12.03 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED ROBBERY IN THE AJMAL KHAN ROAD BRANCH OF SYNDICATE BANK, NEW DELHI

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण नायक (खजुराहो) : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर माननीय गृह मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं और प्रार्थना करता हूं कि वह इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें:

> "3 अप्रैल, 1978 को सिन्डीकेट बैंक, नई दिल्ली की अजमल खां रोड शाखा में डकैती का समाचार।"

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): Sir, at 3.00 P.M. on 3-4-1978, the Central Police Control Room received a telephone call that an incident had taken place in the Syndicate Bank on Ajmal Khan Road. The Control Room directed one of its vans to reach the spot immediately and also informed the Police Station, Karol Bagh, SHO, Karol Bagh, alongwith a Sub-Inspector and a Constable reached the Bank within few minutes of receiving the information. Soon thereafter, the senior police officers including IGP, DIG and SP also reached the spot.

Enquiries revealed that at about 3 P.M. two masked persons entered the 1st floor premises of the Syndicate Bank. One was wearing a turban while the other had a helmet. The latter who was carrying a revolver entered the Manager's Cabin, pushed aside the lady clerk using the telephones and snapped the telephone wire. He then came out of the Cabin and stood guard near the main entry door. His associate who had a gun slung from his shoulder and a revolver in his hand moved to the cashier's glass cabin. He broke open the glass pane of the Cabin with his gun and demanded the keys of the Cash Chest. The Cabin was opened and the lady cashier offered no resistance. Her colleague also a lady was counting the day's collection in an adjoining Cabin, alongwith a male attendant. He then collected the cash from both these Cabins and put it in a polythene bag. When he demanded the keys of the strong room the lady cashier kept quiet indicating that she did not have the keys with her. Thereafter, both the intruders left the bank office. Before leaving, they left a hand written note saying "release of P. R. Sircar, *alias* Anand Murti, unconditionally demanded—UPRF". The man wearing the turban told the bank employees in English that they need not fear as they were not out to harm them. He said they were doing this for Sircar and, therefore, for a noble cause. They left saying "Thank you Comrades; We will come again."

There were only 3 male attendants in the Bank at the time of the incident. One who was in the second Cashier's Cabin, remained silent throughout while the other who was near the main door was prevented from leaving the Bank by the person standing guard at the main door. The third attendant was also not allowed to move. After the culprits left, the employees kept quiet for a while as they had been warned not to move or ask for help. Thereafter, they went up to the second floor and shouted for help. The culprits had taken cash amounting to Rs. 2,93,100/-.

The Dog Squad and the Crime Team were immediately summoned to the spot and assistance of the experts of the CFSL was also taken. The assistance of the CBI was also obtained immediately. The description of the robbers as obtained from the staff was broadcast on various police wireless nets. The border check posts, control room vans and patrolling staff were alerted. A case FIR No. 388 dated 3-4-1978 u/s 392/397 IPC PS Karol

Bagh has been registered and the investigation has been entrusted to a special team set up under the personal supervision of S. P. Crime. All possible efforts are being made to work out the case.

I will tell you, with your permission. that the Managers of this Bank do not believe in any necessity for security. They do not keep any guards of their own.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण नायक (खजुराहो) : अभी माननीय गृह मंत्री ने बताया कि 3-4-78 को 2 लाख 93 हजार 190 रुपये की डकैती हुई । यह एक घनी बस्ती है और इसमें लगभग 15 बैंक हैं, जहां पर कि सुरक्षा के लिए अभी कोई गश्ती गार्ड भी नहीं पहुंचता है । जहां पर 15 बैंक हों, घनी बस्ती हो, वहां कम-से-कम सुरक्षा का प्रबन्ध होना चाहिये था, जब कि इसी राजधानी में पहले चांदनी चौक में बैंक लूट लिया गया था और कर्मचारियों की हत्या हुई थी । यहीं पर नागरवाला कांड में इंदिरा गांधी के नाम पर 60 लाख रुपये ले लिये गये थे, तो कम-से-कम वहां पर गश्ती पुलिस होनी चाहिये थी ।

दूसरे जब वह वह कहते गये—"धन्यवाद, हम फिर मिलेंगे" तो क्या सरकार ने यह सोचा है कि हम कोई प्रबन्ध करेंगे ?

मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि वह जो बैंक है, इसमें केवल महिलायें ही नियुक्त की गई तो ऐसी कौन सी बात सोची गई कि इन बैंकों में केवल महिलायें ही काम करें, पुरुष का कोई प्रबन्ध नहीं किया गया ? जब महिलायें ही वहां पर काम करती हैं तो इन बैंकों में सशस्त्र पहरेदारों की नियुक्ति क्यों नहीं की गई ? यह राष्ट्रीय बैंक हैं, राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति हैं, इनकी सुरक्षा के लिये शासन ने क्या सोचा है ?

दूसरे यह कहा गया कि प्रभात रंजन सरकार को छुड़ाने के लिये हम पवित्र काम करने आ रहे हैं तो मैं शासन से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या उन्हीं आनन्दमार्गियों द्वारा यह काम किया गया है या उनकी आड़ में कोई दूसरा ऐसा काम तो नहीं कर रहा, क्या शासन ने इसकी कोई जानकारी की है ?

आनन्दमार्गियों द्वारा बराबर गृह मंत्री और दूसरे मंत्रियों को नोटिस दिये गये, उनको नुकसान पहुंचाने के लिए, तो क्या सरकार ने आनन्दमार्गियों की गतिविधियों के बारे में कोई काम किया है ?

अन्त में मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि अब तक पुलिस ने क्या काम किया है ? क्या यह पता लग सका है कि वह पैदल आये थे या मोटर में आये थे, किस तरह से कहां से गुजरे, कहां से आये, क्या किसी आदमी से यह पता लग सका है ? इतनी खुफिया पुलिस रहती है, प्रबन्ध रहता है, ड्यूटी रहती है, क्या वह इतना पता लगा सकेंगे, क्योंकि इससे राजधानी में बड़ा आतंक छा गया है ? इस घटना के कारण राजधानी में बहुत बड़ा आतंक छा गया है । कल सम्पूर्ण बाजार में हड़ताल रही । लोग बेचैन हैं । मैं गृह मंत्री से निवेदन करूंगा कि वह इन सब बातों का स्पष्टीकरण करें ।

श्री चरण सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे माननीय मित्र ने कोई सात आठ सवाल कर डाले हैं—अगर उन्हें सवाल कहा जाये । वे सुझाव है । यह बैंक एक गली के अन्दर स्थित है, यह बात नहीं है । वहां और बैंक हैं या नहीं, यह मुझे मालूम नहीं है । लेकिन इस बैंक के बारे में मुझे मालूम है कि वह बैंक गली में है, क्योंकि आई० जी० ने अभी मुझे बताया, जब कि वह इस सवाल के सिलसिले में तफसील बताने के लिए आए थे । जहां तक इस बात का ताल्लुक है कि वहां बैंकों में सिक्युरिटी का क्या इन्तजाम है, बैंक आमतौर पर अपनी सिक्युरिटी का इन्तजाम करते हैं । उसके निकट कोई थाना बन सकता है या नहीं, यह आसान बात नहीं है । वहां थाने की जरूरत है या नहीं, और अगर जरूरत है, तो इस तरह का प्रबन्ध हो सकता है या नहीं, यह मैं . . . (व्यवधान) वहां

[श्री चरण सिंह]

दो थाने हैं ? माननीय मित्र बहुत जोर के साथ कह रहे थे, और इसलिये मैंने समझा कि वहां थाना नहीं होगा ।

माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा है कि वे लोग कैसे आये और क्या इस बारे में कुछ पता लगा है या नहीं । मालूम यह हुआ है कि किस गली में बैंक है, वहां से वे पैदल गये । गली कोई 150, 200 गज लम्बी है । जैसे ही वे गली से बाहर पहुंचे, शायद मेन रोड पर, तो वहां कोई वैन, गाड़ी खड़ी हुई थी । वे उसमें गये मालूम होते हैं । यह बात इससे जाहिर होती है कि डाग स्क्वैड वहां जाकर रुक गया । इसका मतलब यह है कि वहां कोई गाड़ी थी, जिसमें वे गये । पैदल नहीं गये । इतना ही मालूम है । बाकी जितनी एहतियात हो सकती थी, जितने तहकीकात या अनुसंधान के उपाय हो सकते थे, वे पुलिस ने किये हैं ।

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): I do not know why in a nationalised bank there are no security guards. It is strange.

SHRI CHARAN SINGH: They do not believe in it.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Am I to understand that in the other branches of the Syndicate Bank also they do not have any security guards? Is it their policy?

MR. SPEAKER: Anyway, in the Ladies' Branch they do not have it.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: The Minister should know why they are not doing it. With regard to the opening of the police station, *The Statesman has stated*:

> "The traders were protesting against inadequate policing of the area and maintained that the bank robbery was the culmination of the growing lawlessness."

It seems the traders want police protection in the area. Will the Government provide a police station in the . . .

AN. HON. MEMBER: Not police station, police patrolling.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Police patrolling and police station. They have represented to the Government that lawlessness is growing and so many robberies have taken place. What are the steps which the hon. Home Minister propose to take in the matter?

SHRI CHARAN SINGH: I do not think any reply is needed. As my hon. friend would be knowing, so many friends on this side have already said that there are two police stations in this very area. So, there is no need for any further police stations in the area. As to the statement that lawlessness is growing, it is a matter of opinion. It seems some friends sitting opposite will never be satisfied. He asked why the management of this Bank did not consider it necessary to keep guards. It is for them to say that. But it is a fact that they did not keep guards, because they do not believe in such security. If my hon. colleagues will forgive me, I may say that some of my colleagues themselves members of the Cabinet do not believe in security. I had requested them to take a guard, a gun man in plain cloth, but some of my friends are not agreeable to it. It is a matter of personal opinion on which Government have nothing to say.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: It is a nationalised Bank and so much of money is involved in it. So, why should they not have security guards? Of course. I know it is not your responsibility.

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot answer that.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement made by the Home Minister of India is simply amusing, and it shows that he has not taken it as a serious matter. Money is lost by a

reputed and well-known nationalised Bank, namely, the Syndicate Bank, which is one of the best administered banks in India. A huge amount of money has been lost by this Bank. Earlier also, there was a dacoity in the Banganapalli Branch of the Syndicate Bank in Kurnool district and Rs. 13 lakhs were lost. Thanks to the prompt action by the administration of the State, almost the entire money was recovered within 15 days. Only Rs. 35,000 remained to be recovered. I want to know whether in this case serious efforts are being made to arrest these culprits and recover the entire amount. In this capital city of the country during the day light people have entered a bank and snatched away lakhs of rupees and escaped. Further, this is not a stray incident. There were many such cases. In spite of the fact that law and order has gone to dogs and there is no safety or security in the city and in spite of the representations from the local people, which is a sort of advance warning, no steps were taken by the administration to prevent such incidents. The Janata Party is saying that everybody should become fearless. Though the citizens have not become fearless, dacoits and thieves have become fearless and they are indulging in their activities fearlessly day in and day out. What is the result? We have lost money. Simultaneously, the Government or the administration have lost their face. I want to know what concrete steps have been taken by the Home Ministry to recover this money and arrest the culprits and whether the Home Minister is going to accept his failure in tackling this problem. I want a direct reply.

SHRI CHARAN SINGH: My hon. friend mentioned an example where the entire looted money was recovered within 15 days. It may be so. But, in this case, the dacoity took place only yesterday and only one day has passed. So, that example does not apply to the present case. So far as the steps taken are concerned, the description of the robbers as obtained from the staff has been broadcast by the wireless network to the border posts, control rooms and patrolling vans. All of them have been alerted. Two police dogs have also been pressed into service.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): In the statement made by the hon. Home Minister reference has been made to the note left by the robbers. It is not, according to me, a simple incident of robbery. It has got wider implications. Why cloud this? The Home Minister's , statement has not seriously taken into account the other aspect of the whole thing.

It appears that this robbery has been a part or is taken to be a part of a campaign of terror let loose by the Anand Marg. Government is aware that the Anand Margis have let loose acts of violence not only in this country but also abroad. Letters of threat have also been issued against the Prime Minister, against the Home Minister, against the Minister of Foreign Affairs and others also. In this connection, it has also to be taken note of that the Anand Marg have already declared that they will go on with this kind of campaign in future also, not only in this country but outside.

You would be astonished to learn that the *Free Press Journal* of Bombay has characterised these Anand Margis as a murderous group. It further observes that it might be a tool in the hands of some very reactionary and powerful interests operating in this country.

Again, an important official of the C.B.I. is credited to have observed:

> "Our investigations show that UPRF (which has been mentioned in the statement) is a well-disciplined front organisation of the Marg,
>
> "and there are firm indications that they are acting under the instructions of the Marg leaders the communication channel being the

[Shri Chitta Basu]
foreign Margis who visit India. particularly Patna and Calcutta."

The hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs in the course of a reply to a question has said that there are frequent visits by foreigners to Patna to meet Mr. Sarkar.

In view of this, may I know whether the hon. Minister will take a wider view of the thing and entrust the enquiry of this particular robbery to the C.B.I. and also let the House know the action taken against the Margis for the acts of violence so far committed by them and the steps proposed to be taken to curb these acts of violence, including the ban of the Anand Marg in this country?

SHRI CHARAN SINGH: The note shows that they are Anand Margis, but it does not follow that they are Anand Margis. It may be a mere fake just to put the police off the track. Still, the police is investigating both the possibilities.

If necessary, it will be ensrusted to the C.B.I., but today it is not considered necessary.

श्री नाथू सिंह : (दौसा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पिछले दिनों से इस तरह की घटनायें बहुत अधिक हो रही है। जिस दिन यह राबरी बैंक में हुई उस दिन दो और घटनाएं हुई। यह घटना सोमवार की है जिस दिन करोलबाग बाजार बन्द रहता है। तो जिस दिन मार्केट की छुट्टी हो, वहां पर पब्लिक निगरानी न कर सके उस दिन दिल्ली जैसे बड़े शहर में पुलिस की व्यवस्था ठीक ढंग से होनी चाहिए। इस कमी की वजह से ही यह घटना हुई।

दूसरी चीज यह है कि जो व्यक्ति डाका डालने आये वे अन्दर घुसे और बिल्कुल निश्चित स्थान पर तुरन्त चले गए। इसका मतलब है कि उन्हें पहले ही पता था कि किस कैबिन में कौन बैठता है और कहां पैसा रखा जाता है। उनको सारी सिचुएशन का पहले से पता था। इससे ऐसा महसूस होता है कि शायद उस बैंक के कर्मचारियों से उनका पहले से कुछ सम्बन्ध रहा हो .....

श्री चरण सिंह : यह बात पुलिस की तहकीकात के लिये है या मेरे लिये है ?

श्री नाथू सिंह : अध्यक्ष महादय, पिछले दिनों अधिकतर जो इस तरह की लूटपाट की घटनाएं हुई हैं, वे बैंकों में हुई हैं और इस समय अधिकतर बैंकों में जो यूनियन्ज हैं, वे सी० पी० आई० कन्ट्रोल्ड—ए०आई०बी०ई०ए०— यूनियन्ज हैं, और उन्हीं बैंकों में ऐसी घटनाएं हुई हैं, खास कर जनता पार्टी की सरकार के आने के बाद ।

इसलिये मैं गृह मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं—बैंकों में इस तरह की घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए, जैसे विदेशों के बैंकों में कस्टमर्स का आटोमेटिक फोटोग्राफ होता जाता है, वहां पर टेलीविजन लगा होता है, क्या ऐसी व्यवस्था आप यहां के बैंकों में भी करवायेंगे ताकि उनकी फोटो ली जा सके और जो डाका डालता है या चोरी करता है, उसका पता लगाया जा सके ?

मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि 1975 से लेकर अब तक इस तरह की बैंकों को लूटने और रौबरी की कितनी घटनाएं हुई हैं ?

श्री चरण सिंह : आप एक सवाल पूछिये।

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

श्री नाथू सिंह : मैं सवाल ही पूछ रहा हूं—अब तक जितने बैंकों में रौबरीज हुई हैं- जैसा मैंने अभी कहा था कि वहां पर यूनियन्ज बनी हुई हैं—क्या जनता पार्टी की सरकार को बदनाम करने के लिए तो ऐसा नहीं हो रहा है ? विदेशों में जिस तरह के टेलीविजन कैमरे बैंकों में लगे होते हैं—क्या वैसी व्यवस्था

अ प यहां भी करायेंगे ? आनन्द मार्ग के बारे में जो पत्र वे वहां छोड़ कर गये हैं—क्या उसके बारे में कुछ और सबूत मिले हैं, जिससे कि उसके बारे में कुछ पता लग सके ?

श्री चरण सिंह : कितनी डकैतियां पिछले साल में बैंकों में पड़ी—ये फिगर्स तो इस वक्त मेरे पास मौजूद नहीं हैं, लेकिन ऐसा लगता है कि माननीय मित्र को जरूर मालूम है और जिस तरह वे डकैतियों को रोका जा सकता है—इस का भी उनको ज्यादा तजुर्बा मालूम होता है, मुझको उतना नहीं है। मैं पुलिस वालों से कहूंगा कि आपके तजुर्बे से फायदा उठाने की कोशिश करें। जहां तक आपने जो सुझाव दिये हैं, उन पर मैं विचार करूंगा।

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandyal): On a point of order. When a calling attention is tabled by certain Members, you call upon only those Members to put the question and the Minister replies. When the reply is obtained, it becomes the property of the House. When the Minister does not give satisfactory reply, it is the practice that any Member can stand up and seek clarification from the Minister because the answer was not satisfactory. But you said that only those members whose names appear in the calling attention notice are entitled to ask questions. In practice, the reply of the Minister is the property of the House and any member can get up and seek clarification. I want your ruling on that.

MR. SPEAKER: The ruling is that in the calling attention only those members whose names are listed, are entitled to ask the question. If it is a Short Notice Question, others are allowed.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: But when it is a question of clarification only.

MR. SPEAKER: Rule 197(2) says: "There shall be no debate on such statement at the time it is made but each member in whose name the item stands in the list of business may, with the permission of the Speaker, ask a question."

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: But for seeking a clarification, we can seek your permission.

श्री नाथू सिंह : : मेरा प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर है, मैं प्रश्न नहीं पूछ रहा हूं। मैं ने यह पूछा था कि अब तक जितनी घटनाएं बैंकों में डकैती की हुई हैं, उन को देख कर पता लगाया जा सकता है कि ये क्यों होती हैं। इसका उत्तर माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह दिया कि माननीय सदस्य को यह ज्यादा पता होगा कि इस तरह की घटनाएं कब तक हुई और क्यों हुई। इस का मतलब यह है कि ऐसी घटनाएं मैं करता हूं। मेरा प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर यह है कि गृह मंत्री जी जब ऐसे प्रश्न किये जाते हैं, तो उनका जवाब सीरियस होकर दें न कि उन को इस तरह की बातें करनी चाहिएं।

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think he complimented you like that. That is not a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Defence to make a statement.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tunkur): Sir, today is Babuji's 71st birthday. On my behalf and on behalf of my party on this side of the House, I wish him happy returns of the day.

SHRI DHIRENDRANATH BASU: (Katwa): I wish him many happy returns of the day.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): I also join my hon. friend in congratulating Babuji on his 71st birthday.