

instructions to both the local Employment Office and the Air Base Station authorities to consider waiving the age limit in the case of the wards of the persons displaced from the Air Base site.

Even after two months of its inauguration, the needs of the local displaced agriculturists have not been attended to.

Our greater leader late Shri Rajiv Gandhi laid the foundation stone for this base. This was inaugurated by the President of India. Hence it is our national duty to fulfil the aspirations and needs of the local people who have given their lands for a national cause.

I humbly request both the Union Government and the Ministry of Defence to attend to this problem to raise the upper age limit in the case of the wards of the displaced persons.

{English}

SHRI B.N. REDDY (Miryalugda): Mr. Speaker, Sir on Sunday, the April 26th, three working harijan women (one of them was only 14-years-old unmarried girl) were gangraped, brutally murdered and thrown into a pond at a granite minefield near Cheemakurti of Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh. The name of the girls is Ms. Battula Esamma and while the names of the other two girls are Ms. Ravari Anjamma, aged 25 years and Ms. Booruga Ramulammana, age 35 years. All of them hail from the same family and they have been working in the mine for the last fortnight or so. Some of the staff members and drivers have conspired to molest them and planned to bring them to work on Sunday. When they refused to come on Sunday, they were offered a wage of Rs. 40/- each and they succeeded in getting them there. After they came for work, the gang pounced upon them and dragged them aside and then raped them. They were afraid that their criminal assault would be revealed by the victims, they murdered them by cutting their throats and then they threw their bodies into the pond and ran away. The names of the granite companies are M/s.

Oriental and M/s. Swathi Granities.

The crime was committed by making use of the services of the watchmen and a couple of other labourers by offering them wine and some bribes. In order to destroy the evidence, they had burnt down all the trees and huts where the crime took place.

As the enraged people gathered there, the police which did not take any action against the culprits, fired a few rounds on the air in order to disperse the crowd. A rumour was immediately spread that the women fell into the pond accidentally and died. The depth of the pond itself was 3 feet and it is depressing to hear that somebody had died by drowning in that pond. Obviously, the landlords of the granite field, who were interested in hushing up the case, moved the Government machinery and the police to shield and cover up the crime.

TDP Leaders like Muddy Krishan Naidu and CPI (M) leaders of that District, like Shri Tavanam Chenehah and the State secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Mahila Sangam visited that place. Thousands of people and particularly, women, led pretest demonstrations and demanded immediate action against the culprits who were absconding.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, this matter was raised in the house five days back as well. The matter is very serious and I had said on that day as well that three Harijan women have been raped and thrown in a well. Their corpse have been recovered. There hon'ble minister had said that day that he would gather the facts and place them on the Table. For everything a reply is given that they would collect information and place the same on the Table. But it is never done. I had said that day as well that the facts were coming to us gradually for our information. I would like to ask the hon. minister whether the Government will place the information on the Table of the House when the Parliament session is over? Either the Minister should not say that the facts will

be presented and if he has said it he should present them. The matter which has been raised by the honourable Member was raised in the House five days back. The time of the House is wasted like this. It is a serious matter. I would like to ask whether the life of a poor man is not a life and is his self respect no respect at all?

..(Interruptions)..

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ask him to make a statement today itself. He has promised the House earlier. You give him the direction that he should come before the House as to what the reality is and what the Government is doing in this regard. They should say something in this connection. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my request to you direct him.(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I have given a notice of privilege against the Minister of Steel. What happened to that?

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, the Granite Companies have been fully associated with the relations of the Chief Minister. They are trying to shield that crime. They are trying to shield that crime by saying that it had happened because of some accident. The matter was again and again brought to the notice of this House and the Minister has failed to make a statement.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I have given a notice of privilege against the Minister of Steel. What happened to that?

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): We have received a Fax Message from our Consulate General. The situation in Los Angeles has been brought under control.

As far as our citizens are concerned, we have been in constant touch with the Federation of Indian-American Associations and with the Indo-American Political Association in Los Angeles since the riots broke out on Wednesday, the April 29, 1992. The Indo-American community has, by and large, escaped unscathed. We know of three Indian stores set on fire in Pico/Fairfax neighbourhood and about ten stores looted near LA International Airport in the Inglewood area. The major Indian neighbourhood however including Artesia have not been touched. There are also no reports of Indian casualties.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL. K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker Sir, Andhra's record in the matter raised just now has been very poor. No reaction is there even after the incidents of atrocities on scheduled castes and other serious incident of rape of three women and their murder. It seems that the Government does not want to give any information to the House in this regard. It is not good. We have raised this issue several times earlier also and the discussion was also held. But there had never been a discussion on Andhra Pradesh though such incidents had also taken place there. I was dumb struck on hearing this hair raising incident. I would like to submit that the facts should be ascertained and this House should be informed.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today two issues have been raised in the House and the Hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs has immediately given the statements thereon. I would like to greet him for the same. But why the other Minister are not doing the same. (Interruptions). Mr. Speaker, Sir, please you should also give your compliments.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I join you in complimenting them.