

with Hindi. After all, the Supreme Court is for the whole of India, not only for the Hindi States. Therefore, I would like to have an assurance from the hon. Minister whether English will continue later on along with Hindi in the Supreme Court.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : That is the position. Today Hindi is the main official language and English is an associate official language. That position should also be reflected in the Supreme Court.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : My hon. friend, Shri Nath Pai, put a very pertinent question when he asked whether the Acts in English have been translated into good dependable Hindi. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether such good dependable Hindi is available in the country and, if it is not available, is he going to manufacture it ?

AN HON. MEMBER : Let us import it !

SHRI J. H. PATEL : *Asked a question in Kannada.*

MR. SPEAKER : Now that we have accepted all the languages in Parliament, why don't we accept all the languages in the Supreme Court also ? That is what he wants to know.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The reasons are obvious.

SHRI NAMBIAR : *Asked a question in Tamil.*

SHRI UMANATH : You may translate this also.

MR. SPEAKER : You are converting me into a translator.

The question is whether it will be translated in Tamil also. The reply is also obvious.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Atrocities on Lodha Tribal Community

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S.N.Q. 35. **SHRI SAMAR GUHA :**
SHRI B. K. DASCHOW-
DHURY :

SHRI BHAJAHARI MAHATO :
SHRI A. K. KISKU :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that between the 25th and 30th March, 1968, a number of villages in the Jhargram sub-division in Midnapur District (West Bengal) inhabited by Tribal Lodha Community were repeatedly raided, burnt, looted and several Lodhas killed by the armed mobs ;

(b) whether hundreds of terrorstricken Lodhas have taken shelter in the court compound of Jhargram Sub-Division Office ;

(c) if so, the cause thereof and nature of the mob raids on Lodha villages and the extent of damage and casualties therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Police to ensure protection to the Tribal Lodha community ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (d). According to information received from the State Government, some Santhals armed with lathis, bows, arrows etc. raided the Lodha Colonies in villages Jaralata, Saro, Auigeria, Patharnala, Suabasha, Dholkat, Kundaldihi, Baghuadang and Gira in Jhargram Sub-Division of District Midnapur between March 25 and March 29, 1968. The immediate provocation for the incidents may be traced back to an alleged dacoity committed by the Lodhas in the house of one Sambhu Saren in Village Mahulbani on March 20, 1968. Two women of the house were reported to have been raped. This was regarded as an insult to the whole community by the Santhals and goaded them to take revenge. In the retaliatory attacks by the Santhals, 4 Lodhas are reported to have been killed and 50 huts occupied by the Lodhas were burnt. About 75 Lodha families took shelter in the compound of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Jhargram. They were given relief in cash and kind and they have since returned to their respective homes. The District authorities have taken adequate preventive steps and have also sought the help of non-official agencies for restoring peace in the areas. There have been no further clashes between the Lodhas and the Santhals.

2. The Scheduled Castes and Tribal Welfare Department of the State Government is also looking into the problem of economic rehabilitation of Lodha community as a whole.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : The difficulty is that I have not seen the statement. I do not want to frighten you today by reciting from documents of which I have a bundle with me...

MR. SPEAKER : The statement laid on the Table can be read.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I can read it. According to information received from the State Government, some Santhals armed with lathis, bows, arrows, etc., raided the Lodha Colonies in villages Jaralata, Saro, Aulgeria, Patharnala, Suabasha, Dholkat, Kundaldihi, Baghuadang and Gira in Jhargram Sub-Division of District Midnapore between March 25 and March 29, 1968. The immediate provocation for the incidents may be traced back to an alleged dacoity committed by the Lodhas in the house of one Sambhu Saren in Village Mahulbani on March 20, 1968. Two women of the house were reported to have been raped. This was regarded as an insult to the whole community by the Santhals and goaded them to take revenge. In the retaliatory attacks by the Santhals, 4 Lodhas are reported to have been killed and 50 huts occupied by the Lodhas were burnt. About 75 Lodha families took shelter in the compound of the Sub-Divisional Officer Jhargram. They were given relief in cash and kind and they have since returned to their respective homes. The District authorities have taken adequate preventive steps and have also sought the help of non-official agencies for restoring peace in the areas. There have been no further clashes between the Lodhas and the Santhals. The Scheduled Castes and Tribal Welfare Department of the State Government is also looking into the problem of economic rehabilitation of Lodhas community as a whole.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : As I told you, Sir, I have a bundle of documents, but I do not want to read them.

The statement has not revealed the sordid conspiracy that led to the ghastly

type of atrocities on one of the poorest tribal communities in India, the Lodhas. The background is this. These Lodhas are very poor and they have no land, no means of livelihood. Formerly they used to collect fire-wood from the reserve forest of Jhargram, but Government have prohibited that. It is a fact that formerly the Lodha community indulged in some type of theft. But 15 years back, one very devoted Gandhian worker of Harijan Sewak Sangh established a colony—Shantigarh Sabar Colony ; and the Harijan Sewak Sangh did a lot of social upliftment work. This has been recorded in the police gazette and has been appreciated that thefts and other types of crimes had gone down after that. But what happened ? These criminal Lodhas were being exploited by some rich community people there and also by Santhals and also by the local police. What they used to do was this ; a large part of the booty was taken from the Lodhas whenever they indulged in any kind of theft. What happened ? The Harijan Sewak Sangh...

MR. SPEAKER : He need not go into all these now. He may put his question.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Sir, it is a conspiracy. Now I am coming to that dacoity. Because the Harijan Sewak Sangh were spending a lot of money for upliftment work, some rich people of the Mahato community, some Santhals and also some police people entered into a series of collusion to employ some Lodhas to have a stage-managed dacoity in the house of a Santhal. Then those people who committed the dacoity, under the insistence of the leader of the Harijan Sewak Sangh, surrendered to the Police...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : He is making a speech. He may please ask his question.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Only two sentences more.

They surrendered to the Police and they have made a startling disclosure in the court that there was no molestation of women, that they were employed by Santhals to commit a dacoity in the house and that some Santhals, who were a party

to the conspiracy, guarded the house, while dacoity was being committed.

As I have already said, there is a sordid story of conspiracy behind this ghastly atrocity that has been perpetrated by the police. I want to know whether it is a fact that when these atrocities were committed on a massive scale on the Lodhas from 25th to 29th March, no action by the police was taken. Secondly, I want to know whether it is a fact that on 27th a telegram was sent to the District Magistrate by one of the leaders of the Lodha community and even then, no action was taken and only when the news appeared in the *Anand Bazaar Patrika* of Calcutta the police sent some force to the disturbed area. Therefore, I would like to ask the Government whether, in view of what I have stated, about the sordid story of conspiracy behind this, Government would institute a judicial inquiry into the whole affairs and punish all those who were parties to this conspiracy and also to the atrocities on the Lodha community.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is whether Government will institute a judicial inquiry into it.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I will forward this suggestion to the State Government also for its consideration. But I have no information about the conspiracy as the hon. Member alleges... (*Interruptions*) I thought, possibly he wanted information from me, but now he is giving me information. It is a very good thing. But if he gives this information in writing, I will certainly verify that.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : The socio-economic upliftment of scheduled castes and tribals is a special task that has been enjoined on the whole Indian nation. In view of that fact, may I know whether the Government will agree to send Prof. Nirmal Kumar Bose Chairman of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission to West Bengal to inquire into the whole state of affairs and the socio-economic condition of the Lodha community and then in co-operation with the West Bengal Government outline a plan, a longterm project, for the upliftment of the Lodha community,

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : This is also a suggestion. But I do not propose to hold any inquiry when these matters are looked into by the local authorities. As far as the efforts that are made by the local scheduled castes and scheduled tribes authorities are concerned, we will certainly give them the necessary co-operation in this matter.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : I do not find any relation between the question and the statement laid on the Table by the hon. Minister.

It has been admitted in the statement that there were certain unruly incidents between 25th and 29th March, i.e., for five days. But what is the question? The question is; what action has been taken by Government when there was a clash between these two groups, Santhals and Lodhas. It has also been admitted in the statement that there were certain incidents earlier than the 25th March, and one group prepared themselves in a most calculated way to do something. But one fact has not been mentioned here, but we have that knowledge.

One Madhav Lodha had sent a telegram immediately after the 25th March incident to the district magistrate of Midanpur urging him to take action against all such clashes and counterclashes. But to the utter surprise of all those people, the district magistrate did not care to take any action. It was only on the 30th or 31st March that the district magistrate took action, and as my hon. friend Shri Samar Guha has said, it was only when the news appeared in the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* that he came forward to take action. I would like to know from Government what action they propose to take against all the erring officers.

Secondly, I would like to know from Government whether it is not a fact that these things have been happening there only because there was no proper administration after President's rule in West Bengal. Who is to be held responsible? May I know whether the Home Minister himself will take all responsibility for this affair?

Thirdly, what action do Government propose to take to restore confidence in

the minds of those unsophisticated tribal people ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Certainly, I do not want to get away from my responsibility, whatever it is, in this particular matter, because West Bengal is under President's rule. The only step that can be contemplated in this matter is to investigate the offences that have been committed, and secondly to try to take steps to see that this fear of oppression among the Lodha community should be removed. For that matter, what was to give them a sense of security and give them help for rehabilitation, which is being done. I have included that information in the statement. But, now, hon. Members are giving me a little more information and seeking information about things which they know better. I would certainly request them to give me the information and I am prepared to look into it.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : We shall furnish all the information.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : How many more days will be required by the hon. Minister to get all such information ?

SHRI A. K. KISKU : Being myself a tribal from the same area, I share the sufferings of the Lodhas myself. I may point out that there is a widespread attitude or feeling among the people of the locality that the Lodhas are a people who are very stubborn and who will never admit their cases of theft, but who if they are put before a court and sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment would ask for twelve months' imprisonment.

In this background, may I know from the Home Minister whether there was a case of theft and dacoity going on in the area for some time, and on the 30th March, there was a meeting at Pialgaria of Jhargram district where the district magistrate, the SDO and the SDPO were present and the people of the different communities, the Santhals, the Mahatas, and the Bhagals and everybody else tried to impress upon Government that the whole thing was because of slackness and inability on the part of the police and the Government machinery to give protection to the people?

The points that they wanted to impress upon the authorities were that this agitation against the Lodhas was not only by the Santhals but by other communities also, and it has happened because the police in spite of repeated complaints did not take any action, but on the other hand the police was not only inactive but was also having a share of the goods looted or stolen by the Lodhas. In this background, may I ask the hon. Home Minister to give information to the House whether this sort of callousness was prevailing in the area so far as the police machinery was concerned, which has contributed to this atrocity ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : My information is not identical with what the hon. Member is saying, but I am prepared to look into it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Seizure of Chinese made Ammunitions from Tribals in Hyderabad

*1768. **SHRI ANBUCEZHIAN :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ammunitions made in China have been seized from tribals in Hyderabad ;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that Chinese agents are distributing arms and money to these tribal people to raise their heads against Government ; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to prevent such smuggling of Chinese arms ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

International Art Triennale

*1772. **SHRI KAMESHWAR SINGH :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Krishna Khanna, one of the recipients of