

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur): I have been waiting to raise this issue for the last one month. It is the most vital issue affecting the small and marginal farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: We are discussing the Demands for Grants of the Agriculture Ministry. And you are discussing it in the Zero Hour.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: I don't know whether I will get an opportunity to speak on the Agriculture Ministry's Demands.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak on this while discussing the Demands of the Agriculture Ministry.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: For the last one month I have been trying to raise this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that we are already discussing the Demands of the Agriculture Ministry and such things are not allowed now. You are a new Member, you don't understand the procedure; that is why you are committing this mistake.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: This is not relating to Agriculture. This is relating to loan waiver and getting relief. Agricultural Operations are collapsed in my area. You have not been allowing me to speak for the last one month on this very issue. I don't know what is the reasons. Only the senior Members get all the time and hold the House to ransom.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand, you are discussing the Demands of the Agriculture Ministry now.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: This is not relating to Agriculture, this is relating to loan waiver.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not allowed according to the procedure. You are just exposing your ignorance.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: This is relating to the promise given by the National Front Government and not fulfilled. The farmers have been deceived.

MR. SPEAKER: Please, for God's sake, you understand. When you are discussing the Demands of the Agriculture Ministry, you are expected to speak there. If you don't know, then go by the advice given by the Chair. It is nothing but exposing your ignorance.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Please give me time to speak on the Demands of the Agriculture Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: OK, I will give you ten minutes to speak on the Demands of the Agriculture Ministry.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Defiance of the Chair has become a habit.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a very important issue. This house has witnessed a lot of discussion on the atrocities on the people of Scheduled Castes. As regard the atrocities it is true that the more a disease is treated the more it spreads. I have received two telegrams today. One of the has been received from Tamilnadu where police had opened fire in Paramkudi on 18th August on the occasion of unveiling of the statue of Dr. Ambedkar killing 7 persons of the Scheduled Castes and injuring more than hundred who are under treatment in the hospital. What a shame! The second case is that of Andhra Pradesh which has already been discussed in the House. No actions have been taken is Tsundur even

after the discussion, instead, I have received a telegram that the local M.L.A. along with other innocent people has been arrested and put behind the bars by the people. Thousands of people have been on fast unto death there for six days.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are the custodian of the House and the Constitution. There has been a discussion on the issue. At present, hon. Home Minister is not here but Shri Arjun Singh, the leader of the House is present here and the Minister of States in the Ministry of Home Affairs is also here. Similar incident has also occurred in Maharashtra. I am sending these telegrams to you. Either the Leader of the House or Mr. Jacob should give assurance to the house in this connection.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jaswant Singh...
(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh wants to say something. This is related to that. After that, you may please speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH (Fatehpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The matter which I am going to raise is very serious that is why I have availed this opportunity to speak. I can say with my experience that the youth belonging to the Scheduled Castes have been humiliated and attacked whenever they have tried to say something in praise of Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar. Government has always failed to provide them protection and security. Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar who has been looked upon as the symbol of social justice has now become the symbol of awareness all around. Therefore, I request the Leader of

the House to give as assurance that appropriate actions would be taken on such incidents. Although, the incident of Andhra Pradesh was discussed, yet no action was taken and naturally such elements are encouraged in this way. They know that the incident are discussed in the Parliament, announcements are made by the Government, yet no action is taken. In this way, such elements get encouragement and would go on committing atrocities. I, through you, appeal to the Leader of the House as well as the Minister of Home Affairs to assure the house that they would take the action in this matter and punish the guilty persons and inform the House ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Mr. Speaker, Sir, such an incident has taken place in the Parbhani district of Maharashtra. I have also written to you in this connection.

[*English*]

It is alleged that on 16th August, a police Kotwal, named Ambadas Sabne from Pintri-Deshmukh in Parbhani district, was stoned a death by upper caste people only because Mr. Sabne entered the premises of the temple.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What will happen to this country?

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: The Deputy IGP, Mr. Azad, has confirmed the death but withheld the cause of the death.

MR. SPEAKER: This is something like a court matter.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: No, no, it is not a court matter. (*Interruptions*)

You just listen to me.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (Bhadrak): He stood on the steps of the temple. (*Interruptions*) He was killed. (*Interruptions*) He was stoned to death. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, this should not be taken as a routine matter by the Government. Every day we are hearing. Our heads hang down in shame. What is happening to this country? People are being killed for religion. People are being killed for belonging to a particular caste. What will happen to this country?

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Sir, Mr. Sabne, who hailed from lower caste Mahar, took shelter from rain on the steps of the temple. The residents of the town enquired about him and it is reported that he was mercilessly beaten and wounded seriously. His brother, Kachru took him to the police station at another town where he was declared dead at 10 AM the next day. The lower caste people of the same town are not allowed to fetch water from public wells. And they were not allowed to erect a statue of Dr. Ambedkar also in that town. The police have arrested only five persons. But the Home Minister should inquire into the matter and make a statement on this incident in this House as he also comes from the same area.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, the people of Rajasthan and...

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to speak...

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Paswanji, I will allow you after Mr. Jaswant Singh.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion on this issue is already over. Are we taking up the next item?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Mr. Jaswant Singh. I had asked him to sit down two or three times also. It is not good.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If he is replying to the discussion, it shall resume my seat.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Mr. Speaker Sir, you have given the ruling in your wisdom. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have used my discretion. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jaswant Singh is on a different point. Why are you butting an unnecessarily? He is on a different point.

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, you can kindly go through the records of the House. You will find that the leaders of the House are using most of the time of the House. Majority of the time is consumed only by a few Members. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Charles, he is on a different point. Why are you getting up unnecessarily?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Sir, if the hon. Member is speaking on the same subject,

then it is all right. Otherwise, we also should have a chance.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Buta Singh, you are a very senior Member of the House. So, I think, You will be able to understand the predicament of the Chair also. I have asked Jaswant Singhji to sit down four times. It is not good. And when Rabi Rayji got up, I told him that I will allow him after Mr. Jaswant Singh. Mr. Rabi Ray resumed his seat graciously. If you also want to speak on that point, I will allow you also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, you allow us also.

MR. SPEAKER: You take the entire time of the House, if you like. I have no objection to it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Sir, some Members are allowed to raise matters as and when they like. So, it is natural for other Members to feel unhappy and thus, they also want to have their say.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, I was seeking your permission to speak on a matter concerning Rajasthan. I want to highlight this issue because step-motherly treatment is being given to the people, State and Government of Rajasthan. Some instances of such a treatment have come before us very clearly. One such instance has come to my notice today only, but I do not want to mention it. There are two issues which I must raise. Since, it concerns Rajasthan, I know Shri Buta Singh will support me. We have a

Police Academy in the State. For the last many years, this Academy has been functioning at Mount Abu and there was a demand for its expansion. On its part, Government of Rajasthan had made available the required land for this purpose. Thereafter, the State Government requested the Central Government to depute its the officers for inspection of this land. Officers were appointed and a date for inspection was also fixed, but the officers were not sent for inspection. Now it is being said that the Academy which has been functioning Rajasthan for years should be shifted to Bangalore w.e.f. 31st August merely because the State Government in power in Rajasthan does not share the same view as that of the Central Government, I would like the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to take initiative and show the same sense of urgency in this matter which he showed in the matter of law and order. This matter has been pending for years and it concerns the Constituency of Shri Buta Singh.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other issue relates to Bikaner House which is the property of the Government of Rajasthan. It has been under the control of the Central Government for years. The Members of Parliament from Rajasthan and the State Legislative Assembly do not have a place to stay in Delhi. There used to be an office of RAW in Bikaner House earlier, but the previous Government got it vacated because RAW had its own office accommodation in Delhi. But after vacation, when the question of handing over the Bikaner House to the State Government of Rajasthan came before the Central Government, it did not hand over its charge to the State Government on the pretext that there was no place to accommodate the Government property from Travancore House which was got to be vacated. These two instances coupled with the hon. Home Minister's statement force us to think that step-motherly treatment is being given to the people, state and the Government of Rajasthan. I have

two specific demands to make first, the Police Academy at Mount Abu should not be shifted from there as the State Government is ready to allot land for it. Second, the Bikaner House which has since been vacated should be immediately handed over to the Government of Rajasthan. I would request the leader of the House to understand our point of view as also the seriousness of the situation and give us assurance in the matter. I know, Shri Buta Singh will also support my demands. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rabi Ray ji.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Step-motherly treatment is being given to the Government of Rajasthan in all matters. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me a hearing to in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rabi Ray.

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, normally I do not intervene during such discussions. I am doing so today because our colleagues and hon. Members of this House Shri V.P. Singh, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and others have raised the issue of atrocities on certain sections of our society. First of all, I would like to mention that the way an incident of atrocity on the people of scheduled caste in Andhra Pradesh was highlighted and discussion on this subject took place in the House, it appeared that the entire House was unanimous in expressing its concern on the killings of the people belonging to the scheduled castes. From the debate that took place in the House, we felt that a message had gone to the entire country that such incidents would no more be tolerated. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh was here on the day that incident took place. He too

had rushed to the place of incident. I am mentioning all these things because despite the fact that the entire House unanimously expressed concern on the growing incidents of atrocities on the people belonging to the scheduled castes and a special discussion was held here on the subject, yet after a gap of 8-10 days, thousands of people belonging to scheduled castes were arrested. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh was in Delhi day before yesterday. I do not know whether the leader of the House or any of the Ministers of the Central Government had a talk with him on this issue although Shri Paswan was sitting on a hunger strike and a mention about it was also made in the House. I am saying so because atrocities on the people belonging to the scheduled castes are still continuing and they are being subjected to all kinds of torture. The entire House expressed its concern and took a unanimous decision to condemn such incidents and yet there appears to be no effect on the State Government. I do not know whether you are empowered to issue any directions to the Government following the discussion on atrocities of scheduled castes, but I must say that whenever incidents of atrocities on scheduled castes and depressed classes come to our notice, we should view them above party politics as it is a humanitarian issue and act firmly. The hon. Minister of Law, Shri Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy is present in the House. I would request him also that

[*English*]

You must be vigilant about the rights of the Harijans and Adivasis.

[*Translation*]

I would like the leader of the House to make a statement in this regard in order to give us a sort of assurance. If the House debates over the atrocities being committed on these sections and takes some decisions and if such decisions are simply ignored by

the State Governments, the Parliament must take it seriously. Therefore, I am constrained to point out that such cases must not be ignored. The leader of the House should come forward and say in the House that the Government is fully conscious of the atrocities on the people belonging to scheduled castes and their rights and that the Government is seized of the matter.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, daily we come across such cases of atrocities on the people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. These incidents assume seriousness especially because these are being committed on the question of statue of Baba Saheb or over his name. This is not a simple case of law and order or crime, a malice is working behind such incidents. Baba Saheb is the symbol of the awakening of Harijans, consciousness of the down-trodden. We derive inspiration from Dada Saheb in the same way we get inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi. To disfigure his statue, to hurl insults at him or to give him indecent treatment, in fact, amounts to insulting the entire downtrodden community.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when discussion on atrocities on Harijans took place in the House, some suggestions were put forward and the hon. Home Minister had agreed that the meeting of the National Integration Council should be held. If this matter ends with our debating the issue in the House, the people will laugh at us. This problem should be viewed from a national perspective. This is not a law and order problem not it is a state problem. The entire nation should think over it. Leaders of all political parties should sit together in the National Integration Council and ponder over it. We shall have to adopt a national view point in the matter. I think the leader of the House will also agree with us on this point, because it is not the question of which state Government is doing what for them. What happens now is that whosoever

in the State Government, all it does is that it orders a judicial inquiry. It is nothing but adding insult to injury. Sorry, I do not speak against judiciary, but once you order a judicial inquiry, it means that the case is being buried at least for a year. No report is going to be received from the State Government in that regard. Therefore, my submission is that a system is required to be developed whereby the Central Government should take upon itself the responsibility of follow up action in such matters. This is a Central subject. The Constitution lays down that the President himself will pay attention in this regard. It is the special duty of the President to provide protection to these oppressed, down trodden and people belonging to the scheduled castes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully agree with hon. Shri Jaswant Singh. I can have differences with him over certain other issues, but I fully agree with the two points which he has just now raised about Rajasthan. The first point which relates to the Police Academy concerns my constituency. The decision to shift the academy from there has not been taken during the rule of Bhartiya Janata party, it was during the Congress Rule that such a decision was taken. At that time, I had said that if the Police Academy was to be shifted, C.R.P.F. Centre should be set up there so that the benefits of an already established and reputed institution could be availed of by the people of that State. I am also perturbed to know, as Shri Jaswant Singh has said, that the academy is being shifted to some other place. I would urge that this academy should not be shifted from there.

SHRI AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhunu): All the Congress M. Ps. have also put their signatures in support of this demand.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are unanimous on this issue because it is not a question of any particular party. There are a number of developmental projects of

the State pending with the Centre. On behalf of the Government of Rajasthan, the people of Rajasthan and the M.Ps. from the State, I would request that these projects should be cleared as early as possible. Bikaner House should be vacated, we support this demand of the hon. Member belonging to the B.J.P.

[*English*]

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the government to the accommodation problem being faced by Kerala Members. The Kerala House is occupied by the newly elected Members of the House.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Sir, what happened to the question of Scheduled Castes? We cannot go on like this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): We would like to have the response of the Leader of the House to this problem.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. CHARLES: The Travancore House is the property to the Government. It should be handed over to Government immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Charles, the difficulty is that certain matters cannot be raised on the floor of the House. This is a matter which has to be discussed with the Speaker. You please come to my chamber and I will discuss it with you.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: According to the Rule, this is not allowed in the House. You come to my chamber and I will discuss it with you.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue to which senior Member of this House, Shri Rabi Ray

and other hon. Members have drawn attention is certainly an issue on which there cannot be two opinions in this House. We all agree to the view that rules and laws relating to protection of Harijans, Adivasis and other weaker sections of society should not merely be enforced for the sake of formality, the officers in the states who are responsible for executing these rules and laws should implement them in letter and spirit.

13.00 hrs.

The hon. Members are justified in expressing their concern and resentment because incidents of atrocities are recurring at some places. If such incidents are taking place even after receiving a warning in this regard and if the hon. Members have an apprehension in their minds that those who are responsible for checking such incidents are not discharging their duties, then I must say that their apprehensions are baseless. This is not so. What is required today is that we shall have to do some basic rethinking on the limitations under which our administration functions and the methods our officers adopt in dealing with such cases. It becomes our duty, especially towards those sections of our society whose protection is the primary duty of the entire nation, every state, every officer as laid down under the Constitution. I want to say that whatever has been said in the House, irrespective of the State to which any reference has been made, it is an important matter and therefore needs special attention. I would request the hon. Prime Minister that let procedural formalities be completed in the normal course, but we should consider this issue as an issue of national importance and discuss the same with all the Chief Ministers so that a mechanism could be evolved to ensure that in the event of recurrence of such incidents, deterrent action against the guilty could be taken so that it may have salutary effect on others also.

So far as insulting the statues of Baba Saheb Ambedkar is concerned. I fully agree with the hon. Members of the House that he was not only an individual but also a guiding spirit who gave direction to the ideology of free India and made a determined effort to work for equality and social justice to the

poor. That is why his work is a national legacy and it is the prime duty of each and every citizen of this country to safeguard that legacy. The way this matter has been taken up seriously, I am sure the hon. Prime Minister would take a new initiative in this regard and consult all the parties so that there is no recurrence of such incidents in future.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I heard the leader of the House. I had heard him earlier also. I am sure that the Government is not at all serious. Had it been serious the hon. Prime Minister or the Home Minister would have definitely paid a visit there. This is for the first time that such an incident is recurring again and no Union Minister has paid a visit so far. The State Ministers visit the place and raise hue and cry. The Centre is not at all serious. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK (Phulbani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an acute and alarming situation in the States of Assam, West Bengal and other adjoining States because the Ministry of Agriculture, especially, the Jute Corporation of India, has not come forward for purchasing jute from the jute growers. The jute growers are suffering very much.

Now, the private companies are monopolising the purchase of jute by giving them very low price. The support price is also being denied.

I would request that the Agricultural Prices Commission should fix a price so that the Jute Corporation of India can come forward and purchase the jute from the jute growers of these States.

I hope, the Ministry of Agriculture will take a very early step in this regard.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): Sir, cutting across party lines, several hon. Members have given notices on an important matter. Today, we have discussed so many important things.....

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing you.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: From yesterday, we are trying to raise this

issue. I am glad that you have given me this opportunity at a time when both the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House are present. This matter relates to the proposed legislation to take over the disputed land in Ayodhya. Now, this is a move which we apprehend, will divide the country and not unite the country. Unless the Leader of the Opposition whose Party is heading the Ministry there succeeds in dissuading the Ministry there not to take such a step, it will be rather inflammatory and not uniting the country. We want that the Government at the Centre should immediately contact the Government in the State and try to influence them not to take over that disputed land. This is a request that we want to make to Mr. Lal K. Advani, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee as well as the Leader of the House. This is all we want to submit before this House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is a very important matter. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: We have definite information that the U.P. Government and the Party which is governing the U.P. State have decided to take over the disputed land. Even the Chief Minister has said that we are going to take over the disputed land at Ayodhya. This is a matter where the national consensus is there that this dispute should be resolved amicably. But the U.P. Government there is deliberately trying to divide the country on this issue when all the parties inside the House are trying their best for a national consensus on this issue; and by mutual understanding, mutual talk, we will resolve this dispute. But deliberately the U.P. Government and the BJP are trying to divide this nation. On this issue we want to know the definite stand of the Government of India. What stand exactly the Government of India is going to take? Are they going to persuade the U.P. Government not to go for this kind of a legislation or not? We want a definite response from the Government of India on this issue. The Leader of the House is here. Let them respond what stand they are going to take on this issue? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Papers to be laid on the Table.

(*Interruptions*)