That much cooperation is absolutely essential.

With your permission, the House is extended by half an hour, upto 6.30 p.m.

Mr. Reddaiah please.

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH (Machilipatnam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, After having heard the discussion in which veterans like Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Sonkar Shastri and Sh. Nirmal Chatterjee participated, I would now like to bring a very specific point to the notice of this House and particularly to the notice of the Hon. Home Minister about the situation which is now prevailing in Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, as regards the brutal killings in Andhra about which I have brought to your notice on the first day itself, I would like to inform this House that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has not commenced any action immediately. Now the whole of Andhra is divided into two groups. The so-called upper castes are conducting an anti-Harijan agitation from 15th and 16th of this month. The upper castes—the

Reddis, the Kammas, the Brahmins and the Vaishyas took a violent procession in Guntur. They ransacked the A. C. College, an institution belonging to the minorities and destroyed the furniture in the rooms of the college hostel, where the Harijan boys were studying. Now this is spreading to my constituency Machilipatnam as well. I have toured my constituency very extensively only very recently.

While the situation is so grave, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is simply sleeping. They announced that they would give jobs, for the victims they would give one lakh of rupees, a house and one acre of land. These are the statements by the irresponsible Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

On 15th of August, while the whole country was celebrating the 45th Independence Day, a woman was paraded naked in a village called Chilakurti in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh. This constituency is represented by a CPI (M) member. In Chilakurti village, a lady by name Muthamma was tripped naked by one Mr. Narayan Reddy and Mr. Parvatha Reddy, the landlords of that village. Then they paraded her naked in the streets for one kilometre long and tied her to a tree for public view, where nearly 2000 to 3000 people assembled on that particular day. Then she was beaten up. Why am I bringing this to your notice? Muthamma is a mother of five children. There were many landlords—the Reddis—present in the streets. Even the police were there. But not even a single person raised his

finger in protest. After one day, she was taken to the Nagarjuna Sagar Hospital, where the APCC President, the Home Minister and other MPs and MLAs of the Congress (I) were celebrating and participating in festivities. Till today, they have not come forward to visit the affected lady arrest the land lords of Chilakurati. Even the Harijan MPs of this House have not cared. There are nearly 80 MPs belonging to Scheduled Castes in the present Parliament House. During these 45 years they never threatened any Prime Minister of any party that they will vote against him. There is no such case in the history of this august House since its inception.

Dr. Ambedkar has provided many facilities to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes people; 20 per cent of the IAS and IPS Officers are from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes but not even a single person is prepared to take deterrent action against the person who commits atrocities on harijans. Previously, even in the Guntur district when atrocities took place at Karamchedu village the harijan IPS officer was there as Superintendent of Police but he was not able to arrest a single person when brutal killing took place in day's time at Karamchedu village. I am blaming the IAS/IPS Officers belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes communities. I am blaming the leadership of the harijans and other backward and minority communities. Today, if we are really concerned for the weaker sections and harijans, we should join hands and pull down Shri Narasimha Rao's

Government within no time. We are not prepared to be called as cowards.

Sir, I don't want to take much time of the House. I would like to bring it to the notice of the Home Minister that things are not so easy. The situation is drifting from bad to worse and the country is going to be divided into two separate parts. The moment we join hands with muslim brothers; the moment we join hands with the harijans and backward class people, you are nowhere. You are anti-harijans and anti-muslims.

In Andhra Pradesh all the Reddys are made as Home Minister, Revenue Minister, Finance Minister, Power and Irrigation Minister etc.. Chairman, Public prosecutor and even judges are Reddys. When I ask the Minister from Harijan and B. C. S. as to what they are doing as ministers from weaker section communities they say—

[Translation]

We have been given a chair, a table, a typist and nothing else. We do not have any power whatsoever..

[English]

The AICC leadership should be blamed for this situation in Andhra Pradesh and we are unnecessarily blaming the whole nation. It is the Congress leadership which should be blamed. In the end I would like to say that if the Home Minister will take things easily, he will have to pay for it after some time.

Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this much time.

we are living should be attacked. So, the caste system should be attacked.

DR. R. MALLU (Nagar Kurnool) :
Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House atrocities that are being taking place on harijans and girijans for the last several centuries. The other colleagues who spoke on atrocities on harijans and girijans, referred to many incidents wherein these harijans and girijans were very much humiliated. I would like to say that in all these incidents the harijans or girijans died without showing any resistance or without trying to kill back the person. But we cannot say that they are physically weak. In fact they are the people who construct dams. They are the people who plough and give production to the nation. They are the one who construct the houses but unfortunately they are not allowed to enter into the houses which they themselves construct. They are the ones who dig the wells but they are not allowed to drink water from the same well which they are digging. They are forming the national highways but they have no right to walk on those highways what to talk of running their vehicles. Evidently, they are not physically weak.

I would like to give you a simple example of a Headmaster who is posted in a village; a Medical Officer of a Primary Health Centre who is posted in a Mandal Headquarters. Even today they are not being provided a house to live in. It clearly shows that it is not the question of cleanliness of an individual that is coming in the way of their not getting a house to live in but it is the caste factor that is coming in their way.

As you know that in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and for that matter any other place, the main culprits who are involved in these atrocities are going scot free. They are still living. But the people who have been killed in these incident are people belonging to a particular caste and the person who is involved in these incidents belongs to some other higher caste and who is a real culprit is going scot free. So, this clearly shows that this is not a fight between the individuals, but it is a fight between one caste with the other caste.

You may ask why they are not interested to know who are killing them. They are feeling psychologically that they are born to be ruled by somebody. They are born to suffer all these things. That is the reason why they are not taking any revenge; that is the reason why they are not attacking the people and the system in which

In this connection, I would like to suggest certain things for the permanent solution of this problem. Unless you attack the caste system, you are not going to succeed in solving the problem. The incidents that took place in Tsundur in Andhra Pradesh or in Uttar Pradesh or in Bihar, they are only sporadic incidents. Actually such incidents are taking place all over India, in all the villages. I request the

Government, the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to think of introducing non-detailed primary, middle and higher secondary education exclusively for students for teaching them the equality of castes so that the students community will at least have a feeling that they are all Indians born to Indian community and not to a particular caste. Simply that a person is born in a lower caste or a higher caste, you should not give them some sort of feeling that one is higher and one is lower caste. So, it is not the individual it is the caste which comes in the way.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't you advocate, inter-caste marriages ?

DR. R. MALLU : Yes. That is one of the remedies. And the other remedy is the non-detailed form of education and purchasing land and distributing it to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

You can also use the media for publicity purposes. Indians are born equally and they are like brothers and sisters. Such types of messages should be broadcast over Radio or T.V. before and after news. The media should be utilised properly forming separate Committees with all party members at the State level, at the district level and also at the taluka level for reviewing the atrocities on harijans and girijans. At the Collectorate level, this should be done in the districts. At the Secretary's level, this should be done in the States. And at the Cabinet Secretary's level, this should be done

at the national level. The primary aim of the Parliament must be to take away the idea of caste system. It should be removed so that everybody will feel that they are equal.

I want to say one more thing about the problems faced by the harijans and girijans. These problems are not only faced by these harijans and girijans but every-body who is born in India as long as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are facing. They are also facing these problem.

You might have seen that throughout India, so many tensions are there. Say for example extremism, terrorism and so on. The main reason for these people taking up to extremism and terrorism is because of the injustice done to them. The people who are producing the food grains have no right to eat. So, I request the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to think in those lines and take appropriate steps so that this system of caste is demolished in order to see that these people get equal rights.

Tsundur incident of Andhra Pradesh was referred by each and every Member who had spoken before me. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh who is a pro-Scheduled Caste man. . .

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH YADAV (Machhalipatnam) : Don't say like that.

DR. R. MALLU : It is for you to Judge. I have every right to tell this thing. You cannot dictate terms in the Parliament.

I have got the equal right to explain how the things are happening. I am giving an example because he is the first Chief Minister who has announced compensation of Rs. 1 lakh to the members of each deceased family; he is the first Chief Minister who has announced one acre of land; he is the first Chief Minister who has announced that he will give a job to at least one member of each deceased family; he is the first Chief Minister who has announced that he is going to construct houses for all the Harijans in a village; he has also announced that he is going to provide residential schools for the children. In this process. I am trying to explain. not that I am trying to tell some thing else.

I am telling you that the system of caste must be abolished and not the individual. So, he is taking all the precautions in this regard. At the same time, I request the State Government and the Central Government also to take all precautions.

This caste system cannot be stopped in a day. The Government has to take it up on a long-term basis. I request the Government to take it up on a war footing. At least, a beginning must be made by this Parliament.

[Translation]

*SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU (Jhargram) : Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, this is a very serious and important

matter. I am a new entrant here. So my request is that I may be given some time. I have heard that in every session the elected representative of the people deliver eloquent speech on oppression of women and atrocities on Harijans in this august House. The Govt. also promises to take some remedial measures for checking the atrocities committed on the weaker section of society. But nothing happens. The protectors themselves become the oppressors and commit atrocities and injustice on Harijans. So we must think deeply and devise measures to curb the menace of the society. I place my views on this serious matter.

In the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Tripura and Karnataka more than thousand Advivasis have been killed in a year. Piyusda (Piyus Tirkey) has just now narrated the happenings in Tripura. The Adivasi women have been facing oppression there. Their honour is at stake.

Inspite of repeated appeal no action has been taken against the culprits. The same is true of Karnataka. The brother and relative of the Chief Minister of Haryana have driven away the Harijans from Vochi village of Mohummadpur district. These people have been compelled to leave their village and take shelter elsewhere. The villages like Khajuri Badopal etc. are in the district of the Chief Minister

himself. Atrocities have been committed on Harijans of these villages also. These should be stopped immediately or it must be stopped without further delay. These are some incidents responsible for all these happenings. I would relate some of them. Casteism has played an important role behind all these incidents. This caste system has vitiated the atmosphere of many states. The poisonous atmosphere has polluted these areas so much that a single or minor incident instigate a reaction of one community to pounce on another community with sharp weapons. It results in holocaust. Houses are burnt. Properties are destroyed. The oppressed people lose everything including their near and dear ones and become beggar. These should be stopped immediately.

As a part of religion casteism is viewed from a different angle by some people. So they do not bother to have slightest sense of humanitarian considerations.

In Meherana village of Haryana a boy Vijendra belonging to a different caste married a Jat girl Roshni. They were assisted by a friend Ram Kishan. So the leaders of the village hanged these people by a tree and murdered them. It is a matter of shame, of regret that even after 44 years of independence incidents like these still occur. Then the vicious effect of feudalism has been in force even today. Due to this feudalistic attitude the rich landlords the owners of land still commit atrocities on the Adivasis. Oppression had been there in the past

also. But it was not that intense at that time. Our ancestors never used to disobey the Zamindars. What is happening today? Since politics was not that much complex in those days, the Adivasis were not so much conscious of their rights. Today the poor Harijans have come forward in the complex political turmoil to assert their rights. They have become conscious of the people oppressing them. They have become conscious of their rights and privileges. The landlords, the vested interests cannot compromise with this kind of situation. So whenever the Adivasis are revolting, these landlords tyrannize, oppress them. In villages after villages the landlords are committing atrocities on Harijans to preserve their selfish intentions. Generally the Adivasis are poor, they cultivate the land of other people and give the crops to the owner. Many of these Adivasis have come to know about land Reform Act, as this has been implemented in West Bengal, Kerala and in some states it has been implemented casually. So the Adivasis start dreaming of possessing their own land and acquiring their rights. The landlords cannot stand this and they try to drive away the Harijans from the land. The movement the Harijans resist, they are murdered, their houses are burnt and all kinds of atrocities are committed on them. These landlords have their own battalion of executioners. These people are paid handsomely for their reckless murders. This is how these atrocities on Harijans are being committed.

Then there are the political parties who assist these landlords, shield them

so as to preserve their petty selfish motives. This happens in Bihar. In Bihar the Congress Party have been helping the Zamindars. They have always been partial to the landlords.

The Bureacrats in the Government Administration comprise mainly of stronger section of the society. They do not want any change. Because their mental set up has been moulded in such a way that they do not want to change the lot of the Adivasis. Due to certain remedial measures adopted by the Govt. certain changes are ensuing. But these people in the administration do not want this change. That is why the atrocities on Harijans go on continuing. Even some so-called educated people also support the atrocious Zamindars.

Anyway I would conclude my speech with some suggestions.

1. We must implement Land Reform Act. In the words of the poet :—

people who never put their feet on the land become the owners of the land.

Today the strong and mighty are they who are the most deceitful and hypocrat.

2. There should be a ceiling of land and the surplus land must be distributed among the Adivasis. Those who are the real cultivators and feed the whole society by dint of hard labour, must get their due rights. The

poor farmers should be provided with loan so that their conditions improve.

In my village the Zamindars used to repress and oppress. But the left front Government of West Bengal have implemented the Land Reform Act and distributed the surplus land among the poors. Now atrocity has been stopped.

3. We must adopt a secular attitude and discard caste system. The Administration should also be secular and should not have any prejudice against any caste.

4. Immediately after some atrocious incidents, the elected representative of the people should reach that very place and assist the police and Administration to tackle the problem so that the situation does not aggravate further.

5. The education system should be above casteism and we must educate our next generation about the evils of caste system and make them conscios.

6. The offenders must be given deterrant punishment.

7. The Govt. must take initiative and start programme to provide housing facilities, health centre, education and other welfare scheme for the Harijans.

I cite the example of West Bengal before you. The Administration in West Bengal is secular, free from

casteism and land reform act is also there. There are people with social responsibility committed to the upliftment of the down trodden. So we do not have atrocities on Harijans in my State.

In the end I would like to say that Manoranjan Babu (Bhakta) has mentioned about atrocities in Keshopur, village of West Bengal. But who have been responsible for these atrocities. They are the Jharkhandis and his own party—the Congress. But he has been silent on Tripura. What is happening in Tripura? With these words I conclude my speech. Thank you.

SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO (Karimnagar): Mr. Dputy Spaker, Sir, discussion on the issue has been going on for three days. Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan and the leading political stalwarts of almost all the parties took part in it. The discussion was mostly above party politics. But unfortunately the discussion was given political colour by some of the Speakers. Through you Sir, I would like to urge them not to give political colour everytime when atrocities are committed against weaker sections. Such incidents are common in all the states whether these are ruled by Congress (I), BJP or Janata Dal, but the only exception is West Bengal. But none raised this issue during the discussion. I am not saying that everything is going well in West Bengal. But the number of incidents is very less there. Everyone feels sorry and ashamed for the incident in Tsundur in Andhra Pradesh. People responsible for these

atrocities must be awarded stringent punishment.

Special courts have been set up in Andhra Pradesh to deal with such incidents. I do not want to repeat the whole thing, but Tsundur was in the grip of tension for one year. Nothing was done by any political party or administration to ease the tension. Telugu Desam is main opposition party in Andhra Pradesh. Atrocities against weaker sections started during the tenure of former Chief Minister: Mr. Rama Rao, which were totally unknown earlier. Incidents of atrocities which took place after Mr. Rama Rao came to power were even protested by the Congress (I) party. I would like to ask my Hon. colleague from Machchlipattnam, whether Congress (I) was behind the call of bandh given by the people of upper castes on 15-16 August? Machchlipattnam, today is in the grip of tension because of these incidents. If Congress (I) failed to cool down tempers in Machchlipattnam, then what did the main opposition party and its allies do to fulfil their responsibility? I appreciate the sentiments expressed by Mr. Paswan, who feels sorry from the very core of his heart. Mr. Buta Singh, pleaded that the matter should be transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Why it should be transferred? For so many years the subject was under the Home Ministry and now it has come under the Ministry of Welfare. In 1985, what instructions were issued to Chief Ministers by our Senior leader, Mr. S.B. Chavan, who is committed as the head of Home Ministry. Has those instructions been implemented?

Welfare Ministry performed superlatively under the stewardship of Mr. Paswan because he was committed, Mr. Kesari's, commitment is no way less than that of Mr. Paswan. Solutions can be found if commitment is there. It does not matter whether subject is under Welfare Ministry or Home Ministry. Commitment matters more than that of the Ministry. Neither the political parties nor administration worked sincerely to remove the tension I consider political parties a big failure. Unfortunately, none of the social organisations is coming forward. Neither any attempts were made to reduce tension nor responsible social organisations are being formed. Only a few are committed in every political party. Collective efforts should be made in the event of such an incident taking place. I am not talking on political lines. I appeal to Hon. MP from Machchlipattnam and upper caste people to come forward to help the police to bring to book to persons involved in killings at Tsundur.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time allotted is over. Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Congress (I) has always been ahead of other political parties to check the atrocities on Harijans and Scheduled Tribes. I appeal to Mr. Paswan, to rise above party politics and to work unitedly. If the Hon. MP comes for-

ward, then all of us will cooperate with him. Tension is prevailing between two groups in four-five districts of Andhra Pradesh. All attempts should be made to remove the tension. It should not be viewed from political angle. Andhra Pradesh Government has set up special courts. This is a welcome step. Foolproof investigations must be got conducted through C.B.I. and Crime Branch of the state. There was no dispute over land or wages in Tsundur village. There was no political controversy there. There both the groups are supporter of Congress. There has been tension between the two groups ever since 1989. None has made attempts to remove this tension. I consider it a failure of all the political parties.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chokka Raoji, please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: There is no social organisation there. It must be there. As long as there is no social organisation politics will continue to interfere us it. No social organisation will be able to come up. Therefore, we should involve social organisation alongwith Government organisations. Our all efforts should be directed towards easing out the tension and check recurrence of such incidents. Through you, I appeal to upper caste people to come forward in bringing the guilty to book. I also appeal to

leaders of Telugu Desam not to bring in politics into such incidents.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the Hon. Home Minister may reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The understanding was that everybody should complete his speech within five minutes. But you are not able to adhere to it. If it were the case, probably you would have completed your speeches within the time. So, my humble request is : kindly let us stick to the understanding we have arrived at.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI (Roberts-ganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, atrocities on Harijans and Tribals is being discussed in the House for the last three days and to my mind every political party is trying to take political advantage out of it. All organisations established to improve the lot of Harijans and Tribals in India have proved to be pastures even for IAS officers and leaders. All the money given to this Department is misused. For example, in Sonbhadra in district Mirzapur houses and shops were built for Harijans and Tribals, but were not given to them. This has caused widespread resentment among them. In whole country money is being squandored

away and misused in the name of welfare of these people. Provision of money is made to make available milch cattle to these people but the money does not reach them. If we are sincere to improve their lot then money should be directly paid to them through draft. Otherwise, whosoever be the Minister of Welfare, whether belonging to Scheduled Caste or to upper caste, he would not be able to do any good to them. Though laws are made strict in letter and spirit, but even then only 25 paise out of a rupee reach the beneficiaries. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, when he was in power had also said, that just 15 paise in a rupee reach the beneficiaries. That's why relief should be given to them directly. Tribals were displaced because of setting up of Rihand Dam in 1954-55. The tribals displaced as a result of setting up of many other thermal power plants have not been rehabilitated so far. Neither money nor houses have been provided to them. This is how they are exploited. Palatial houses are constructed at the places from where these tribals are evicted and they are compelled to beg in Delhi, Lucknow and Punjab and work as labourers.

They are facing starvation. The influential people displace the poor—no matter they are Harijans, Brahmins or any other caste—who might have been residing there, to construct their own luxurious houses. People belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who had been residing near collieries and the Thermal Power Stations for centuries are being displaced.

They have lost their houses and religion. Several families have been displaced not once or twice, but four times. These leaders pose to be their sympathisers, but what kind of sympathy do they have? I would like to submit that those who have won elections or those who intend to win elections in the name of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes cannot uplift them unless they improve and strengthen their own character. Through you, I would like to submit that the Minister of Power and Energy should himself visit those places so that he may see with his own eyes that those villages are in complete darkness. The displaced adivasis have neither the houses to live in nor clean water to drink. Only big businessmen lead their lives properly there and they are those people who have seized the lands of the poor at such places and these businessmen have now become landlords. Did those poor people not possess the land earlier? Everything is in the hands of those landlords. All the influential people, officers, engineers and others who have gone there in connection with the setting up of Thermal Power Project do nothing but serve their own interest at the cost of the poor tribals.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like the Government to construct the residential colony for the displaced persons in Sonbhadra district just as special colonies are constructed for Government employees. Besides, facilities for their own education as well as their children's education must be

provided. Children of high officials—to whichever caste they may belong—residing in the adjoining area of the Thermal Power Plant, can go to schools; whereas the children of tribals and Harijans are not permitted to get education there. Therefore, I would like to submit that special colony should be constructed for the people displaced particularly in Thermal Power station, Shaktinagar and Anapara A and B, Bina, Kakri colliery, Bijapur, Khadia and Dudhichua colliery and electricity should be provided to them. It would be better if a school is also opened for providing educational facilities to their children. It would help upliftment of the poor, Adivasis and Harijans. With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I request the hon. Home Minister to reply.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must express my gratitude to all the Hon. Members who have participated in this discussion.

While speaking, every hon. Member has said that it is not a ritual and that this is a matter which has to be considered very seriously.

I consider that the entire thing has to be looked at, not from the Party point of view. I am in full agreement with what my friend Shri Chokka Rao Juvvadi has said that there is no point

in exploiting this issue for partisan purposes. Party purpose is a totally different matter than the national issue. This is a national issue and if all the political parties will take a decision that they will not exploit this issue for party ends. I am sure, that with the collective efforts, it should be possible for us to find out a very amicable solution. There is no denying the fact that this is an exploitative society. It is based on exploitation and unless we transform this society and put an end to exploitation and meet out justice to all those who have been suppressed so far, this will only remain a very big ideal that we talk of. But when it comes to implementation, we find that there are a large number of people who, in fact, just pay lip sympathy; they are not interested in implementation part of it.

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH YADAV : Only Congress is interested.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : Yes, Telugu Desam is equally interested in this. Why do you unnecessarily say this? I know the ins-and-outs of Telugu Desam. So, don't tell me about Andhra Pradesh. So, my appeal to all the hon. Members will be to find out as to how best we will be able to find out a solution to this problem. This is a blot on our society which needs to be corrected.

Hon. Member Buta Singh ii has suggested one thing. I have no objection to call the meeting of the National Integration Council and place this issue before the National Integration Council. Let us collectively put our

heads together and try to find out how best we can find out a solution to this problem. The Andhra instance is not an isolated instance. There are a number of areas where incidents do take place and that is why it becomes absolutely necessary that we should go deep at the root of the problem and try to find out why is it that these problems are taking place; what is the root cause of it.

Sir, according to us there are three or four issues on which we will have to apply our minds. I must tell you at the very outset that I am replying on behalf of three or four Ministries and a major portion of which goes to the welfare Ministry; another portion which goes to the Ministry of Personnel and mostly the implementation part has to be done by the State Governments. This is the scenario in which we are discussing these issues. That is why instead of going into the details of any particular issue, let us find out as to what are the basic issues on which we have to concentrate and find a solution for the same.

According to us, the basic issue is the land problem. Unfortunately, I cannot resist saying this that in the matter of land reforms there is much which can be done more than what has been done so far. Actually, I have not been able to understand one thing. Sometimes, these figures are also, I should not use that word, very deceptive. We do not know because ultimately these figures are compiled out of the reports which we get from the respective State Governments. I have to

say that regarding returns filed, the total comes to 15,71,716; number of returns disposed of is 15,16,696; number of returns pending seems to be 55,020; the area declared surplus is 72,25,949; area taken possession is 62,29,568. So, there is a difference of almost 10 lakhs. This is in acres. So, there is a difference of 10 lakhs between the declaration and taking possession of the land. The area distributed to the beneficiaries is 47,67,058. So, these figures are given. I have been given to understand that the land which is still covered under litigation in spite of the fact that land reforms has been put under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution is 11,42,317 acres; transferred for public purposes is 3,54,437; unfit for cultivation is 3,96,602. These are the figures which have been given by the State Governments. I have got the figures state-wise also with me. But without any fear of contradiction, I can say that there are a large number of people who are having *benami* transactions. Benami transaction is one of the issues which, in fact, is very rampant and unless some influential person is involved, he dare not have this transaction in the benami name. It is the duty of the State Governments to find it out. I do not think any Hon. Member expects that the Central Government should go into it and find out as to who are the benami transactors. It is for the State Government concerned to constitute committees at the State level, constitute committees at the district level and have the beneficiary also represented there and wherever this benami transaction has taken place and

if you take some people from those areas, I am sure those are the people who know who is a benami holder. They will be able to point out the benami holder provided they get an assurance that they will be protected. Otherwise, if he were to raise his voice, I am sure, that man is going to be harassed. That is why, it becomes the duty of all of us to protect them. Are we in a position to create an atmosphere in which the poorest of the poor gets the confidence that if he were to raise a voice for asserting his voice, he will get the support of all the Hon. Members present here? Are we prepared to give this kind of an undertaking? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH YADAV :
 We will give.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : I will be happy if you do this first. I know the kind of politics which goes on in Andhra Pradesh. Irrespective of that I will be happy if the Telegu Desam takes up this issue in Andhra Pradesh and try to go deep into the matter to find out as to how much land these benami holders are having and how to unearth the entire thing and thereafter see that you are able to do justice to the poorer sections.

Agricultural labour and the minimum wage is another factor. Everybody thinks in terms of implementation of the minimum wages to the agricultural labour, which has been fixed. Committees have been appointed, they have submitted their reports.

Most of these people are to be the Scheduled Castes and the backward class people. If we are really interested in giving justice to the people, certainly, we should try to help in implementing the minimum wages which have been prescribed for different areas. But it is more observed in a breach rather than the implementation that has been the experience that we have come across.

The third thing which, in fact, deserves the attention of all the Hon. Members is that the atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are committed when they try to assert their rights. If they have to assert their rights, if they have to save the honour of their women which will be protected at any cost, there is a section in the community which, in fact, is interested in exploiting all these factors for their own benefit, are we prepared to take action against those people? This is the basic point. Are we prepared to do it, not only in Parliament, but also outside? In Parliament, everybody can speak. There is no difficulty about it. But when we go outside and even in one instance, if a man were to get this confidence and if he were to assert his right, that can be only done if the committed people of his party are prepared to go along with him and give him all the protection which are needed to be given against the very powerful personalities of those areas. If the Hon. Members are interested—I would not like to take more of your time—I have the figures with me about the atrocities committed on the Harijans

and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, I will give you the figures.

I am sorry, I forgot one thing and that is about the Scheduled Tribe land. In fact, right from 1947, they are supposed to be inalienable. Any transaction, in violation of this, is definitely invalid. Lands have to be restored to the adivasis. But there are a very few State Governments which have been able to restore the possession to the adivasis. And that is why, it becomes all the more necessary that we should go deep into the matter and try to find out as to how best we can possibly do this kind of a job.

Sir, about the surplus land which has been distributed to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, I must say that the figure come to almost 49 per cent of the total land which was declared surplus and 50 per cent has been given to all others. So, it is 49 per cent surely. Again, the question that also arises is that having given the possession, if in the very next year the man is dispossessed, he has to be restored his possession. If we are able to take special interest in this matter and I am sure, we will be able to do greater justice to the man, who in fact is the greatest sufferer.

Now, this brings me to the next point and that is about the establishment of Special Courts for discharging this responsibility. I have the figures with me which clearly indicate that all the State Governments have designated Courts for trying the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes cases. I

have information for all the State Governments. The courts designated are supposed to give priority to the cases and where heinous crimes have been committed, I propose to write again to the State Governments. Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and some other States, I am sure, are prepared to set up Special Courts for trying these heinous cases. I am going to write to all the State Governments again to kindly look into the matter and see that immediate action is being taken against those who have tried their level best to perpetrate the kind of atrocities which in fact were most inhuman. We cannot possibly visualise as to what the feelings of these people will be who are in fact subjected to the kind of treatment by these very influential people.

Another point which I would like to make here will be about the recruitment policy which we have been following. I am sure that if the Hon. Members take interest in the matter, they will be able to do a lot in this case also. I have the figures for recruitment. The concessions which have been announced by the Central Government are—relaxation in the upper age limit by five years; total exemption from payment of examination or application fees; no limit on the number of appearances at the examination; application of relaxed standards of suitability and facility of a separate interview so that SC and ST candidates are adjudged by the relaxed

standards. The figures for groups A, B, C and D are :

In 1971, the total number of Scheduled Castes in Group A was 741 (2.58 per cent). In 1990, the figure has risen to 5,831 and the percentage comes to 8.64. In Group B, in 1971, the figure was 1,794 (4.06 per cent). In 1990, it has gone up to 10,497 (11.29 per cent). In Group C, the figure in 1971 was 1,36,259 (9.59 per cent). In 1990, it has risen to 3,36,880 (15.19 per cent). And in Group D, the percentage had gone from 18.37 to 21.48.

I must admit that we are lagging behind in the case of Scheduled Tribes. In 1971, the figure of Group A posts was 117 (0.41 per cent). In 1990, the number has gone up to 1,593 (2.58 per cent). Here also, the figure in Group B comes to 2.39 per cent; in Group C, it comes to 4.83 per cent and in Group D, it comes to 6.73 per cent. So in all these groups, in the case of Scheduled Tribe, we are definitely lagging behind: there is no doubt about it. I have got the figures for all the categories right from 1971 year-wise. If the Hon. Members are interested, I will give these figures.

19.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL VARMA : You have given the figures, but I would like to know whether these figures fulfil the required percentage.

[English]

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : These figures are about the vacancies for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe—reserved and filled up in IAS and IPS. This is supposed to be a very prestigious recruitment and I am happy to report that out of the total vacancies of 135, 21 vacancies were reserved for SC and 20 vacancies have been filled. So out of 21 that we wanted to recruit, we could recruit 20. This is the figure from 1985. In 1989 this figure comes to 16 and 16; so it is almost the exact figure. Only in 1985 there has been a lack of one number. In IFS, from 1985 we have the figures and it is almost 100%—whatever we have fixed, we have been able to achieve.

It is interesting for all the ST Members that the total number of vacancies have been filled. It was 10 in 1985 and we could recruit all of them. This is the surprising part and that is why I thought that I must give these figures to you. Of course, these are figures which are subject to verification. We could verify these facts because these are printed in the Annual Reports. In 1989 also, out of 8 we have been able to recruit all the 8.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It is true that the figures which you have quoted have been printed in the Annual Reports. But the question is that if all the vacancies of collectors, IAS and IPS officials are being filled, why

are the vacancies of class IV employees not being filled ?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : I have also quoted the figures of the vacancies of class IV employees. The only problem we faced so far was in filling the vacancies of class I officials. Whenever we advertised the vacancies for class I posts, no candidate was available. Everytime it was said that qualified persons were not available. This is the prevailing situation in I-S. Even in IPS, the number of persons required to fill up the vacancies were not available. For instance, in 1985 only 13 candidates were available for 17 posts reserved for scheduled caste candidates.

[English]

For 1989 the figure comes to 16 and all the 16 vacancies have been filled. For ST also I have got similar figures available.

We took a special drive in 1989 and also in 1990. So both the figures are available with me. In the case of SC it was 36,647 and we have been able to recruit about 31,243. In terms of percentage, it comes to 87.6. In public sector it was 11,000 and it came to 8,125.

I don't want to take much time of the House on this. In fact we have had enough discussions. I have got figures for all the public sector undertakings also and the important ministries where as a result of the drive that was taken by the Government we could achieve

excellent results. In Railways it was 93.71%, in Telecom it was 35.9%, in Defence it was 36.5% and in Atomic Energy it was 50.1%.

So, there are some areas where more needs to be done. These are the figures which are available with me. But we are not satisfied with the kind of recruitment that we have done; we will have to do something more than what has been achieved and at the same time see that these people are able to get justice at the hands of the Government also.

I cannot possibly deny the fact which the Hon. Member Shri Buta Singh has raised and that was about the Additional Secretaries' Empanelment. I have got the figures with me which I am prepared to give. There was one post of Additional Secretary for the Scheduled Tribe and there were eight posts for the Scheduled Castes. I do not know for what reasons, the Government which came later on, have reduced it to six instead of eight. This morning only I have gone through the file in order to find out and satisfy myself as to whether this kind of a revision is called for and for what reasons. At least I am convinced that there is no justification for reducing the number from eight to six. We are going to take necessary steps in this direction by going to the ACC and restoring the figure which was given earlier.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: It is a very important matter and as we were also in the Government, and if that is the position we are to blame equally. I would like to know whether what you are saying and what I had reminded Shri Buta Singh ji that day also is a fact that 9 vacancies of Additional Secretary to be filled from among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were kept in the panel by the Rajiv Gandhi Government, but these vacancies were not filled up by the Government that took over later. I am not aware of what was done at Prime Minister's level. But nothing has been done by the Home Ministry or at the lower level. Can you clarify with some authority as to the level at which the matter was decided? Is there any proof in the Ministry of Welfare and the Ministry of Home Affairs to support it?

[English]

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I think it is a very valid question that he has asked me. I must say that I have verified the figures and the whole thing was approved by the ACC. The case went to the Department of Personnel to issue orders. Thereafter there was a change in it. (Interruptions) I am not blaming any Government.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I would like to know from you whether the matter was merely discussed

by the ACC or the proposal was sent by the Home Ministry? Since you are speaking as the Minister of Home Affairs and Shri Chidambaram is also present here, I would like to know whether the Home Ministry formed the panel and sent it to ACC or ACC merely discussed the matter which is not on record now? (*Interruptions*).

AN HON. MEMBER: What do you mean by A.C.C.?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Most of the Hon. Members do not know as to what A.C.C. is!

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: ACC means Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Cases are recommended to the ACC by the respective departments. A case can not be discussed in the A.C.C. unless it has been recommended by the concerned Department. ACC finalised this case. I do not intend to blame any Government. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I am raising a very valid question. A proposal is made to the ACC by the Home Ministry or the Department of Personnel as is the official procedure. How could the ACC take decision of its own? It is not an ordinary matter. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I would like to ask you as to why you are trying to blame yourself... (*Interruptions*)... listen to me.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: After that, my Government was in power and this allegation has been made against me.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Out of 8 names on the panel, six persons were promoted and six persons would have been promoted after due consideration. 8 cases were forwarded to you and you felt that ACC has not discussed those cases and therefore, these cases could be revived. This is the correct position.

[*English*]

It is with the change of Government. Are you prepared to accept this position that even these six posts are on *ad hoc* basis?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Do you want to say that our Ministry had appointed six Additional Secretaries from amongst the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: They were not appointed. . .

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Only one Shri Mata Prasad, was appointed. Other six were not appointed.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: If you want names, I can give you names also.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am not talking of names. First you said that there was a panel of nine

candidates. Again you said that 6 out of 9 were appointed. But I say that I appointed only one, Shri Mata Prasad. Where are the other 5? I did not appoint rest of the five.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : Even if you appointed 6. . .

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Where are the other 5? I did not appoint rest of the five.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : You cannot question A.C.C. as to how their numbers was reduced from 8 to 6? Even if you appointed only 6 of them it means you know the cases of these six.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I again say that I did not do all that.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : You had recommended. I can let you know the record. You made recommendation for six.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You tell their names? This is not a simple issue.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : I give the names. Names are Shri Teres Kaji, Scheduled Tribe, and Shri O. P. Mehra, Mata Prasad, K. M. Rao, Ibrahim, Avtar Singh, R. Naik, R.L. Pradeep, Mahendra Singh, all belonging to Scheduled Castes. These are the total 8 persons.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

(SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : He should withdraw his charge. (Interruptions)

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : I am really surprised that on an ad hoc basis things can be done at the ACC level. That is something I cannot follow. I cannot possibly believe this kind of a story that there was no proposal.

(Interruptions) This can never happen.

I think, I need not dilate any more on this point.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Does it mean that today, there are six Scheduled Caste Additional Secretaries in the Government of India?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : No, no. This will mean that the ACC approval has been given for Additional Secretaries' posts. So, when the vacancies arise, we will try to fill up the vacancies. Probably there is some misunderstanding. This is the empanelment. What Mr. Buta Singh said was that this was a list of empanelled officers. Once they are empanelled, thereafter as soon as the vacancies arise those vacancies will be filled up. (Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK : (Buldana) Six of the old panel of eight plus one were also accepted by the next Government. Does it mean that the six plus one of the

Scheduled Tribe came through a proper process and the two, which have been dropped, did not come through a proper process ?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : At least I presume that the whole thing has been done by a proper procedure. I do not think that even in the case of six, you can possibly also say that they have violated any kind of procedure. Procedurally, everything has been done properly. But the list was reduced from eight to six. That was the only thing that Mr. Buta Singh said. That is why I wanted to give this information to the Hon. House.

I think, these were the major points. There are a large number of other points which the Hon. Members have made. But I do not think that I should take more time of the House and unnecessarily try your patience any more.

I would request Mr. Paswan that he should not press for this Resolution because we are at it. So far as this proclamation is concerned, we will see that these special courts are constituted. I cannot possibly prescribe a stipulated time. It depends on the vacancies which should become available. That is why I can merely say that we also propose to remove the backlog at the earliest. So, on this assurance, I do not think that Hon. Member, Shri Paswan, is going to press for his resolution. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Sir, I would like to put only

one question to the hon. Home Minister. The hon. Home Minister has said that he will consider the convening of the National Integration Council specially to discuss the issue of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He has said that four main factors are responsible for such atrocities out of which three factors seem to be economic factors like land reforms, minimum wages, etc. Now, will the Home Minister give an assurance that he will recommend to the Prime Minister that a special meeting of the National Integration Council will be called to discuss this question and also the main problem will be considered as the economic factor so that the SC's and STs will be uplifted ?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : I can assure the hon. Member that I will definitely recommend to the hon. Prime Minister and request him with all the emphasis at my command that a special meeting of the National Integration Council may be called to discuss this issue. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Sir, will the hon. Home Minister assure the House that while constituting the National Integration Council, the nominees from the Scheduled Tribes will also be included ?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : We propose to constitute the National Integration Council and we will see that representation is given to the Scheduled Tribes also.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA

(Andaman-Nicobar): Sir, I want to seek a clarification from the Hon. Home Minister. In Nicobar district, the entire tribal society lives in a co-operative manner. But now the administration there is trying to allow some business people from outside to start business there. I would like to know whether or not you will issue suitable instructions to the administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands so that the tribal life will continue in a peaceful manner and that no outsider will be allowed to start business in that island.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I will examine this point definitely.

[Translation]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, much have been said to show the sympathy towards Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The hon. Speaker is going to constitute several Parliamentary Committees. So I would like to know as to how many persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been appointed Chairman so far? No person belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been appointed as Chairman of any Parliamentary Committee except the Committee on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the post of Chairman of which is reserved for S/C and S/T. This is the justice of the House. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI RAM NAIK: My point of order is that the issue which he is discussing now comes under the purview of the Speaker and no such question should be allowed here.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Sir, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Home Minister regarding the backlog of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the services. But at the same time, while replying to the debate on atrocities, he categorically said that he is not in a position to give any time limit within which the backlog will be completed. It had been categorically stated in the President's Address that in a time-bound manner, the backlog regarding the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Central Government Ministries and Departments will be completed. After seeing such a policy statement in the Address, I would like to know at least the minimum possible time limit by which the backlog will be completed.

Secondly, I had raised this issue in the morning also. In 1990, as many as 18601 cases of atrocities from different parts of the country had been reported to the Union Government. But out of these many cases, only 416 cases were taken up by the National Commission which is only a very small fraction.

I would like to know what measures the Government will take to strengthen the National Commission and what facilities and infrastructure will be provided to it, so that they can take up the various cases of atrocities.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : So far as the first part is concerned, there is no contradiction between what we have stated in the President's Address and what I have stated just now. There is no contradiction between the two. That is the point on which we will have to have some kind of projection with regard to the number of vacancies that are going to be available. If we merely say that in two years' time, we will fill up the backlog and if there are no vacancies available, then we will be failing. Giving an assurance and not implementing is not correct.

About the second point, I will have to examine the whole thing. It is not with me. It is the Ministry of Welfare. He will have to do it. I will pass on this information to him.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK : Is the Government working out any projection? (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir my question has not been replied. My question was as to whether persons belonging to the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribes have been appointed as Chairmen of Parliamentary Committees? Is there

any reservation for them? Would you like to care a bit about that . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RATILAL VARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to get assurance from the hon. Minister that he would look into the suggestions made by the various Members in regard to providing protection to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to impart them training.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : Sir, I have detailed information regarding imparting them training but due to shortage of time, I would not like to go into that. I have full information about the places where they are provided prerecruitment training. In many universities even classes for this purpose are being held . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RATILAL VARMA : I have not said about providing them training for getting jobs. I said about providing them training for their own protection and safety . . . (*Interruptions*) Training is being provided to them for getting jobs. But if they do not survive, who would take up the job.

[*English*]

SHRI K. P. REDDIAH YADAV : Sir, there is a Presidential Order which says that tribal land should not be alienated. Others should not occupy their land. This order exists right from 1947. In Bhadrachalam Agency

area of Khammam District in Andhra Pradesh, one lakh acres of very fertile land belonging to the tribals is occupied by the upper caste farmers. These upper caste people are supported by Shri Jalagam Vengala Rao, a former Union Minister . .

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Sir, I am on a point of order. When a person is not present in the House, his name should not be taken. It may please be deleted.

SHRI K. P. REDDIAH YADAV : Can the hon. Home Minister evacuate those farmers from this tribal land? Will he give us an assurance?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : A legislation already exists. It is only a question of implementation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say two-three things in regard to the suggestions made by the Hon. Minister. We cannot doubt his intention, but he might not be having full knowledge about this or there might be some other reason. He has touched the four matters. He has said a good thing that there would be special courts. I think by special courts he means Exclusive Courts. The special court does not mean a formal court where the judge sits and hears the case in his court-room. Our idea behind the Exclusive Court is that

wherever such an incident takes place, may be in Andhra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, centre should ask the concerned State Government to constitute an exclusive court and a judge of high court should be appointed to this court. The judge should visit the site of incident and collect all the evidence. He should be asked to submit his report within 30 days or any other period decided by the Government. A time limit must be prescribed for the purpose. These steps would instill confidence in the minds of the people.

Secondly, I would like to draw the attention of the Home Minister, I do not know whether he knows it or not, to the possibility of recurrence of such an incident in which 20—27 persons have been killed. So the State Governments as well as the Intelligence Departments are required to be alerted in order to check recurrence of such incident. I have come to know that they are preparing to commit another massacre there. If precautionary steps are not taken, such an incident can take place again on a large scale.

He has mentioned about the special courts. I hope he will provide for Exclusive Courts. So far as recruitment is concerned, I support his views. The SC/ST candidates are available for the posts of S. P. and Collector, but not for the posts of peon. This 7.5 per cent reservation for the Adivasis in class four posts. Only 6 per cent quota has been filled so far. Eligible candidates are easily available for the post of collectors but they are not available for the posts of sweepers

and peons. What is the reason behind this? The main reason is that there is SC/ST Member in the Recruitment Body of U.P.S.C. Sometimes, even the Chairman of the Body is also of SC/ST. Therefore, no officer is able to make bungling in the Procedure. But at lower level, officer takes liberty and appoints his own men as peon. There is no criterion in this regard. Only this much is put on record that no person belonging to SC/ST is available for appointment. That is why I want to say that there is only one solution to this problem. I had told the Welfare Minister also about it. I had told you also that a Bill was prepared during our regime in this regard. We had asserted that the said bill would be helpful to clear the backlog by 14th April, 1992 i.e. the year of birth centenary of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. There was a provision of penalty and punishment in the Bill. The officers, who are responsible for not recruiting suitable and available S.C., S.T. candidates, should be penalised. Unless there is some provision for punishment for the concerned officers, it would not be implemented. I had once stated in the Parliament that the progress made in this field during the last 43 years has been most inadequate. There should be 22.5 per cent reservation but it was only 10 per cent. It means it is below 50 per cent. The man who should be of 5 feet 7 inches height, is only of 3 feet height and even then you claim that he is very powerful. Therefore, the Hon. Minister should keep in mind this point. Hon. Welfare Minister had also conceded it,

but it is not known as to why it has been covered in the Presidential Address. But it is necessary to bring forward this Legislation.

Secondly, a reference has been made about the panel. Hon. Speaker has also a panel, a list of speakers of 100 members. But the question is how many members have got chance to speak. When the panel has not been implemented what for it was meant. I had also stated it that day that the Act and the fact were two different things. I don't know whether the Act includes the panel or not. But it is a fact that one Sardar Kartar Singh was appointed as Additional Secretary in 1974 and after a long period of 16 years another Additional Secretary has been appointed in 1990. Even today the persons belonging to 1960-61 panel, have become Secretaries. But the position regarding S.C., S.T. is almost the same as I stated earlier. If you go to South, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, you will find that the I.A.S. officers belonging to 1959 batch have become Secretaries. There are only 2-3 officers in the whole country who have the rank of Secretaries but could not be promoted as Secretaries. Due to certain infructuous bureaucratic formalities regarding Annual Confidential Reports, the Officers belonging to S.C., S.T. could not get promotion because their A.C. Rs. are always spoiled even though they may be good workers. Unless the Government makes some special provision in this connection, this anomaly can't be removed. There are so many Secretaries in various

Ministries but you could not appoint even a single Secretary belonging to S.C., S.T. There is only one Additional Secretary after 43 years of independence, then who is at fault? Who is incapable? Are we incapable or you are incapable? If it was the matter concerning efficiency and merit, why did we force the British to leave the country. Englishmen were very meritorious than we are. We were not capable of becoming even Police Inspectors as compared to them. Today we are holding the posts from top to bottom. In the same way, the argument is given in regard to S.C., S.T.

I would like to submit that special attention should be paid to them. Thirdly, you have mentioned about land. You have yourself accepted the fact that out of 62 lakh acres of land identified for the purpose, 47 lakh acres of land has been disbursed only on paper. Even in regard to the land distributed you have said that certain area of land is still under litigation. It means that the land has been acquired from big land-owners and farmers but out of it, 15 lakh acres of land has been distributed neither on paper nor physically. That is why I say that please expose the State Government. You may convene a conference of Chief Ministers. You may get the guidelines prepared by Home Ministry regarding the measures to be taken. You please denounce the Chief Minister publicly, who does not follow the guidelines. You know that you yourself enacted the Prevention of Atrocities Act, during the month of July, 1989, but it was not

been implemented till November when we came into power; we enquired from the concerned Ministry as to why it had not been implemented. The reply was that no State Government responded to it. We wrote to the State Governments if they did not send their reply by 30th December, we would implement it and we would expose the defaulter State Government publicly and so we issued the Notification. You are still asking whether Notification is to be issued or not. Are all the people in the State Government saints. There are demons also. That is why I want to ask you if you leave all the things to be done by the State Governments, they will not respond. You must expose such Governments calling them as anti-oppressed, anti-weaker section, anti-minority and anti-backward class, whether the Government belongs to our party or to your party. Then we would be able to know which State Government is progressive. Everything should not be thrown on the State Governments.

Thirdly, I would like to thank Shri Vankat Swamy. He has conceded one thing at least that the incident has occurred due to the conspiracy between the landlords and the administration. When there is a conspiracy and the Central Minister is confirming it after paying an on the spot visit, the D.G. of Police, who is the officer at the helm of affairs, must be suspended. Further, why don't you arrest the persons who are directly involved and responsible for such a big incident.

Secondly, I would like to say about the media, viz., T. V. and Radio. I am sorry that we can't refer to newspapers. Please look into the role played by the Government media. The discussions are held in the House. Hindi news bulletin covers a little but the English news bulletin does not cover the news at all.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :
Yes Sir, it is correct.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :
Please see, even Shri Manoranjan Bhakta is complaining.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :
Our party organised a meeting of Congress President, Chief Ministers and C.L.P., that was also not covered by the Government media.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :
When even such an important meeting was not covered, what we can expect from it for us? That is why I say whenever the issue relating to weaker section is arisen, I request Mr. Panja, who is perhaps present here, please tighten them up. I would like to tell you as what goes on there.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : Sir, the previous Government has made it so loose that it will take some time to tighten it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :
But you must tighten it immediately.

If the previous Government has made it loose, you must tighten it urgently. If you follow into the foot-steps of the previous Government, your fate will be no different. (Interruptions) Please state when did you cover the news relating to Shri Chidambaram. Shri Madhav Rao Scindia's news was covered but Shri Khurana ji was left-out.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY : In spite of gravity of unemployment, why did you give extension to your Director? What is your interest in it?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :
They are loose. He is tightening them up.

[English]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : It is not for me to give extension, it is for the Cabinet Committee on Appointments to do so, and no decision has yet been taken. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :
We will discuss it separately. T. V. is your media. The problems of the weaker sections and the poor as well as their solution should be highlighted through the media. The publicity of big people is being done freely. That is not desirable. One day I was witnessing the archers. You can see them at Chhota Nagpur. The best archers are available there. They can hit the coin from a very long distance. At the time of selection you did not

pay any attention towards the selection of Adivasis. You need not go after the name .. (Interruptions) Regarding Chargesheet, you should issue a circular. The maxim of 'Justice delayed is justice denied' should be kept in mind not only in case of weaker sections as well as others. It should be mentioned in the circular that chargesheet should be served within 30 days. I will not go into the figures of caste riots or communal riots. You have the figures. You must be knowing the number of cases of weaker sections involved and the number of cases in which punishment was awarded. No accused is prosecuted and no enquiry is held. You may look into any one case for enquiry and then action should be taken against the officer found guilty. You and we all know the whole system. If S.H.Os. and officers-in-charge exercise their powers under section 64, they can arrest even S. P. and I. G. It should be adhered to strictly.

Today a question was asked regarding admissions of SC and ST students in MBBS, in pursuance of the reservation quota fixed for these categories. It has been stated in the reply that the situation is not satisfactory in states like Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Orissa and Rajasthan. Enough suitable candidates are not available in these States. What about admissions in engineering courses .. (Interruptions) This is the reply of question No. 461. It has been clearly stated that the situation in these states is even worse. I urge the Government to immediately fill the backlog in the

field of education. After this the role of police needs to be reviewed. I feel minorities are not afraid of Hindus; but are afraid of police. In case of atrocities in Uttar Pradesh, PAC is deployed. People of these communities are afraid of police. My hon. colleagues from Gujarat are well aware that when there were caste-riots in that state many rumours were spread about the killings in Patel Basti. To improve the image of police, in every district out of four officials S. P., D. M., D.S.P. and S.P.U., one of them must be from Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribes to create confidence among people and to ensure thorough investigation of such incidents. Some hon. M. Ps raised the demand of investigation by CBI. But I think investigation by CBI will not be proper in the interest of the State Governments or the Central Government. For this purpose you should set up special courts .. (Interruptions)

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : Judicial inquiry is going on.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The hon. Minister is confusing the issue. Special courts and judicial inquiry are two separate things. This incident needs to be investigated by the special court. Mr. Reddy is not present here and let me make it clear that Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes are not responsible for the incident. It is not only shameful for we people but also for the upper castes. Upper castes should be more perturbed than we people. To mitigate the sufferings and to find a solution

to the problem, remedial measures need to be taken. If this is not done then atrocities will continue to be inflicted on Scheduled Caste, backward communities and minorities, and the problem will continue to bother all of us. Naxalite menace prevailing in 14 districts of Andhra Pradesh is well known and if the people lose faith in law, then rest of the districts of Andhra Pradesh will also come in their grip, further complicating the matters.

I want the motion to be listed in someone's name whether it be Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan or the hon. Minister or the Chair. The whole House is united in this matter. Everyone condemns such incidents and does not favour recurrence of these incidents. I did not use derogatory words and merely said that this House condemns atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and requests the Government to issue instructions to prevent recurrence of incidents of atrocities. May be the Government is having reservations on the issue. If the Hon. Minister is not in favour, then I will not press for it. But I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards two-three points. An Hon. Member from Manipur, rightly reminded the passing of the law respect of Neo-Buddhists by the previous Government and the Congressmen were very active in this regard at that time and now you should also extend similar facilities to Christian converts, on the lines of facilities granted to Neo-Buddhists. At that time I, as a Minister, made it

clear that the proposal is under consideration, but the Government lacks requisite majority to put through the motion but an ally of our Government refused to co-operate on this issue. They made it clear . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : Sir, he is giving a wrong information. When the Bill was being discussed, we suggested to him to include only one word and that is "converted Christians" along with neo-Buddhists. But he refused to include it. Why is this hypocrisy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : It was I who discussed the matter with him and Mr. Upendra at that time under the direction of our late leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. We had asked for the inclusion of this. In the meeting in the Speaker's Chamber he had agreed to that. But after coming over here, he backed out.

[Translation]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever he is saying is not quite correct, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan took initiative. Congress(I) leaders also met him in this connection. Everything was made clear and had the Government lasted for one more month, then it could have been sorted out . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I made my point clear on several occasions in the

House and it is on record. What is my fault if Mr. Kurien used to attend only zero hour. Not once but I made it clear on several occasions and can show the recorded proceedings as proof. I stated categorically in both the Houses that I am in its favour, but the allies are not supporting the Government on this issue and the support of Congress (I) could not be taken for granted.

AN HON. MEMBER : Was it BJP.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I still name them.

SHRI RAM NAIK : We clearly opposed it and will continue to be against it .. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order. Which issue is being discussed, reservation or atrocities. If reservation is being discussed then it should be discussed afresh.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I openly welcome the Government to come up with a legislation and assure the support of my party in getting it through. Let the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs make an announcement in this regard if the Government is sincere. Please come up with a legislation, my party is prepared to support the Government. If it wants to cover even converted Muslims, even then my party will support.

Sir, I also made it clear that we have drawn the attention of the Government towards a few basic facilities. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the assurance of the Hon. Speaker that the legislation for reservation and issue of filling up of backlog of vacancies will be taken up first day of the next session of the Parliament as committed in the House. That day also I made it clear that the Bill is ready in the Ministry of Welfare. This issue is above party politics. Please ensure that you will bring a legislation for reservation in the Parliament to fulfill the backlog in this regard. Give us the gurantee that in future the guilty will be punished and the incidents occurred in the Guntur district will not be repeated. The Government should assure the House, that it will use its influence on State Governments to prevent recurrence of such incidents. If we get this assurance from the Government we can reconsider it.

[English]

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : I have no objection. We will write to the Andhra Pradesh Government that this should not be repeated there. And we will take all precautionary measures.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : What about legislation for reservation ?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : That I cannot promise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : What is the Government doing for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. If such is the response of the Government to the problem, then my party is not satisfied with the reply of the Government. Mr. Speaker, Sir, at least the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs should issue an appeal to the countrymen not to repeat such heinous atrocities and should also condemn these incidents in strong terms.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you withdrawing the Motion ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I withdraw the motion.

[*English*]

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : In fact, in my reply I have already made an appeal. I can repeat it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Has the Hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Motion ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS :

Yes.

The Motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Incident of violence/Arson in the House of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan on 22-5-1991

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : I wish to apprise the Hon'ble Members of this August House about the incident of violence and arson which took place in the house of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Member of Parliament, in the early hours of 22nd May, 1991.

As the news of the tragic assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi started percolating, a crowd began gathering in front on 10, Janpath. The crowd became increasingly emotional and restive. At about 1.00 A.M. on 22nd May, 1991, when the Hon'ble President of India came to visit 10, Janpath, the crowd tried to obstruct him from entering 10, Janpath.

By about 1.30 A.M., the number of the crowd swelled to about 2000/2500. The crowd was highly agitated and frenzied and were shouting slogans against various political leaders.

About 500 members of the crowd went to the neighbouring bungalow which happened to be the residence of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. They broke open the gate and assaulted the CRPF Jawans. Some of them entered the gate by jumping the boundary wall and set some articles on fire. They also damaged the doors, windows, T.V. set and some articles inside the house. They also assaulted and pelted stones