

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

the House should be treated more expeditiously. The delay of one month is rather difficult to justify.

This is one thing.

If, as stated by the hon. Minister, he has not been arrested, I should have thought that Government should have taken the very first opportunity to come and say that he has not been arrested, and put an end to the matter. Why should one month be taken on this?

These questions give rise to certain doubts, and here there are two contradictory statements. Mr. Halder in his letter to the Speaker dated 20th November has stated very clearly.—

“On November 14, 1973, I participated in a civil disobedience movement at Burdwan in pursuance of the call given by the nine Leftist Parties. While participating in a demonstration inside the Court Compound, I was arrested by the police at about 12 noon and was taken inside the police prison van along with a number of volunteers who were also arrested. Subsequently along with the arrested volunteers, I was taken in the van to Galsi about 15 miles away from the town of Burdwan and after reaching beyond Galsi, I was asked to get down from the van as also the other arrested persons. No arrangement was made by the police to take us back to Burdwan, and I had to return to Burdwan with considerable difficulty.”

This is what the Member has said. Of course, the Government, based on the report from the West Bengal Government, has said that he was not arrested but he forced his way into the van. So, there are two statements. Under these circumstances, it is very difficult for the Chair or for me to come to any conclusion.

With due regard to what the hon. Members of this House had said, it is my duty to protect and uphold the rights of hon. Members of this House. I cannot just discount what the Member has said, and on the other hand I cannot also say that what the West Bengal Government has said is not true. There is no way of knowing what the truth is. Therefore, under these circumstances, I refer this case to the Privileges Committee.

18.08 hrs.

STATEMENT *Re*. EVICTED HARIJANS IN HARYANA

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Rupar) : On a

point of order. My submission is that on 30th November, 1973, the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha had made a statement..

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Please allow me to finish what I want to say. He had made a statement on the 30th November, on the floor of this House regarding the agitation launched by the Harijan Sangarsh Samiti in Delhi as a result of which some deaths had also occurred. I think the hon. Minister was under an obligation to enlighten the House about the result of the statement that he had made on both sides, namely the Chief Minister of Haryana as well as the leaders of the Harijan Sangarsh Samiti. I understand that they have already accepted the statement of the hon. Minister. I would like him to enlighten this House about the result of his statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He only wanted to raise this matter. It is not a point of order.

श्री बटु लिख्ये (बांका) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सदन में कई दफा कहा गया है कि बर्दुय्या, मुंगेर में हरिजनों के जत्ताए जाने के बारे में सरकार की तरफ से बयान आना चाहिए । आज लोक सभा का सत्र खत्म हो रहा है । वह बयान कब आयेगा ? मैं पिछले पंद्रह दिन में एक दर्जन दफा इस मामले को उठा चुका हूँ । क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बारे में बयान नहीं देंगे ?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : I want to make a submission. I had talked to the Home Minister and I had written nineteen letters to the Hon. Speaker that 25,000 Harijans of Haryana had been arrested, and three of them died in the jail and five women gave birth to children in the jail, and they were not treated as patients but as prisoners and subjected to inhuman treatment, and no blankets and no quilts were supplied to them, and no *charpai* were supplied to them. And yet this Government claims to be a great friend of the Harijans.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): As the House is aware, the Harijan Sanarsh Samiti was carrying on an agitation in support of their demands...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Against eviction.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I am glad to inform the House that according to a statement issued by Shri Chandram, the agitation has been withdrawn. This statement was issued after consultation with the Chief Minister, Haryana, who in his statement agreed to refer these demands to an *ad hoc* committee to be appointed by him.

As regards Vir Sonarwala, the Chief Minister of Haryana has stated that all the 151 evicted Harijan families would continue to be allowed to cultivate the land in the village Vir Sonarwala until it is possible to provide them with alternative cultivable land on the basis of permanent ownership rights.

18.10 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE: TEXT OF THE HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS BURIED WITH THE TIME CAPSULE—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will take up further discussion under Rule 193 on the text of the historical documents buried with the Time Capsule at the Red Fort on the last Independence Day (15th August, 1973).

Shri Sudhakar Pandey is to continue his speech.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : There is a discussion under rule 193 in my name. It is now 6.10 P.M. I would like to have an observation from the Chair as to what is going to happen to that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It will be taken up.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : How long are you going to go on with this discussion?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It will be concluded as quickly as possible.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I would like you to be a little more helpful.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We have a balance of 1 hour 15 minutes.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : That means it will be taken up at 7.30 P.M.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam) : In connection with this debate, I want to raise a point. This affects the privileges of members of the House. Several demands were made from us in this respect in the form of letters and unstarred questions, and requests on the floor of the House. But the Minister has not so far obliged us by making the text of the version that has been buried with the capsule available to the members of the House. The Minister will be fully justified in not laying the document on the Table if its production is considered inconsistent with public interest. But he has not taken that plea. He has stated that because the document is meant for posterity, it is not advisable to publish it temporarily.

Secondly, he has also said in reply to my communication that it is inappropriate to publish it. Our contention is that only when the publication of a document is considered to be not consistent with public interest can that argument be invoked.

In this connection, I would invite your attention and the attention of members that many persons have been provided with copies of the text of the document. I can prove this statement. A person by name Shri C. Badrinath, Commissioner of Tamil Nadu Archives made a speech at the History Association of the Presidency College, Madras. Press reports of this have said:

"Shri Badrinath who claims to have gone through the capsule version carefully said in an interview that there were some glaring omissions and factual inaccuracies".

I also understand that many persons in Madras belonging to a particular college the Christian College, have also been provided with copies of this one. I understand that Shri Badrinath, who had first the credit of first initiating discussion on this one in an academic way pointing out all the glaring omissions and inaccuracies, has been pro-