

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, December 16, 1991/ Agra-
hayana 25, 1913 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

RE KILLING OF TAMILIANS IN KASNA- TAKA ON CANVERY ISSUE

*Shri C.K. Kuppaswamy and some other
Hon. Members came and stood on the floor
near the Table.*

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Go to your seats. If you speak from your seats, it will be recorded.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will consider and I will allow. If you want what you say to be recorded, you must take your seats. I will allow one of you.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Dharmapuri): In the last two three days, in Karnataka State, the police are killing Tamils and allow-

ing the chauvinist people to kill Tamils every day. More than 1,000 people died and more than 25,000 people have come to Tamil Nadu border in Dharmapuri district alone. Every minute people are fleeing out of fear. There is no security for Tamils. This is what is happening. People are telling many many stories of what the Police are doing. We want the Central Government to come to the rescue of Tamils and we want protection. The other day in your Chamber and in the august House, I demanded that Tamils should be protected in Karnataka. We are brothers. We do not have any hatred feelings against the people of Karnataka. But the Tamil People should not be killed like this and butchered like this. This is happening there now. As brothers, we are living in that society. But this is the society where we are getting this treatment. Now only this. It is a very bad treatment given to the Tamils. There is no security today. Every minute they are coming out of the State. Thousands of people are driven away from the State. Their life and property is in danger today. What assurance is the Central Government going to give in this regard? Let the Home Minister come out with a Statement. He is present here. We welcome his statement...*(Interruptions)* I request him to make a statement giving the factual position. We want that he should contain the situation immediately. He should ask the State Government to stop this killing immediately. Then only we will be saved. There is problem in Tamil Nadu. We do not want to create more problems. We, therefore, appeal to the august House and the hon. Prime Minister, the Home Minister as also the Chief Minister of Karnataka to stop this killing. We want this should be stopped immediately. This is a very serious matter. That is why I brought it to your notice. I thank

you for giving me this opportunity to express our feelings. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): I have given notice of an Adjournment Motion. What happened to that?

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY (Kanakapura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, once again with more pain and agony, we have to express this today. You know, the entire country knows that Karnataka is a peace-loving State. We have harmonious relationship with all our brothers - whether it is the Tamils, Telugus or minorities or other ethnic minorities. At the intervention of the hon. Prime Minister, the State is getting back to normalcy. I appeal to my Tamil brothers not to arouse passion, not to be moved by emotions. It is not a fact that 300 Tamils were killed.

DR. RAJAGOPALAN SRIDHARAN (Madras South): No, Sir. It is not true. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY (Coimbatore): Dismiss Shri S. Bangarappa.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: That is not the issue before us. Such issues cannot be resolved by decisions of the Courts or the orders of the Tribunal or by enactments. Even the decision of the Court cannot be implemented peacefully. But such issues can be resolved peacefully, through negotiations only. Negotiations only could save this country to keep this country together. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: More than 200 people were killed. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: I would just appeal to my fellow Tamil brothers from Tamil Nadu to be calm and not to arouse passions. As elected representatives of Karnataka, we are trying our best to resolve this issue amicably. We have requested our people to be calm and restrained. I would also like to say that at the

intervention of the Prim Minister, the people of Karnataka have taken it so seriously and they are acting positively. Let us wait for one or two days.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: What about the lives of the Tamil people there? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: I had gone to Bangalore and had seen for myself the situation there. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: I do not know what was the haste in the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's requesting for the deployment of Army, it will only further aggravate the situation, create ill-will and hatred towards these two sections of the people there, two States. There fore, I appeal to the entire House to resolve it amicably and peacefully. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Sir, this is not an exaggeration. I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Home Minister that this is a state-engineered terrorism. Not only the Tamils are attacked there but also our own party MLAs and MPs are attacked. This is a sad state of affairs. Because these MLAs and MPs are opposed to the Chief Minister of Karnataka on this issue, the Chief Minister himself is engineering such a move to consolidate his own position. Therefore, the problem is a creation by the Chief Minister himself. So, I earnestly appeal to our Congress brothers that they should take a serious note of it. Unless the President's Rule is imposed in Karnataka and the leadership is removed, nothing will solve the problem. Therefore, I request the hon. Home Minister to make a statement in this regard immediately.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: That is not our request. Our request is to protect the lives and properties of the Tamils. Do not dilute the situation. We must be allowed to speak. Sir, we must be allowed to talk... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: May I say something

before you speak. Please hear me what I am saying.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Sir, please allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you also. But please hear it.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Sir, the matter should not be diluted in a political way. We want to save the lives of Tamils.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you. But let me say something. It is natural that if something of this nature has happened, people are bound to feel agitated. But let us at least know what has happened because without knowing what has actually happened, we should not discuss. If we discuss without knowing what has happened, then it goes out of control. This is exactly what I am trying to say.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing Shri Janarthanan; who is your colleague. Let him speak. And everybody need not speak.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have come here to express the grief of the Tamils. We do not want any political profit out of the blood of the Tamils. We do not want any President's rule or anything like that.

Sir, unabated violence is taking place with the aid and instigation of the local police. Therefore, military should be sent immediately by the Central Government, to save the Tamils. Tamils who were living in Bangalore for generations together, are fleeing out of Bangalore and are coming to sell are collectorate with women and children and they did not have any food for three days.

Therefore, it is our wish and the wish of

the Tamil Nadu people that the Central Government must come forward to send military and para-military forces, so that the Tamils can be saved. The negotiations or talks cannot be of any use if the Tamils are being killed. Therefore, our Chief Minister has told that when our Tamils are being killed and are dying, there is no use of any talks. Therefore, the killings of Tamils should be stopped and then only any talks can be held.

SHRI G. MADE GOWDA (Mandya): Sir, I fully agree with what our friends from Tamil Nadu have expressed; they said that lot of violence has been continuing in Karnataka State. I am very sorry to say that not only the people from Tamil Nadu, residing in Karnataka are suffering by way of lootings, firings and other things but the Kannadiga people are also suffering more than the Tamils....
(Interruptions)

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: In what way. *(Interruptions)* I said, no lives should be lost. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should be very brief.

SHRI G. MADE GOWDA: Please hear me. I am very impartial in these things. The people who were killed, whether they are Tamils, kannadigas or from any other State, they are all Indians. But the thing that we must understand is how to solve this situation. We cannot stand on certain prestige. Since Tamil people have been killed, you cannot submit a wrong report to the House.
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

*SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Tamils living in Karnataka especially those who live in Bangalore city are at the receiving end. The violence and atrocities against the peace-loving Tamils residing in Bangalore disturbs us all. Hundreds of Tamils have been rendered homeless in the attacks. Thousands

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

of Tamil people have lost their property and many have also got killed in the brutal attacks. Thousands of Tamils are fleeing away from Karnataka and are reaching Vellore, Salem and Coimbatore. I had been there yesterday and I had seen with my own eyes the gory violence let loose against the Tamil people. The Cauvery issue is assuming a tragic dimension and Union Government should intervene immediately to give protection to the lives and properties of Tamils living there. It is said that Karnataka police ignore the hooliganism against Tamils. If it is so you must dismiss Bangarappa. It is not correct to say that there is normalcy and there are no attack on the Tamils. I myself witnessed in person and saw the plight of the hapless victims. Hence I report this matter to this house so that Union Government attends to it immediately...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will ask the Home Minister to respond.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G. MADE GOWDA: Sir, kindly let me speak for two minutes.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I allowed you and gave you a chance, but you did not come out.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, it is very unfortunate... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. MADE GOWDA: Sir, let me complete.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gowda, I allowed you, but you did not speak out.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will hear Shri Somnathji.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G. MADE GOWDA: I have not completed my statement Sir.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Complete it in one or two minutes. I gave you a chance, you were not speaking, you did not come out. Now come to the point and finish within two minutes.

SHRI G. MADE GOWDA: Let us not be emotional. Being Members of this House, if we become emotional, this problem will not be solved...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When time is given, you should utilise it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G. MADE GOWDA: I have not precipitated any problem. I am fully one with the views that the Members of Tamilnadu have expressed. Not only Tamilnadu people have suffered property loss and life loss, even our police have died.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no doubt that every section of this House every hon. Member here - is for the maintenance of unity of this country. My hon. friends here from Tamilnadu as well as from Karnataka, no doubt, want it. Unfortunately certain incidents have happened which aroused the feelings of the hon. Members. We do not wish to either play down that or to ignore that. Certain realities have to be taken note of. We also feel that in an issue like this, we should all strive hard to see that no incident of violence takes place. We do not think that any issue can be there, which cannot be discussed and resolved by negotiation or settlement. That is the best way to solve it.

We appeal to all sections of this House and the people of this country to abjure violence. This is a matter which is concerning the future of the people in some of the Southern States. We request the Prime

Minister to take all necessary steps to see that this issue is resolved across the table. The Central Government should, in the meantime, take all possible steps to protect the linguistic minorities in whichever State they may be. Let us not create a situation inside the House which will only aggravate the situation that is prevailing in some parts of the country. *(Interruptions)* I am not trying to minimise the importance of the issue that has been raised. I take it that the feelings are justified. But, how to resolve that issue? Unfortunately, we are witnessing a scene here, where the hon. Members are trading charges and counter-charges against each other which is not helping the situation.

Therefore, let this House - which is the highest body in this country - not send any signal to the country which may be exploited by others. What is necessary is calmness and that should prevail. So, the political leadership in this country and the Government at the highest level should immediately intervene. The Home Minister is here and he should at least assure this House and through this House, the country that the Central Government will take most stringent measures to see that not a single innocent life is lost in this country, no damage caused, nobody is assaulted and violent incidents are stopped.

I would also appeal to all my hon. friends here to see as to resolve it. We feel that negotiation and settlement is the best way out. The Prime Minister should immediately take steps and the Home Minister being here, should respond favorably to that. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I must thank Shri Somnath Chatterjee for putting the matter in a very correct perspective. I will just allow one or two Members to express their views. Then I will request the hon. Home Minister to respond. We are all sympathetic with those who suffer and nobody here wants people in the suffer. But, at the same time, we have the rules to follow and let us follow those rules. By following the rules, we would be highlighting things which should be highlighted, in a

proper manner, rather than violating the rules.

May I request all the hon. Members - in spite of the fact that their feelings are agitated - to calm down and follow the rules? It will help all of us to conduct the business of the House in a proper manner. Suffering of any individual in any part of the country is our suffering. If they suffer, we will also suffer; nobody is having anything else on this point.

So, let us be very responsible Members and the representatives of the people. Let us act and conduct ourselves in such a fashion that the difficult situation is resolved. I may request one or two hon. Members to speak. We have assessed your feelings — feelings of the brother from Tamilnadu and the feelings of the brothers from Karnataka. So, please do try to speak out and express your feelings; please allow me to conduct the House in a fashion which will help all of us. I am calling Shri Vajpayee to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it should be kept in mind that units of Indian union whether it is Tamil Nadu, Karnataka or any other region are integral parts of our country and the people living there even if they speak different languages, are citizens of this country. Sir, definitely rivers unite and do not divide. Dams are constructed by men for optimum utilisation of available water resources. But if these dams become a bone of contention and disputes over sharing of waters reach the stage of bloodshed, then it is a clear signal that this great nation is deviating from the avowed path.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the water dispute should be sorted out either through discussion, mediation, arbitration or should be referred to Supreme Court for judgement as a last resort. However, even if the dispute persists then the Hon. prime Minister, who has since come to the House, must sort out the matter by convening a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in pursu-

ance to the wishes of the august House and countrymen. Unfortunately, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, as per newspaper reports, has refused to attend any such meeting.

MR. SPEAKER: We do not know the veracity of the report.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am quoting newspaper reports and what has taken place in Karnataka...

[*English*]

SHIR M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): The killings of Tamil people must be stopped.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I entirely agree with you.

SHIR M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Our people are dying in Karnataka. (*Interruptions*) Do not misinterpret our Chief Minister's statement. There is no use of our Chief Minister going for a talk when our people are dying in Bangalore.

MR. SPEAKER: He is putting it in a correct perspective.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to arrive at any conclusion on the basis of newspaper reports. However, if any injustice is being meted out to Tamilians in Karnataka, then it must be stopped. What wrong the Tamilians living in Karnataka have done? They are not any way different from Kannadigas, though their language is different. They are living for years and have made great contributions to the prosperity of Karnataka. In case of dispute between the two States, will the people of one state living in the other state be made the target? All this lead to disintegration of the country and I fully agree that wherever killings are taking place, those must be stopped. Sir, I agree with your observation that no conclusion can be arrived at simply on the basis of newspaper reports and in the ab-

sence of other details we look to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs for more details. Sir, you earlier stated that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs will make a statement and after that a discussion would be allowed the issue in the House. The Hon. Prime Minister must call a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the two States. The matter was debated upon in the House on a earlier occasion also but the bloodshed over water dispute must be stopped. The responsibility for ending bloodshed rests on all of us and also on the people of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): Sir, it is a fact that in this water dispute, there has been a conflict of interests. That is why all the Hon. Members on both sides seem to be agitated over that issue. Prime Minister was pleased to state that he was going to call a meeting of both the Chief Ministers.

I will request all the Hon. Members to create a congenial atmosphere to have a kind of discussion which, in fact, will result into resolution of this very complicated issue. In the meanwhile, I am in full agreement with what Mr. Vajpayee has said. What Hon. Member Shri Vajpayee has said is correct that there should be no killing, there should be no atrocities committed, there should be no violence.

Whatever assistance the Central Government can possibly give to them for resolving this kind of an issue, certainly, we are prepared to give them. Five or six companies of the CRPF have already been sent at their request. I have specially talked to the Chief Minister of Karnataka to see that this kind of unpleasant events do not take place. But in the mean while, I would also request the hon. Members to kindly help us in creating the necessary atmosphere (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roser): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to share the

sentiments expressed in the House by other hon. Members. When all sections have expressed their views, the Janata Dal would also like to put its point of view on the issue, otherwise it will be quite embarrassing for my party. I fully share the views just now expressed by Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the House. Since, both the Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs are present in the House at this moment and if any issue is persistently raised in the House, then it must be considered seriously. As my colleagues made it clear, all this does not present a good image outside the House. I think the matter should be ended here itself. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Prime Minister, present in the House, and also submit that he must assure both the sides and sort out the issue through discussion by convening a meeting of the concerned Chief Ministers. If the matter is continuously raised in the House then neither it will be in accordance with the decorum of the House nor will it make a good impact outside the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to thank the hon. Members for putting the things in a very restraint and trying to put in a correct perspective. I think after the statement made by the hon. Home Minister, it should not be necessary for us to prolong it. Let us go on with the regular business and I am sure that the Government and the hon. Prime Minister who is here are very much seized of the matter. The hon. Home Minister is here and all Members have expressed their views. We need not worry about that. They would certainly take all necessary steps to see that nothing untoward happens and justice is done to everybody. I hope that you will kindly cooperate with me.

We will proceed with the Question Hour.

11.32hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Plans to cover South Asia and China by Network

*345. SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI DHARMANNA MON-
DAYA SADUL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated plans of covering the entire South Asia and China by uplinking the present Doordarshan network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated amount to be spent on such expansion and linkage programmes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c). By virtue of technical spill-over Doordarshan's programmes are already being received in Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Parts of Burma and China. These programmes can be seen with appropriately designed Dish-Antenna system. With the acquisition of additional transponder for regional services within the country, the TV signal is likely to spill over to some additional Asian countries.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering to make the net-work programmes more attractive, which are at present not so fascinating and entertaining and as a result the people of India are learning drawn towards the Cable and Star T.V. ?