

MR. SPEAKER: Don't record.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: In Part II Bulletin, it is stated that he was arrested and released.

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to allow him an opportunity to make a statement this afternoon itself. I am going through his statement.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: How could the officer record it and circulate it?

MR. SPEAKER: The Government of Bihar had sent a communication to say that he had been arrested and released. The District Superintendent of Police has sent me a communication to say that he had been arrested and released. Yet I am giving the Member an opportunity to make a statement.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): I also.

MR. SPEAKER: You also, when you comply with the rules.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I have done it.

MR. SPEAKER: I will go through the matter.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: I agree that conditions had to be created for the effective functioning of the institution of the Leader of the Opposition. I have absolutely no doubt about it. In fact it was my friends on the other side who did not subscribe to this view earlier. So far as our Party is concerned, our party is fully in favour of creating conditions for the effective functioning of this institution.

The charge of discrimination related to another case. The hon. Member Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was allowed to make a statement when an incident occurred involving him without requiring him to submit a written statement to the Chair during the last session but when an incident has occurred in which an ordinary Member, a Private Member is involved, you are

not allowing him an opportunity. That the charge of discrimination to which the Chair has to address itself.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall look into it.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED ATROCITIES BY LANDLORDS ON HARIJANS IN BAJITPUR (BIHAR).

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Mangalore): I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Reported atrocities by landlords on Harijan families in Bajitpur, District Begusarai (Bihar) on 15 November, 1978."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): Sir, the Government deplore the unfortunate incident in village Bajitpur, District Begusarai (Bihar) on the 15th November, 1978.

According to the report received from the Government of Bihar, about 300/400 musclemen of Shri Durgaprasad Singh, ex-landlord of the Village raided the village Bajitpur and damaged over 62 houses and looted belongings of the villagers. They assaulted a number of villagers and one person, Shri Jugeshwar Sao was killed. They are reported to have taken away about 400 heads of cattle of villagers and damaged their crops. It is reported that the target of the attack was the house of Shri Ramjiwan Thakur, Sarpanch of the village. The miscreants looted his property and damaged his house. The looted property was also carried away by them on tractor.

The ex-landlord of the village, it is reported, has lodged a complaint with the police on the 15th morning that a mob had burnt his kacheri in the village. The same day the village was attacked by his musclemen. The police reached the village on the 16th. The

[Shri S. D. Patil]

village is reported to be at a distance of about 20 kms from the police station. The Dt. Magistrate and the Supdt. of Police received the information on the 17th and they visited the village on the 18th.

The village is inhabited mostly by backward caste people, about 90 per cent backward castes and about 10 per cent scheduled castes. The houses were damaged irrespective of any caste consideration. One woman belonging to backward caste is reported to have been molested and two Harijan women alleged to have been raped.

Cases have been instituted under various sections of the I.P.C. for murder, dacoity, rape etc. 48 persons are named in the F.I.R. of them, 14 have been arrested and 20 surrendered in the court. The ex-landlord is reported to be absconding, and proceedings under Sec. 87 and 88 of the Cr.P.C. have been initiated against him for attachment of his properties etc. The Commissioner and the District Magistrate are reported to be camping in the village. Their report is awaited by the State Government. The State Government will fix up the responsibility for dereliction of duty, if any, by any official on receipt of this report.

The District Magistrate has already distributed relief on the spot to the victims, both in cash and in kind.

Government are deeply concerned over this incident. Government is in constant touch with the State Government, so that the offenders are brought to book and the affected people get all assistance for rehabilitation without delay.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, it is a slur on the image of the country. In fact, our Prime Minister, who is the present Home Minister, is a follower of Gandhiji, who said that the harijans of this country are the children of God. The Harijan community constitute one-sixth of the population of this country. Since my

harijan brothers of Parliament, including the champion leader, Babu Jagjivan Ram, are present here, I am bringing to the notice of the Harijan Members of this august House and also through this House, to the Harijan community of this country what is happening in the country. The Harijans are oppressed, their women folk raped, their houses ransacked and then set on fire. Yet you are all sleeping today. I have seen in the House today that for many Members certain other events are more important than this incident, which has shocked the conscience of all of us. It has been admitted by the hon. Home Minister that a number of women were raped, they were subjected to molestation and they were also criminally assaulted. Now I am asking the hon. Members of this House, and also the Harijans of this country, why are you sleeping today? Why are you not rising against these atrocities?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Poojary, you can only ask a question of the Minister. You cannot incite people. I cannot allow incitement of the people.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Now what is the police action which has been taken? If you kindly go through para 3 of the statement, you will find that the police went to the place of the occurrence only on the 18th, even though the incident had taken place on the 18th November. It is very clear that though the complaint was lodged, police have gone there late. It is clearly reported, and it is confirmed by the SP, Shri Varma; so, there was connivance of the police with the ex-landlord and his 400 musclemen. These musclemen used country-made pistols, fire arms and sharp-edged weapons to terrorise the Harijan families, to damage their houses, and then they set fire to their grains and clothes. There is nothing left in the village. All the people belonging to the weaker sections, including the Harijans, have deserted the village and gone far off from the village. The SP went to the place of occurrence on the

18th November, after two days, which means he also delayed his visit. It indicates that there is connivance of the Police Department with the ex-landlord and his feudal followers. On the 18th, when the SP went there, he saw all these things and he confirmed the reports which appeared in the *Times of India* and other papers.

Because of these incidents there is fear in the minds of people belonging to the weaker sections. Why is it that these incidents are not stopped in time? Why is it that the Government have not taken any action against these people?

Sir, I recall your statement, which appeared in the papers and with which I agree, that political freedom in this country without any economic progress, without any economic development has no meaning at all. What is the crime of these harijans?

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: What are the harijans doing? They are crying for a small hut and a small piece of land, which was given by the previous Government, for the honour of their woman folk and innocent children, who are being mercilessly beaten and tortured and humiliated. There is no body to wipe out their tears. You have to give me some more time.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please come to the question.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: After the advent of the Janata Party rule, 14,729 atrocities have been committed within a short period of one year, and 174 people were killed in U.P. itself. So, my submission would be that the Janata Government has shattered the good will and the confidence bestowed on it by the poor people of this country. In the words of Charan Singh, this Government is not going to do anything. This is a point to be noted also that if the Government is not going to give any promise

tion to the weaker sections of the people, if they are not going to wipe out the tears of these poor people of this country...

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go on like this. Please come to the question.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: This Government is indifferent to the atrocities committed on the Harijans, minorities and weaker sections of the people. This Government is not in a position to give anything to the poor people, they are not in a position to protect them, to give them shelter.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question? I am not allowing you any further.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Charan Singh has clearly stated that they are a pack of impotents.

MR. SPEAKER: That means you have no question. I am not allowing anything further.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: May I ask the hon. Minister and also the Prime Minister whether they have taken note of it seriously and whether any steps have been taken, why the police did not go to the site of the occurrence in time in order to prevent it. Further, they have given only Rs 50 as compensation to these poor people. May I know whether the Government is going to raise it to a huge amount? Further, may I know whether the Government is going to take steps to seize these weapons, dangerous weapons, from the hand of these landlords, whether the Government is also going to hold this Superintendent of Police and also the Deputy Commissioner? In future, if any such incident happens, will such officers be held personally responsible? What action is the Government going to take.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): I wish the hon. Member had not used this as a occasion to make an attack on the Janata

[Shri Morarji Desai]

Government, but I can understand his pain, I can understand the pain of all people when a dastardly action like this is taken against whole village. This was not against the Harijans alone, but against the whole village. There was indiscriminate looting, indiscriminate use of violence. That is quite despicable, I cannot use any other word.

As soon as I learnt of it from the papers, I got in touch with the State Government, and they have arrested some people. The landlord, under whose direction this has been done, previous landlord, not present landlord, is absconding. His properties are also being attached, and steps are being taken to see that he is arrested. We are also taking steps to find out if there was any laxity on the part of the local authorities, and particularly when they went there on the 16th and not on the 15th evening as soon as they learnt of it, because it is only 20 K. m. away. We are in touch with the Government there, The culprits will be prosecuted, whoever they are.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about arms licences?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: About licences, of course, if they are there, they will be forfeited. But these are all unlicensed arms that were used, so far as the report goes.

The District Magistrate and the SP are camping at the village and they are giving all protection; they have also persuaded the people to come and stay there. All necessary steps will be taken to see that they are properly rehabilitated.

SHRI R. K. MHALGI (Thana): Sir, The incident of atrocities on Harijans in Bajitpur village in Bihar is most sad and shameful. The hon. Minister would not provide us the information in full.

Actually, on November 15, the Bihar village was virtually nailed to the wall

by as many as 400 armed goondas hired by the ex-landlord. The women were dishonoured. All the grain and cattle were looted. When the police visited the place, 24 hours after the incident, some people suggested that the police had been warned repeatedly when there was an apprehension following the seizure by the landlord of 80 acres of land belonging to the Harijans. This is not an isolated incident.

I shall give one concrete example recently committed, that is, on 27th October, 1978. About 2 Km. away from the Bhuj city in Gujarat, a young Harijan lady of 24 years age had been put to pieces with a sword in broad day light. It is a horrible incident. I want to know whether this has been inquired into and whether any action against the police officers has been taken, whether they have been suspended or transferred.

In the present case also, it appears that the police have not discharged their duties well. We utterly fail to understand how the landlord is absconding and the police are unable to arrest him, and also those 400 musclemen, that is, his army. I think, it is a clear blot on the efficiency of the police.

Here, in this case, the guilty must be given a deterrent punishment that they deserve, not an imprisonment but even public flogging, for their crimes. If the existing law does not permit, it must be changed accordingly. I would like to know what is the Government's reaction to that.

A lot of such incidents generally arise from the land disputes. The landless Harijans are always exploited and assaulted. That is the experience. May I know when the land reforms in Bihar are going to take a final form?

Lastly the District Magistrate has distributed only Rs. 50/ to a family, on behalf of the State Government. What is the Central Government doing in the matter?

Bihar (CA)

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I have already said that all necessary steps will be taken to rehabilitate them fully and properly. Also, whatever help is to be given by the Central Government, will be given. Rs. 50/ were given to a family on the first day. Perhaps, they did not have the money. That does not mean that that is the only relief given. They are trying to see that they are fully and properly rehabilitated.

As regards the punishment of these people, that will depend on the courts. We will try to see that the cases are properly, put up in the courts and they are given the maximum punishment. As I said, the arms will be taken away, if they have any, and they will be seized. In future, a proper watch will be kept on these people.

श्री ब्रजसूयण तिवारी (खलीलाबाद) :
धरमल महादेय, बाजीतपुर की घटना मजबूत में बहुत खोमहरक और दुखद है और उनमें किसी का भी मिर धर्म में झूक जाना है, वहाँ वह यहाँ बंदा हुआ संभव - सदन्य हो या सरकार का धादमी हो या देश का कोई भी नागरिक हो। परन्तु यह घटना केवल प्रकृती कहना, ऐसा मैं मानने के लिये तैयार नहीं हूँ।

मैंने यह प्रश्न करना है कि जो बयान सरकार की तरफ से दिया गया है, उसमें जितने तथ्य प्राने चाहिये थे, वह नहीं दिये हैं। जैसे कि प्रखर की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार वहाँ का एक्स-पैन्ड्री 80 हैक्टर जमीन पर काबिज था और उन कब्जे के सवाल की लेकर यह झगड़ा चला। अब सवाल यह पैदा होता है कि जमीन का झगड़ा कितने दिनों से चल रहा था और उस जमीन पर अगर कब्जा था तो किस का था, वैडलॉर्ड, का कब्जा था यह वहाँ के जो हरिजन और पिछड़ी जाति के लोग हैं, उनका कब्जा था, और अगर उन लोगों का था तो कितने मासों से था ?

दूसरी बात यह है कि यह घटना केवल एक दिन की नहीं है। क्योंकि सरकार की तरफ से जो बयान दिया है, उसके पैरा 3 में स्वयं सरकार ने कहा है कि एक्स-पैन्ड्री ने 15 तारीख की सुबह बाने में यह रिपोर्ट बर्न कराई कि गांव के कुछ लोगों के समूह ने हवारी कब्रिस्तान में धाव लगा दिया है। जैसे ही 15 तारीख की सुबह बाने में यह रिपोर्ट बारी है, उसके शर ही 300, 400 की ताबाब में जो एक्स-पैन्ड्री के बाबली थे, वह हमला बीस

बेते है। तो यह कह देना कि पुलिस को उस सम्बन्ध में जानकारी नहीं थी, वह मैं मानने के लिये तैयार नहीं हूँ। तथ्यों से भी यह प्रमाणित होता है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब 15 तारीख को सुबह पुलिस को यह इतिहास की गई तो तुरन्त पुलिस क्यों नहीं भेजी गई ? जब यह तनाव कई दिनों से चल रहा था तो क्या प्रोहिबिटरी या निरोधक कार्यवाही धारा 107 या 151 या ऐसी कोई और कार्यवाही की गई जिससे इस झगड़े को रोक जा सकता था जो जिम्मेदार लोग थे उनको पकड़ा जा सकता ? अगर यह नहीं किया गया, तो आखिर क्यों ?

इस जमीन के मामले का ही जो हमारे श्री पुजारी मुख्य कहते हैं और जिस पर इनकी नेता प्रान्तु बहाली है, यह उन्हीं की सरकार के हुकमों का फल है कि 30 बरस के बाद भी धाव तक कोई भूमि-मुधार कानून सही तरीके से नहीं बन पाया था प्रमल में नहीं था पाया जिस के प्रधीन देश के गरीब और पिछड़े लोगों को जमीन पर कब्जा दिलाया जा सकता। मैं यह सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या भूमि मुधार कानून में ऐसा कोई कानून लाया गया है जिससे कि एजिसरी राइट हम ऐसे हरिजनों या पिछड़े वर्ग के लोगों को दिला पायें ? अगर नहीं लाया गया है तो इस सम्बन्ध में क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने कोई मार्ग-दर्शन मिदात तय किया है और क्या वह इन राज्य-सरकारों को भेजा गया है ? यदि हाँ, तो उसके पूरे तथ्य क्या हैं ?

श्री मोरारजी बेसाई : मार्ग-दर्शन सिद्धांत तो दिये हुए हैं, मगर यह प्रदेश सरकार का काम है, यहाँ से हम हुकम नहीं करना देखते हैं। उनको सूचना दे सकते हैं, वह दे दी है। हम देख रहे हैं कि जल्दी भूमि-मुधार कानून का प्रमल हो, और इसके पीछे हम लगे हुए हैं।

इस सवाल में जो बातें कही गई हैं, उसकी भी जांच कर के जिन पुलिसवालों ने लापरवाही की है, उनके खिलाफ सट्टा कार्यवाही की जायेगी, यह भी मैंने कहा है, मगर जब तक मुझे वहाँ से खबर नहीं मिले तो एकदम क्या मैं इस बारे में डेफिनिट जवाब दे सकता हूँ, यही मेरी मुसीबत है। मगर हम जितनी जल्दी मिल सकेंगी, खबर लेना चाहते हैं। सबसे ज्यादा मुसीबत यह रही कि गये 34, दिवस वहाँ के मुख्यमंत्री बुधवार में पड़े हुए थे, इसलिये उनके साथ मेरी बाताई नहीं हो सकी। मगर दूसरों के साथ बाताई कर के जितनी खबर मिली, वह ली। अब हम उसके पीछे लगे हुए हैं, जितना हो सकता है, करेंगे यही मैं माननीय सदस्य से कहना चाहता हूँ।

यह तो विहार के हैं, जानते हूँगे,

एक माननीय सदस्य : नहीं, उत्तर प्रदेश के

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : वीर, बिहार की जो यह पट्टी है, यह काफ़ी आश्चर्य से भरी हुई है।

श्री धार० एल० कुरील (मोहनलालगंज) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके द्वारा गृह मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह जो इन्सिडेंट हुआ है, क्या समस्तीपुर इलेक्शन से भी इसका कुछ सम्बन्ध है। क्या ऐसा तो नहीं है कि कर्मियों के लोगों ने इसको मैनीयुलेंट किया जो, जिससे हरिजनों और वेकवर्ड क्लास के लोगों के वोट दूसरीतरफ चले जायें? मैं यह भी पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह की जो बहुत सी घटनायें बिहार, यूपी० और दूसरी जगहों में होती चली जा रही हैं, सरकार उन्हें रोकने के लिए क्या ठोस कदम उठाने जा रही है, जिससे भविष्य में ऐसी घटनायें न घटें। जब तक महावत हाथी की गंदन पर बैठा रहना है, तब तक वह सीधा रहता है। अगर सरकार इन घटनाओं की रोकथाम के लिए कुछ नहीं करती है, तो क्या हमें भी उसी हाथी की तरह विगड़ना पड़ेगा, ताकि भ्रष्टाचारों का महावन हमारी गंदन पर न रहे? हम देखते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान के कोने कोने में ये भ्रष्टाचार हो रहे हैं, होते घाये हैं। इनका पीछा जब भी नगा हो, वह फल ध्रुव दे रहा है। इन घटनाओं की रोकना पड़ेगा। इस बारे में एक निश्चित पालिसी बनानी पड़ेगी, ममरी टायल करनी पड़ेगी, तभी कुछ हो सकता है, भ्रष्टाचार घटनायें होती हैं, मदन में उस की चर्चा हो जाती है, परन्तु उसके बाद फिर वेते का बैसा। कोर्टे काट्टे में केमिज चलत है, मगर सब फूट जाते हैं, बरी हो जाते हैं। आज तक कोई भी एम० पी० और डी० एम० ससपेंड नहीं किया गया है, किसी को सजा नहीं दो गई है। ऐसी घटनाओं के बारे में हम पड़ लेते हैं, सुन लेते हैं, यहाँ रो देते हैं, प्रामु बहा देते हैं, मगर उसके बाद सब बीमे का बैसा हो जाता है। हम कब तक इस तरह में रीत रहेंगे, कब तक हमारी वृद्ध-केटियों की इञ्जन नूटनी रहेगी, कब तक हमारे लोगों का कल्प होना रहेगा, यह मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ। मैं यह भी आश्वासन चाहता हूँ कि भविष्य में ऐसी घटनायें न घटें, इसके लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठाने जा रही है।

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : पहले तो यह कहना ठीक नहीं है कि यह निफं हरिजनों पर ही भ्रष्टाचार हुआ है। हरिजनों पर हुआ है, यह गृह बात है। लेकिन सारे गांव पर हमला हुआ है— वहाँ 90 परसेंट वेकवर्ड कर्नामिज इ और 10 परसेंट हरिजन हैं—जिसमें वे भी आ गये हैं। लेकिन हरिजनों पर हरिजन होने के कारण हमला किया गया, ऐसा नहीं है। इस लिए इस घटना को उसके साथ मिला देना ठीक नहीं होगा। लेकिन यह घटना बड़ी भयंकर है, इसमें कोई शक नहीं है—सारे गांव पर हमला हो और लोड-फोड़ कर के उसका नाश कर दिया जाये। जब इसकी पुर्गे जांच हो, तब मैं कुछ कह सकता हूँ। माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा है कि क्या समस्तीपुर

के इलेक्शन के साथ उल्लास सम्बन्ध है या नहीं। वह जगह समस्तीपुर के नजदीक है, सरगुद पर है शायद हो सकता है कि हो। लेकिन जब तक मुझे इसकी पूरी हकीकत न मिले, तब तक मैं कोई राय नहीं दे सकता हूँ। लेकिन अगर ऐसा भी होगा, तो उसके बारे में कड़ी कार्रवाई की जायेगी।

श्री धार० एल० कुरील : समरी टायल के बारे में कुछ नहीं कहा है।

12.48 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

THIRTEENTH REPORT

कुमारी मणिबेन बल्लभभाई पटेल (महाराणा) : मैं अधीनस्थ विधान संघी समिति का तेरहवां प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत करती हूँ।

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT

SHRI PABITRA MOHAN PRADHAN (Deogarh): I beg to present the Twenty-fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.50 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. CALLING OFF OF STRIKE BY PORT AND DOCK WORKERS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): Honourable Members are aware that the unions of root and dock workers affiliated to All India Port and Dock Workers Federation (HMS) except the B.P.T. Employees' Union restored to an indefinite strike from the night of 15th November 1978 in Bombay Port. Similarly, affiliates of this Federation in the ports of Madras, Mormugao, Kandla, Calcutta, Paradi and Visakhapatnam went on strike from the mid-night of 16th November, 1978. They went on strike in the port of Cochin from the mid-night of 18-11-78. In Madras one of the Unions