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Title : Issue regarding abduction of Jhina Hikaka, MLA from Laxmipur of Orissa by Maoists.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here today with a very heavy heart, when I refer to Mr. Jhina Hikaka, the young tribal MLA from Laxmipur of Orissa, who has been abducted since the 24<sup>th</sup> of last month. Today is the 32<sup>nd</sup> day when he is being led by the Maoists to a so-called *praja* court. The Srikakulam-Koraput Divisional Committee of Andhra-Orissa Zonal Committee is holding Mr. Hikaka in custody. The young MLA is a popular leader amongst the tribal population and of that area. He has been doing a lot of developmental works for the upliftment of the tribals. He is not only a law graduate, but also a computer-savvy young man, who could have got work or employment in any of the companies or even in the Government service, and could have earned handsome salary, but he preferred to serve his people in that area and his countrymen.

After three years being an MLA and working or serving in that area, on an unfortunate night of 24<sup>th</sup> March, he was abducted by the Maoists. All sorts of negotiations are taking place through the interlocutors from the Maoists side and also from the Government side, to get him released. Negotiations and persuasions are still continuing. But today is the very penultimate day, that is 25<sup>th</sup> April, when his future is going to be decided by a *praja* court. A person who has been elected handsomely with a margin of more than 28,000 votes is now being tried in the so-called *praja* court.

I stand here today to appeal to the Maoists who are holding him in custody. I also appeal to all the leaders of this House to make an appeal so that good sense prevails. When I look up to you, I also look up to the message that is inscribed, that is flashing in a vermilion colour, *Dharma Chakra Pravarthanaya*. The wheel of righteousness should prevail and it should go on. The democratic process on which we all adhere to, should also prevail. By appealing to the Maoists, we are not demonstrating any weakness. We are only appealing to them to be human and that the inhuman activity that they have been indulging in should be abrogated.

Today, when our friends from the BJD stood in front of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, I was reminded of this – what Mahatma Gandhi would have done, had he been confronted with this type of activity, what would have been his action, how he would have reacted to this type of activity, when elected young tribal leaders who are serving the people who are action working day in and day out for the upliftment of the people, are being abducted and killed by inhuman activity?

I am also reminded of an incident that happened last year – Vineel Krishna, a young IAS officer was abducted by the Maoists, but after a lot of persuasion, he was released. [r5]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point. Please conclude now.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Three-four days back another young IAS officer, Shri Alex Paul Menon also has been abducted. These things are happening day-in-day-out. Is there any other method to tackle this issue? That is a question I think we should deliberate.

One issue is to negotiate with them and to bring them back to our civilization. Another issue is to go hamstrung against them and do not negotiate at all. But I would say that when we look up to that message that always shines before us when we either stand or sit here, when we look at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi I think the best way is to negotiate, to convince them and at least to ask them to behave humanly. Therefore, I would appeal to all sections of the Members who are present here in this House and also to those people who are outside. The wife of abducted Mr. Jhina Hikaka comes out with a swollen face. She has two young children to look after. She has one elder tribal, father and an old mother, who is sick for the last two weeks, to look after. It should behove on them. Therefore, repeatedly the Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik has been appealing to them. Whatever they have asked for is being met. I would request, through you, Sir, that a message should go from this House to release Shri Jhina Hikaka as quickly as possible because you have to act humanly and that is the human attitude that should be shown. With these words, I conclude. Thank you....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Those Members who wish to associate with him can send their names through the slips.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR): Yesterday also we have raised this issue....(*Interruptions*) We have been raising these issues but the Government is not coming out with a statement....(*Interruptions*) Let the Government say what it wants to do.â€¦ (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Take your seat please. You have not been called.

...(Interruptions)

श्री अनंत गंगाराम गीते (ययगढ़): सभापति जी, यह मामला बहुत गंभीर है।...(व्यवधान)

सभापति महोदय : आप अपना नाम एसोशिएट करने के लिए लिखकर दे दीजिए।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those who want to associate with the matter being raised by the hon. Member may send their names in writing.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Shri Nishikant Dubey is also associating with this matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you wish to associate, you may send your name in writing. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sampath, you are not allowed to speak. Please take your seat. This is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is such an important issue. A number of important issues are to be raised in the House. So, please cooperate. Those who want to associate with this important issue may send their names in writing.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following Members may be allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Mahtab:

Shri Arjun Charan Sethi

Shri Subrata Bakshi

Shri Jose K. Mani

Shri Prem Das Rai

Shri S.S. Ramasubbu

Shri Nama Nageswara Rao

Shri Prabodh Panda

Dr. Tarun Mandal

Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar

Shri P.L. Punia

Shri Mahendrasinh P. Chauhan

Shrimati Jayshreeben Patel

Dr. Ram Chandra Dome

Shri Khagen Das

Shri Kamal Kishor 'Commando'

Shri Harsh Vardhan

Dr. M. Thambidurai

Shri Narahari Mahato

Shrimati Susmita Bauri

Shri S. Semmalai

Shri A. Sampath

Shri P. Lingam

Shri P.R. Natarajan

Shri P.K. Biju

Shri Bansa Gopal Chowdhury

Shri Pulin Bihari Baske