

[Shri C.M. Stephen]

the Election Commissioner that the expulsion has taken place and, therefore, the seat is vacant; from the point of view of implementation of the decision, the Speaker will have to write to the Election Commissioner saying that there is a resolution; and, therefore, the seat has become vacant and so, he may take whatever steps are needed. It is not a matter for debate. I have also said that I will look into it further and if I feel that for safeguarding the interests of my party a resolution is necessary, I will certainly take steps.

SHRI SHYAMANANDAN MISHRA: May I draw your attention to a judgement of a High Court in the case of members of the Legislative Assembly of that State, where the High Court has ruled that it is within the powers of the Legislature to declare the seat vacant? And the seat was declared vacant. Consequent upon expulsion, the seat was declared vacant. Therefore, in this case also, the seat has to be declared vacant. How is it that the Speaker, without the express authority of the House, conveyed it to the Election Commissioner?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The express authority of the House follows the expulsion motion. I will give you one more information. Mr. Mishra, the Lok Sabha Secretariat has already issued a notification dated 19th December 1978. There is the Gazette of India Extraordinary, S.O. No. 717(E), which was issued. It says:

"Consequent on the adoption of a Motion by the Lok Sabha on the 19th December, 1978, expelling from the membership of the Lok Sabha Shrimati Indira Nehru Gandhi, a Member elected to the Lok Sabha from the Chickmagalur constituency of Karnataka, Shrimati Indira Nehru Gandhi has ceased to be a Member of the Lok Sabha with effect from the 19th December, 1978 afternoon."

It has been issued.

SHRI SHYAMANANDAN MISHRA: That, of course, is there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Consequent on the notification, the Election Commission will take such steps as are necessary, to fill up the vacancy. This is the first point. About the second point which you raised, Mr. Mishra, as far as the stalemate in Parliament is concerned, I think you have given your views and it

is the Leader of the Government and the Leaders of the two Houses to discuss it with the Opposition and come to some kind of an arrangement. We cannot do anything.

SHRI SHYAMANANDAN MISHRA: Should the Chair be helpless in this matter?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If certain section of the House do not cooperate, what can we do?

SHRI SHYAMANANDAN MISHRA: We are making legislative efforts without any result. Somebody is bound to tell us how this impasse is going to be broken.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is for the Government and Leaders in the Opposition to sit down and evolve some kind of a process by which this can be done.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: This House must know what is happening.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we go to the Calling Attention.

Mr. Chitta Basu .

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT U PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

INCIDENT INVOLVING KILLING OF HARIJAN TENANTS IN KAILA AND CHAIPUR VILLAGES, IN BIHAR

SHRI CHAITTA BASU (Barasat): I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported successive incidents involving killing of Harijan tenants by landlords in Bihar, particularly in Kaila and Chainpur villages."

श्री रम बिलास पासवान (हाजीपुर): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। यह मेरा कल सट्टेजान है इस का मेरे पास जो जवाब धाया है वह धमरेजी में धाया है। मैं ने कई बार लिख कर दिया है कि हम लोगों को धमरेजी के साथ साथ हिन्दी भी भेजा कीजिये। मैं ने सेक्रेट्रियट से तहकीकात करवाया है और मुझे मालूम हुआ है कि वह हिन्दी का नहीं है। जब उन लोगों के पास हिन्दी का एक सब्द भी भला जाता है, तो मार करने के लिए तैयार हो जाते हैं।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Paswan, what must have happened is this: the question is Mr. Chitta Basu. He being a person from Bengal, I suppose they must have given it in English. In any case, they must have given it in Hindi. Now the Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL) : Sir, the Government deplore the ghastly incidents of atrocities against Harijans in Bihar, particularly in village Kaila of Nalanda District and village Champura Gaya District.

According to the report received from the Government of Bihar, the incident in village Kaila took place at about 9 A.M. in the morning of 9th December, 1978 when a mob of some 250—300 men collected at the instigation of a local Kurmi landlord and surrounded the village Kaila. On seeing the mob who were armed Shri Doman Dusadh fled for his life who was chased, shot dead and beheaded at Sultanchak, a neighbouring village. Shri Ramdhan Manjhi another Harijan who too had fled from the outskirts of the village met the similar fate. Shri Balgovind Dusadh another Harijan and Chaukidar of the village who was going to report to the police station was caught and killed.

This incident was the result of a chronic land dispute between the Harijans of village Kaila who claim 392 acres of land surrounding the village and landholders who claim to have purchased the land from the original tenant. A case has been registered against 14 persons. All the accused persons have been arrested.

Earlier action under sections 144 Cr. P.C. and 107/116 Cr. P.C. had been taken. Proceedings under sections 107/116 were stayed by the Hon'ble High Court in October, 1978. Armed Police under a magistrate were also deputed but they failed to protect the deceased persons. The magistrate and two police officers have been placed under suspension.

All the senior officers of the Division have since visited the village. Rs. 250/- and 15 days ration to each of the deceased family were distributed by the district authorities. The Bihar Government have announced to pay Rs. 2000/- to each of the deceased family. The district authorities are preparing schemes in collaboration with the M.F.A.L. to rehabilitate the families in some work. The deceased Chaukidar's son has been appointed Chaukidar in his father's place. Food for work has been ordered and is in progress. Police has been directed to seize arms of all the landed persons of the area.

The Chainpura incident occurred on 10-12-1978 at about noon. The genesis of the trouble was again land dispute. According to the report received from the State Government the dispute is about four bigas and five kathas of land and litigation has been going on. The dispute had started in 1965 and at present the case is pending in the Patna High Court. The dispute is between some Harijan families on the one hand and some Bhumihar families on the other. The Harijan families had left Chainpura a few years ago and settled in a neighbouring village. The Bhumihar landlords had settled one of their Kamia who is a Dusadh (Harijan) by caste on the disputed plot of land. On the day of the incident the Harijan families gathered and went to Chainpur to occupy the land. They harvested standing paddy crops and set up wooden pegs to show their possession. The landlords led by Sidhar Sharma resisted. This resulted in a fight between the two groups in which two Harijans were shot dead and six others were injured. Five of the injured were discharged after medical aid at Tikari Hospital and one was admitted in Gaya Hospital.

The two dead persons were beheaded and the accused also attempted to set fire to the dead bodies. In the meantime the Officer Incharge Tikari thana reached the spot with force and recovered the dead bodies.

The District authorities received the information on 11th December and District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police immediately went to the village and conducted a house to house raid.

Four persons have been arrested and six accused persons surrendered in the Court. A Section of the armed force was posted on the disputed land on the 10th itself.

The families of the two deceased persons have been given Rs. 2,000/- each and the injured persons have also been given monetary help for treatment.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, the statement says that the genesis of the trouble was land dispute. I have got in my possession one document which I have received from the Home Ministry wherein it has been admitted "that among the identifiable causes of atrocities on Harijans, land disputes, forcible harvesting, wage disputes and bonded labour and discriminatory practices stand out as major factors. Government have to identify the major reasons for this kind of atrocities on Harijans. Now, having regard to this, may I know from the hon. Minister whether any specific suggestion has been given to the State Government concerned? Because, the Prime

[Shri Chitta Basu]

Minister is on record to say that the question of land reforms rests with the State Governments, whereas the protection of the harijans rests with the Government of India, to some extent; I do not say the entire part of it. The question is whether the Government of India has sent any specific suggestions to the State Government concerned, particularly to resolve in a speedy manner the dispute on land between Harijans and non-harijans and, if such instructions or specific advice has already been given to the State concerned what has been the reaction of the State Government concerned and whether they have made any counter suggestions. Secondly, one of the contributory factors is the possession of unlicensed and sometimes even licensed arms by the landlords. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government considers it desirable to de-license the licences granted to the landlords in the trouble-prone areas and see all the unlicensed arms available in that area are seized? Thirdly, while I do not want to point a finger at the Bihar Government or anybody else, in view of the fact that events are taking place regarding the atrocities on harijans in such a frequent fashion, would the Government consider it desirable to send a parliamentary team to visit the State particularly those areas which are mentioned in the statement?

SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL: The Prime Minister had written to the State Governments some time back that if any land belongs to the harijans, irrespective of the method, whether by the ceiling law, or the 20-Point Programme or Vinobha's plan, if the harijans possess some patta or some document, they should not be dispossessed of that land and protection should be given to them. But that does not apply to the present case. In the case of Kaila, the land dispute is going on for a long time, from 1944 onwards, and so many proceedings and decisions are there. Even in the year 1976 the Supreme Court gave 15 acres of land to harijans. There is no dispute about that land but the Harijans are not satisfied; they want more land. Out of 392 acres, 15 acres have been given. In this case, as I have mentioned in my statement, under section 144 Cr. P.C. proceedings were initiated, but the court stayed the proceedings. Then there were proceedings under sections 107 and 116. When I visited Kaila and returned, I had a talk with the Chief Minister of Bihar and asked him why he cannot keep the land record straight so that there is no problem in future. He has agreed. He said that he will appoint three bodies, one each for Kaila, Chainpur and Jangpura to have the land record corrected. Instructions have been given that if there is a dispute,

tenants in Bihar villages (CA)

there is tension and there is likelihood of tension erupting, and one party to the dispute is Harijans and the other party has fire-arms, there should be restrictions.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: You should see that the questions put are properly answered.

MR. DEPUTY - SPEAKER: He has replied to the best of his ability. About your last question, I do not think he will be in a position to reply about the parliamentary delegation, which we have always avoided till now. That is why I was not insisting on his answering it.

श्री राम बिलास पासवान : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने उस समय यह मामला उठाया था कि हम लोग उधर के पक्ष के लोगों को जब कोई जवाब हिन्दी में चला जाता है या हिन्दी में थोड़ा सा लिखा जाता है तो वह लोग हंगामा मचाते हैं . . .

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : विषय पर आइये ।

श्री राम बिलास पासवान : प्रश्नी भी हम को [अंग्रेजी में दिया गया है ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : प्राप ने इस मामले को मूक में ही उठा दिया था । फिर एक बार उठाये तो समय बरबाद होगा ।

श्री राम बिलास पासवान : लेकिन मैं चेदर को [जानकारी के लिये बता रहा हूँ ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : प्राप को हिन्दी में ही उत्तर देने

श्री राम बिलास पासवान : मंत्री महोदय ने इनका जवाब राज्य सभा में दे दिया है और सब लोक सभा में यह मामला चल रहा है । लेकिन जो सबसे बड़ी बात है, मैं राज्य सभा को प्रोसीडिंस देख रहा था तो मंत्री महोदय ने वहाँ एक बात कबल की है कि वहाँ के हरिजनों की सुरक्षा करने में अधिकारी विफल रहे । और यह भी मंत्री महोदय मानते हैं कि जो अधिकारीगत हैं उन में भी जातीयता की है ।

कैला का जहाँ तक मामला है, जहाँ हरिजनों की हत्या की गई, उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, दुर्भाग्य से कहिये, चाहे बाजीतपुर की घटना हो, चाहे कैला की हो, चाहे बेलभी कांड हो, या और भी कहीं की घटना हो, वहाँ जो भी घटना के शिकार होते हैं वह पासवान ही हो रहे हैं सब जगह । कैला की घटना के बारे में जिलाधिकारी जो हरिजन नहीं हैं वह कुछ और कहता है, और वहाँ का एस० पी० भी भयवत् प्रसाद, जो कि एक हरिजन अधिकारी है, वह कहता है कि हरिजनों पर [रेटोसिटीज हुई हैं, उन पर प्रत्याचार हुआ है । लेकिन जिलाधिकारी कहता है कि प्रत्याचार हरिजनों पर नहीं हुआ । तो यहाँ स्पष्ट इस तरह की दो विचारधाराएँ हैं, हरिजन और गैर-हरिजन अधिकारी की राय में मतभेद ही, और जहाँ सरकार कहती है कि कहीं भी जहाँ इस तरह की घटना होती तो हम उस के लिये

जिलाधिकार धीर एस० पी० को दंडित करेंगे । तो जहाँ एस० पी० कुछ कहता है धीर जिलाधिकारी कुछ कहता है ऐसी हालत में विचित्र मत है कि उस अधिकाारी को भी किसी न किसी रूप में इस में सांठगठ है, धीर वही अधिकाारी हरिजनों को रक्षा नहीं कर सकता, धीर ऐसे अधिकाारी को निश्चित दंडित किया जाना चाहिये ।

14 hrs.

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जितनी भी घटनायें घटी हैं यह बात सही है कि सब का सम्बन्ध जमीन से है । जमीन का जो मामला है वह इस तरह का मामला है कि हरिजन का मामला तो हम केन्द्र में बीज कर लेते हैं, धीर ऊपर जमीन का मामला धाता है तो कह देते हैं कि राज्य सरकार इस को देखेगी । नतीजा यह होता है कि हम लोग बीच में लटके रहते हैं । जो जवाब राज्य सरकार भेज देती है केन्द्रीय सरकार उसी को पढ़ देती है । इसको मैं कोई घटना नहीं मानता हूँ । जहाँ जिस जाति का बहुमत है, नालन्दा जिले धीर पटना जिले की बनावट भय है, वह सर्वत्र काटके के लोग हैं जिन के द्वारा एट्रोसिटीज होती हैं, गया धीर धीरगाबाद जिलों में दूसरों का बहुमत है, वहाँ भूमिपति दूसरे लोग हैं, उन के द्वारा भ्रष्टाचार के मामले होते हैं तो यह भ्रष्टाचार के मामले होते रहेंगे, हम सिर्फ सरकार से इतना ही जानना चाहते हैं कि सरकार जो समय समय पर कहती है कि हम हरिजनों की सुरक्षा के लिये ठोस कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं, तो वह ठोस कार्यवाही कहीं देखने को मिलती नहीं है, मंत्री महोदय कहते हैं कि कहीं उन्होंने 2 हजार रुपया दिया है, कहीं 5 हजार रुपये दिया है, चौकीदार यदि मर जाता है तो उस के बेटे को चौकीदार बना देंगे, वित्त मंत्री से सलाह कर के पुनर्वास की व्यवस्था करा देंगे, लेकिन घटना न घटे धीर घटना घटे तो जो भ्रष्टाचारी है, जो जुल्म करता है, उस के ऊपर कड़ी से कड़ी सजा की व्यवस्था हो, मैं समझता हूँ कि जब तक इस की ठोस व्यवस्था नहीं की जायेगी, कहीं कार्यवाही नहीं की जायेगी, तब तक घटनाओं या भ्रष्टाचारों में कमी नहीं आयेगी ।

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री महोदय ऐसा कानून बनाने के लिये तैयार हैं कि जो जमीन का मामला हरिजनों के साथ या गैर-हरिजनों के साथ हो, उस के लिये एक स्पेशल कोर्ट की बहाली की जाये, समरी ट्रायल किया जाये धीर अधिकाारी से स अधिका 6 महीने के पीरियड के अन्दर अन्दर उस का फैसला हो, जो इस तरह की घटनायें हरिजनों के साथ घटती हैं, उन को कान्मीजबल प्रोफैन्स माना जाये, जैसा कि यू० पी० में किया गया है ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि भूमि-सुधार के जो कानून हैं, उस को क्या सरकार तब ही इजूल में रखेगी ? क्योंकि जमीन का मामला ऐसा है कि प्रायः जमीन पर लाख डिग्री ले लीजिये, सब कुछ कर लीजिये, लेकिन मामला चलेगा 144 से । हाईकोर्ट या सुप्रीम कोर्ट के डिग्री के बावजूद मामला 144 से शुरू हो जाता है ।

इसलिये जो हरिजनों को जमीन दी गई है, या दी जायेगी या जमीनधार के पास से सरप्लस जमीन निकाली जायेगी, उस पर पुनः किसी प्रकार का मुकदमा किसी कोर्ट में नहीं होगा, यह सरकार को धारणा देना चाहिये । अब प्रायः ऐसी व्यवस्था करेंगे तो मैं समझता हूँ कि एक पक्ष जो जमीन के कारण एट्रोसिटीज हरिजनों के साथ करते हैं, उस पर सरकार काबू पा सकती है ।

जो हथियारों का मामला है, जैसे श्री चित्ता बसु साहब ने कहा है, मैं भी कहता हूँ कि जब घटना घटती है तो फिर उस के यहाँ से हथियार छीने जाते हैं । जिस कैला गांव में घटना घटी है, दो दिन पहले भी घटना घटी, दो दिन पहले श्री राम अन्ध पासवान घायल हुए, घाने में केस भी बन्द किया गया, लेकिन किसी की निरफ्तारी नहीं हुई । ठीक ऐसी ही घटना बेलछी में हुई, दो दिन पहले रिटर्नल हुमा धीर जब उस में कुछ नहीं हुमा तो 2 दिन के बाद घटना घटी । वही घटना कैला में भी हुई । सब से बड़ा कारण यह कि जब किसी अधिकाारी के पास कमप्लेंट जाती है तो वह उसे सीरियसली लेता नहीं है । जो हथियार का मामला है, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिस इलाके में इस तरह की घटना हो, पूरे इलाके के लाइसेंसड या प्रान-जाइसेंसड हथियारों को प्रायः पूरा जप्त कर लीजिये ।

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): May I say, Sir, that it is not possible to forfeit the arms in the whole district where anything happens like that. But in that village or in the surrounding villages, this can be done and I think this is being done. As regards the hon. Member's suggestion that a special court and summary trial should be given for these particular cases, it is not possible within the Constitution as far as I can see it. But still I will certainly get it examined. Therefore, we have got to see that those cases are properly tried and punishments are inflicted. For that evidence has to be collected and properly presented. We will have to see that that is being done. Special help is provided and these things will be taken up. But one cannot do something which is against the Constitution. We would like to end this as soon as possible and therefore, we are taking whatever steps we can take under the Constitution. That is all I can assure my hon. friend.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR (Gorikhpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the atrocities on Harijans taking place in Bihar have been taking place for a long time. It is a great cancer in our society and it has become very difficult to eradicate this evil from the society at this moment as we are seeing today because, in spite of many efforts, these crimes are taking place in almost all parts of the country. We cannot just blame one party saying that this is the only party one which is responsible for these crimes. In many States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar and U.P., these atrocities are taking place. It has become a great concern in Bihar that we must think over it.

The hon. Prime Minister has invited leaders of Opposition parties and Chief Ministers of all the States. They discussed this matter and they came to certain conclusions. The whole country appreciated that. I hope, in the near future,

[Shri Harikesh Bahadur]

something will be done. But so far as the formation of a special court is concerned, I think, most of the members of the House will agree to a constitutional amendment of that kind if the Government propose enacting any Law for the purpose. I can say that at least the UP Government has decided to do something in this matter. They are giving severe punishment to the persons who are involved in this kind of activity. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is thinking to put persons who are grabbing the lands of Harijans behind the bars, as is being done in UP. For this purpose, the UP Government has enacted a law. Will the Central Government ask the other State Governments to follow that procedure?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: We will see what procedure is being followed in UP. I do not think that it is a summary procedure. But a special court can be fixed for these cases. The High Court in Bihar has already said that a special court will be named which will try all these cases. That is what they have done.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH (Nandyal): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the Prime Minister is here to answer this Call Attention notice. The statement read out by the hon. Minister of State has amply shown that there are atrocities committed on Harijans not only shooting them down when they are on the run, not being satisfied with that, but also beheading and burning them.

These atrocities are being committed because, for the first time, there has been an awakening amongst the Harijans and they are fighting for their due rights as enjoined under the Constitution. The entire crux of the problem is with regard to distribution of land. May I ask the hon. Prime Minister whether there is an increase in the atrocities soon after this Government came into power? That is because an impression has gone round that this Government is in support of the landlords and the capitalists. I may point out that the hon. Prime Minister has written a letter to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh pleading the case of a big zamindar and pleading for the exemption of land from the Land Ceilings Act—these letters have been placed on the Table of the House of the Assembly—and, again, second time, he pleaded that if an exemption from the Land Ceilings Act is not possible a higher compensation should be given to the big zamindars as it is obtaining in Tamil Nadu. So, this has encouraged all the landlords and the vested interests in the country to go against the poor Harijans and commit all

these atrocities. They committed all these atrocities, and the poorer sections are in mortal fear that since the Janata Party is on their side, they can be harassed, they can be beheaded, they can be butchered, for the sin committed that they wanted some land. So, this is a socio-economic problem that has to be tackled on an all-India basis.

I am glad that the Prime Minister has convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers, in which important personages in the country participated. But, according to Press reports, the speech delivered by the Prime Minister at the Conference is more or less a political speech rather than a speech that would be able to tackle the socio-economic problem.

I want to know from the Prime Minister whether, in view of the deteriorating law and order situation, especially in Bihar where such atrocities are committed on the Harijans, and the utter failure of the Government to maintain law and order, the Government proposes to impose President's Rule in Bihar. Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government will see to it that more progressive and rigorous measures are taken to protect the interests of the weaker sections and Harijans to whom land has been assigned. I may be permitted to say that, because of the mentality of the people who preside, even the Judiciary cannot escape the blame of siding the landlords in several cases. In that case, may I know whether, if it is necessary, even the Constitution will be amended for constituting a special court to see that these people get their dues and such atrocities are not committed?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I have known my Hon. friend for many years, but he has developed a new trait. I find—that of mis-representing facts and trying to impute motives to me. This is a new feature indeed; I do not object to it: he can go on doing it.

He has brought in extraneous matters to show that I have done something which makes him feel that I am a friend of the landlords and not of the poor people. Those facts which he has stated have been wrongly represented here. I have not pleaded with the Chief Ministers for exemption. But when the case came to me and legal opinion was that he was entitled to something under the law and there was a discrimination made, I referred it to the Law Ministry here and the Law Ministry gave its opinion. I forwarded that to the Chief Minister and said 'Please see that whatever justice can be done is done'. When the first Chief Minister did not give a reply to it on these points and, after he left another Chief

Minister took charge—had belonged to another Party and not to my Party—I wrote to him to remind him to see what he could do. He himself stated in the Assembly that I had told him that I did not want him to do anything wrong and out of the way but wanted him only to do justice. But still my Hon. friend here has the hardihood to impute motives to me. Well, he is entitled to say what he likes. He wants somehow to denounce me and my Party...

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH
 You can place the correspondence on the Table of the House.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I don't want to. You have no business to ask for it just now.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH: I have very right to ask for it.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: You have no right to do that. It has been done already in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly. You can go and see there: who says no?

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH:
 If you produce it, the House can judge.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: You can say what you like, but a loud voice is no proof of truth: I don't want to imitate that.

Then, he says that atrocities have increased after this Government came to power. That is, again, far from the truth. How many times am I to say that? There is no person more blind than the one who has eyes but does not see; what can I do? Therefore there is no use trying to satisfy him.

Yet, I have to say that we are trying to do everything we can to see that these cases are remedied quicker, which was not done as much in the past not because of inability but on account of many circumstances and that is why, perhaps, it may not have been done. I do not want to impute motives to anybody. But we have to see that we make a special drive. It is a matter for the States to take action, and I have written to the States to see that wherever land is in the possession of Harijans and they are sought to be displaced, it should not be allowed, that full protection should be given and action should be taken against persons who do that. They should see that they are punished. And if in any case land has been given wrongly to a Harijan by the authorities somewhere and that is who happened in the past regime; any

land was given, and they did not bother about anything in those cases. It should, however, be seen that, if that land is to be restored to the proper persons, other land, equivalent land is given to the Harijan so that he is not dispossessed of the land altogether. This is what I have said.

My hon. friend wants that we should declare President's rule in Bihar. I would not say anything about it. I leave it to the judgement of the House whether there is a proper demand or not.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH:
 Under rule 377, Mr. Narasimha Reddy had raised this matter in the hon. House.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I have sent a reply.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH:
 It is not as if the House is not aware of this fact. It is only on the strength of that, I have said. If you permit me, I am prepared to lay the two letters on the Table of the House. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Prime Minister to make a statement..

SHRI B. K. NAIR (Mavelikara):
 Have you taken steps to see that unlicensed guns held by the landlords are taken back?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That matter is over now. The Prime Minister is going to make another statement.

14.20 hrs.

STATEMENT re. APPOINTMENT OF BACKWARD CLASSES COMMISSION

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): Sir, the question of the welfare of backward classes has been engaging the attention of Government for quite some time. The Government had already set up in July 1978 a Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

I am glad to inform the House that the Government have now decided to set up under the provisions of Article 340 of the Constitution a Commission to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes. Accordingly a Commission consisting of