

included in the Mandal commission Report but do not figure in the common List.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shrimati Lakshmi Panabaka, please.

SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA (TIRUPATI) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, ...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Are you making the submission on behalf of Shrimati Lakshmi Panabaka ?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA (NELLORE) : No, Sir. He is making the submission because it is a problem relating to his Constituency.

SHRI SUBRAMANYAM NELAVALA (TIRUPATI) : Sir, it was brought to our notice by the people of my Constituency that poor people belonging to the Scheduled Castes of Chilamathur village, off Nayudupet Mandal, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh were attacked and beaten up by the landlords of Telugu Desam Party. The Scheduled Caste people were attacked, they were not allowed to stay in their houses and made them to run away. Their fields and properties were damaged and ransacked by the so-called landlords belonging to the Telugu Desam party, ... and their followers.

In this connection, I request the hon. Home Minister to make a statement in the House on the action to be taken to prevent the atrocities. Thank you.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (SADAR DELHI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 4th of August, the senior Congress leaders had alleged that their telephones are being tapped on 5th August. S/Shri S.B. Chavan, Matang Singh, Pranab Mukherjee, Suresh Kalmadi and Ahluwalia had met the Prime Minister who has formed the Government with the support of the Congress Party. These leaders had stated that their telephones as well as the telephone of the former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao is being tapped.

On August 6, Prime Minister ordered C.B.I. inquiry into the matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of telephone tapping is not new. Earlier, in 1983, Shri Hegde's Government had also collapsed on this account. After that, in 1990, Shri Chandra Shekhar had alleged V.P. Singh's Government that their telephones were being tapped. Consequently, an inquiry was conducted by C.B.I. and it was found that the telephones of Shri Arif Mohammad Khan and other leaders were being tapped.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, not only this, in 1993, Shri Arjun Singh had alleged that his telephones were being tapped by Shri Narasimha Rao's Government in which

Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

he was Minister of Human Resource Development. I think that there is no need to mention the period of emergency in 1975 when telephones of many leaders were tapped and at that time Shri Jagjivan Ram had witnessed before Shah Commission that his telephones were being tapped.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of telephone tapping is very old and now this issue has been raised not by an ordinary person or M.P. but the president of congress party and former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao whose Government lasted for five years and who is aware of the functioning of Government Departments. The C.B.I. conducted an inquiry into the matter after this allegation was made but the inquiry report has not been laid on the Table of the House till today. Therefore, through you, I demand in this House that the inquiry report of the C.B.I. may be laid on the table of the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to make one more demand that atleast M.Ps may be given this privilege that their telephones are not tapped. Not only MPs but the telephones of other political leaders, bureaucrats, and journalists are also being tapped. I demand that the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 which has become meaningless now may be revised.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to say that the Government should give assurance that telephone of any M.P. will not be tapped in future. I would also like to know the reasons for easily conducting C.B.I. inquiry as all are aware that it is not very easy to get C.B.I. inquiry conducted unless there is a prima-facie case. Therefore, I allege that some compromise has been made between the congress party and the Government due to which they have been protected and that is why, C.B.I. inquiry report is not being laid on the table of the House. In the end, through you, I demand that C.B.I. inquiry report in connection with the telephone tapping may be laid on the table of the House.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. I have waited for a very long time for my turn.

I would like to raise a burning issue and through you want to draw the attention of the Government and the entire country towards the problems being faced by the people of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. Reorganisation of states was done in our country and Maharashtra state was formed in 1960 and our Vidarbha region which was a part of Central Province state earlier, was clubbed with Maharashtra State. I would like to inform you that Nagpur was the only city which, in spite of being the capital, sacrificed its status of being capital and clubbed with the Maharashtra State at the time of reorganisation of state respecting the sentiments of the then leaders and to fulfil the dream of united Maharashtra.

Sir, a Nagpur agreement was made to honour the sentiments of the people of Vidarbha and Nagpur. Even after 35-36 years of formation of Maharashtra the problems being faced by the people of Vidarbha and the questions in regard to the development are still same as they were earlier...*(Interruptions)* But, we have not been able to express our views before the people properly ...*(Interruptions)* You can make your point ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (RAMTEK) : Please listen to me ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : The dream of united Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) : There have been several Chief Ministers from Vidarbha ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : The dream of united Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)* your continuous interruptions cannot stop me from saying my point ...*(Interruptions)* The dream of united Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Please listen to what I am saying ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 2 P.M.

13.00 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock*

14.10 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Ten Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

**(i) Need to Protect the Interests of Small Scale Bidi Producers in the Country**

[Translation]

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE (JABALPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the process of opening the doors of those industries reserved so far for unorganised sector to the foreign companies in the name of new Economic Policy, these companies have been allowed to manufacture small cigarettes. Due to tax exemption and

other rebates these small cigarettes are available at cheaper rates and are adversely affecting the sale of Bidi. The number of small cigarettes manufactured in the country in 1994 was 7 crores which increased to more than 70 crores in 1995. Manufacturing of these cigarettes by modern automatic machines by big companies has posed a serious threat to the Bidi industry and the workers engaged in it. Manufacturers, manufacturing Bidis upto the number of 20 lakh were exempted from tax and other duties in the name of small scale industry. The purpose of giving this exemption might have been to give relief to small manufacturers but only big manufacturers availed of this benefit. These big producers began tax evasion in the name of being small scale producers as a result, on one hand, Government revenue decreased and on the other hand, exploitation of labourers in this sector got intensified. Besides, these direct effect of the new Economic Policy, labourers engaged in Bidi industry have also been facing other repercussions like increase in prices of commodities, un-employment, their standard of living has gone down and social security weakened. Therefore, my submission to the Government is that adequate steps may be taken to resolve the problems of the labourers engaged in Bidi industry and efforts be made to strengthen Bidi industry

**(ii) Need to Issue Instructions to the Government of Maharashtra for issue of Caste Certificate for the People belonging to the Halba Tribe**

[English]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (NAGPUR) : I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the grave injustice on the poor people of Halba Tribe Community in Maharashtra, particularly in Vidarbha region.

In spite of several decisions of the High Court in their favour, still they are being denied the Caste Certificate to avail facilities in education and jobs.

I would also like to say that the Nagpur Bench of High Court clearly gave decision in favour of the Halba Tribes vide Writ Petition No. 2984/1984. But the Government of Maharashtra filed a Civil Appeal No. 2294/1986 in Supreme Court on this petition, though Supreme Court admitted this case but refused to grant any sort of stay.

I would also like to emphasise that since there is no stay by Supreme Court by all means the decision of the High Court is binding on everybody including the Government, either it be Central or State. I would like to draw the attention towards a latest decision of Supreme