

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED ECONOMIC BLOCKADE OF SCHEDULED CASTE REFUGEES IN WEST BENGAL

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR DHARA (Tamluk): 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 economic blockade of Scheduled Caste refugees who migrated from Dandakaranya to Marichjhapi in West Bengal, leading to Police firing on them resulting in killing of a large number of refugees, including criminal assaults on many of their womenfolk."

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI H. M. PATEL): Sir, In February and March 1978, about 1,20,000 refugees from former East Pakistan who were rehabilitated in Dandakaranya and other areas deserted these camps and came to West Bengal. After a good deal of effort, all but about 8,000 of them, who had taken shelter in Marichjhapi in Sunderban, were persuaded to return to Dandakaranya. It is not known whether they belong to scheduled castes but those remaining behind indulged in illegal activities, like indiscriminate and extensive felling of forests, destruction of forest produce and allotment of land in exchange of money. The West Bengal Government has been persuading these refugees to leave Marichjhapi, and return to Dandakaranya.

It was reported that some leaders of these refugees were trying to lure the families who had returned by offering land to them the reserve forest area. The refugees in Marichjhapi have raised their own volunteer force to resist by force any police action to move them from that area.

As the situation in the area was becoming tense, orders under Section 144 Cr. P. C. were promulgated by

the District Magistrate.

On 31st January 1979, about 1,000 refugees attempted to cross over to Kumirmari by boats. When the police tried to prevent them, some of the refugees launched an attack on the police camp by using arrows and other missiles, causing injury to a constable. The police were compelled to fire 4 rounds in an effort to control the situation. The refugees withdrew but soon reassembled and again attacked the police party. The police fired again resulting in the death of 2 persons and injury to 4 others. 48 policemen including the Additional S.P. and the Magistrate on duty also received injuries. The State Government has ordered an executive enquiry by the Commissioner, Presidency Division into the firing incident.

There has been no incident of criminal assault on any refugee women.

There have been no reports of any further trouble in the area. The situation can, however, become normal only when the refugees return to Dandakaranya, as Marichjhapi is not an area suitable for rehabilitation. I hope that leaders of all political parties will join the efforts of the State Government in persuading the refugees to go back. This is in their best interest.

श्री सुशील कुमार धारा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने जो उत्तर दिया है वह भ्रमपूर्ण है। मंत्री महोदय के पास आज तक यह खबर नहीं है कि यह लोग शेरदुल्हा कास्ट है कि नहीं। इसकी इन्हें जानकारी होनी चाहिये थी।

दूसरी बात यह है कि धारा 144 कब प्रोपलोट हुई इसके बारे में कोई तारीख मंत्री जी ने नहीं दी। जिस वजह से मैंने आपको यह काल प्रॉटेशन दिया है उसका कारण है कि मागीचझापी मुन्दरवन में बहुत दूर में पूर्व दक्षिण कोने में है और हमारे एकदम बिल्कुल सरहद में ही है, और सरहद से 10 मील भीतर में बंगो सागर के बहुत नजदीक है। लेकिन मागीचझापी जैसे नेता जो नगर बन गया, एक साल पहले की कहानी है, बहुत सारी कहानियाँ हैं जो मैं यहाँ आपको बताऊँगा। वहाँ पुलिस एक्शन जब शुरू हुआ 24 जनवरी से 14 फरवरी तक..... (व्यवधान)। वहाँ पिछड़े हुए लोग हैं और वहाँ से हैं। 8,000 का जो हिसाब दिया है वह गलत है। राज्य सरकार जो हिसाब देती

है उसी पर गृह मंत्री जी क्यों बोलते हैं। कम से कम 30,000 आदमी वहां पर हैं।।।।।।। (व्यवधान) आपकी इजरी में सास्ट सगता है। वहां 24 तारीख से इकानार्मिक बलाकैड किया। 38 स्टीम लांच द्वीप में रख दिया। द्वीप में चारों ओर नदियां हैं और नदी में 38 स्टीम बोट रख कर कम-से-कम 500 पुलिस और एक बटालियन ग्राम्पुलिस वहां रख दिया और कम-से-कम 8, 10 अपसर, एडीशनल एस.पी., एस.पी., डी.एम. और एडीशनल डी.एम. वगैरह वहां रखे और गोयन्दा विभाग के बहुत आदमी वहां रखे। जो कोई आदमी आते हैं, उनका तलाशी करते हैं, पृष्ठते हैं कहाँ जाओगे।

मारिचझापी एक जंगल है, जन्तु-जानवरों का जगह था, लेकिन आज वह जन्तु-जानवरों सरकार का जगह हो गया है, वाइल्ड गवर्नमेंट का जगह हो गया है, वह वहाँ रुक कर रहता है जहाँ पहले जन्तु-जानवर बसते थे। इसमें 1 लाख 52 हजार बाघा जगह में से इन लोगों ने 12 हजार बाघा जगह ज्यादा से ज्यादा आबाद किया है। वह लोग कैसे गये? उनको इन लोगों ने, ज्योति बसु ने बूलाया था। जब हमारे विधान चन्द्र राय मुख्य मंत्री थे 1962 में... (व्यवधान)

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore): He has no right to malign the Chief Minister who is not here to defend himself?

MR. SPEAKER: Chief Minister is part of the Government.

श्री सुशील कुमार धारा : जब श्री विधान चन्द्र राय 1962 में मुख्य मंत्री थे, तो इन लोगों ने उनको लालच दिया दण्डकारण्य जाकर ज्योति बसु के पार्टी के आदमियों ने लालच दिया, उत्तेजित किया और कहा कि दण्डकारण्य तुम्हारे बसने की जगह नहीं है, तुम बंगाली हो, बंगाल में चलो। इसकी बहुत सारी कहानियाँ हैं, हम सब बोल सकते हैं, अभी बोलेंगे। मेरे पास रिकार्ड है, वह सब मैं आपको दे सकता हूँ (व्यवधान)।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Let him lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it to me. You will have your turn.

श्री सुशील कुमार धारा : हमको डिबेट नहीं कर सकते हैं।

श्री प्रफुल्लचन्द्र सेन, जो वहाँ के मध्य मंत्री थे, उन्होंने उनको योता दिया दण्डकारण्य आने के लिये।

You leaders went to Dandakaranya and requested them to come to Sunderbans.

1974 में जब सईद घाटा में गोली चली तो उस समय हमारे समर मुखर्जी साहब वहाँ गये थे जो कि

माक्सिस्ट कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के नेता हैं। इनके साथ श्री सुरीत मल्लिक चौधरी एम. पी. भी वहाँ गये थे। वह लोग वहाँ बोले कि तुम लोग सुन्दरबन के दाबी उठाओ, सुन्दरबन चलो।

1975 साल में माना कैम्प में 3 दिन सम्मेलन हुआ, उस सम्मेलन में श्री राम चटर्जी, जो आपकी गवर्नमेंट के मंत्री हैं और फावर्ड ब्लाक के महामंत्री श्री धोते भी गये थे। उनको भी सुन्दरबन जान के लिये न्योता दिया। 1975 साल में सी.पी.एम. के राज्य दफ्तर में श्री ज्योति बसु के सभापतित्व में 8 लेफ्ट फ्रंट पार्टी का मीटिंग हुआ था। उस मीटिंग में उन लोगों ने भी सुन्दरबन का मांग उठाया।

12 जुलाई, 1977 को उन लोगों ने लेफ्ट फ्रंट गवर्नमेंट के मंत्री, श्री राधिका बनर्जी, को एक मेमो-रेंडम दिया, जिसमें उन्होंने अल्टीमेटम दिया कि 1960 से आप हमें लालच देते आ रहे हैं, आपने कहा था कि जब हम सत्ता में आयेंगे, तो हम आपको ले जायेंगे, अब आप सत्ता में आ गये हैं, इस लिए अब आज हमें सुन्दरबन में लाने का इन्तजाम करें। 28-11-77 को लेफ्ट फ्रंट गवर्नमेंट ने अपने एक मंत्री, श्री राम चटर्जी, और जनता पार्टी के दो एम. एल.एज., श्री आर. एस. पांडे और श्री के. नन्दा, को सरकार ने दंडकारण्य भेजा। वहाँ जा कर उन्होंने कहा कि आप लोग तो निर्वाचित हो कर यहाँ आये हैं, अब हम आपका उद्धार करेंगे। लेकिन उन लोगों के लिए कुछ नहीं किया गया।

इस कारण वे लोग आ गये—एक साल पहले आ गये। उन्हें एक साल पहले क्यों नहीं रोका गया? केन्द्रीय सरकार या राज्य सरकार ने उन्हें तब क्यों नहीं रोका? उसके बाद उन लोगों ने खुद अपने रहने के लिए जगह ढूँढ ली। गृह मंत्री ने कहा है कि वहाँ बसने की जगह नहीं है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि किसी भी जगह को बसने लायक बनाना पड़ता है। वे लोग आदिवासी और शिवगुन्ड कास्ट हैं। उन्होंने बहुत मेहनत से अपने रहने के लिए जगह बनाई। वे मछली और खेती का काम करते हैं।

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you 15 minutes. Further, there are four other Members who have to participate. So, please put the question.

श्री सुशील कुमार धारा : वहाँ पर 26 आदमियों की गोली से मार दिया गया और 43 आदमी भूखे मर गये। उन लोगों की 1,33,714 रुपये की नौकराई, चावल और गेहूं फ्रीन लिया गया। तीन महिलाओं के साथ बलात्कार किया गया। 24 युवतियों को पुलिस कैप में रोक कर रखा गया। हम नहीं जानते कि उनकी क्या हालत है।

आप सब पार्टियों की एक कमेटी बना दीजिए और वहाँ भेज दीजिए। वह कमेटी सब स्थिति को देख कर आये और अपनी रिपोर्ट दे। मंत्री महोदय भी साथ

[श्री सुशील कुमार धारा]

चलें। इस समय वहां जो हालत है, उसको देख कर यह पता नहीं चलता है कि हम आजाद हिन्दुस्तान में हैं, या ब्रिटिश आदमियों में हैं, या यहिया की सरकार के नीचे हैं। प्रधान मंत्री ने 17 तारीख को पार्लियामेंट पार्टी की मीटिंग में कहा था कि पार्लियामेंट के सदस्यों की एक टीम वहां भेजेगी। लेकिन अभी तक ऐसा नहीं किया गया है।

PROF. SAMAR GUHA (Contai): Be careful in your answer. I warn you to be careful. I know that it is by an accident that my name is not there. The whole of West Bengal is burning now on this issue. The Minister must be very careful in his reply.

SHRI H.M. PATEL: The hon. Member gave me a lot of information about the situation, which adds to whatever I have said. I am in no position to say whether the information is correct or not because I speak on the basis of information that is furnished to me by the State Government. Mr. Samar Guha says that I should be very careful I am being very careful. The Central Government does not run West Bengal. The Central Government has to obtain information from the State Government in regard to an incident which happened in the State. So, whatever information they have given I have placed before the House and therefore all I can say is that in regard to the information that is given to me now, I shall again put it to the State Government and ask them to reconcile the difference between the information they have given and the information now given by the hon. Member.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: He has not replied to the question whether an all-party committee would be sent there as has been promised by the Prime Minister himself to enquire into this ghastly, inhuman incident that has occurred there.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I have already stated that my information is different. Until I get the full information, I can-

not say whether there is need for any committee or anything else.

*SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN (Burdwan): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir. At the very outset I would like to make a submission to you and ask for time to express my view fully because I know as soon as I start saying some thing you will say that it is not relevant to the issue. I would like to assure you that I would speak about the core issues that have given rise to this refugee problem.

Sir, today you are seated in the Speaker's Chair and the Ministers are adorning the treasury benches. This is possible because we are free today. The country could not have been free without the partition of Bengal and Punjab and with the partition of these two provinces the country gained freedom and the refugees came to this country. But it is a matter of utter shame that the Government during the last 30 years could not make arrangements for the permanent settlement of these refugees who had in a way brought freedom to this country. Whatever it be, we cannot forget the fact that all those who have come from Dandakaranya are human beings and they have to be rehabilitated permanently. It is also a fact that the State of West Bengal is suffering from heavy density of population and it would be impossible to pour in thousands and thousands of persons into this State for permanent settlement. The hon. Home Minister in his statement has said that these refugees have to go back to Dandakaranya. I agree with him that they have to go back either to Dandakaranya or anywhere else. I have no doubt about it. But I would like to know, whether these people the refugees but for whom the country's independence could not be achieved, are to be compelled, pressurised and oppressed to effect their return to Dandakaranya or the issue has to be considered as a human

*The original speech was delivered in Bengali.

issue and a humanitarian approach will be made in dealing with this problem. This is the main issue which the democratic and free citizens of this country will have to decide. Sir it is true that the police resorted to firing on the refugees; the Government resorted to blockade of the island, no medical aid was given, even drinking water was denied. All these have appeared in newspapers. I have read the details of the accounts though I personally could not go there. Nearly, 1,20,000 refugees had gone from Dandakaranya to Sunderbans and about the migration of these refugees both the Central Government and the State Governments have been saying that there is a conspiracy behind the move. How strange it is? Two responsible Governments are taking identical position and no one is able to detect who conspired and who instigated these refugees to go to Sunderbans and who called them there. This is a sad thing Lakhs of rupees are being spent and no one wants to find out the truth. But then why should the poor refugees suffer because of the lapses on the part of the two Governments. If any one is to suffer then these two Governments should suffer and not the refugees and they have to pay to ensure that the refugees do not suffer. Sir, when the country gained independence, the refugees came from East Bengal and also from West Pakistan. It is a happy thing that the refugees coming from West Punjab were fully rehabilitated and they have no problem but not much was done about the refugees from East Bengal. According to the reports, the Central Government had spent a sum of Rs. 303 crores on the refugees coming from West Punjab whereas the Central Government spent only Rs. 200 crores on the refugees coming from East Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER: This is outside the scope.

SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN: I had said it at the very outset that you will surely prevent me from saving these

things but these are bare truths. It must be noted that the Central Government had given an outright grant of Rs. 303 crores to the refugees of West Pakistan where as they spent Rs. 200 crores for the rehabilitation of the Bengali refugees. To West Pakistan refugees the Government distributed 7 lakh acres of land free of cost. 7 lakh residential units were built and given to the West Pakistan refugees 21 lakh...but nothing was done for the East Bengal refugees. As against 2,21,000 to Pak refugees who were given employment, the number of East Bengal refugees getting employment was only 204. If the Centre deals with such human issues in a discriminatory way and disparities allowed then the problems cannot be solved. I will take a minute or two.

MR. SPEAKER: Your minutes seem to be too long.

SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN: But these were done by the Congress Government and not by the present Janata Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN: I would therefore urge that it is the responsibility of the Central Government to give adequate assistance to the State Government to enable them to render all necessary help to the refugees. As I have already said the State has no capacity to absorb the refugees and in case if they do not want to go back to Dandakaranya, the Government must develop the islands of Andamans and settle them there. I would also urge that the blockade must be lifted and proper arrangements should be made for the supply of food and medical aid to the refugees.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The hon. Member's question is, whether the refugees can be diverted to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This is a new point. I will certainly examine it. But even if we take some time to find out, the first position should be

[Shri H. M. Patel]

that they should go back to Dandakaranya or to the transit camp in Madhya Pradesh. It is desirable and it is in their interest to go back because this is not an area which will provide employment or anything. It is a forest area. A great deal forest destruction has already taken place. Leaving that aside, certainly our sympathy would be with the refugees and we will do whatever we can. But it is desirable that they should go back. The hon. Member said that they should not be forced to go back but persuaded to go back. If you will see, in my appeal I have said that leaders of all parties should persuade them and should join the State Government in persuading them to go back.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, I must place on record my Call Attention Notice....

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to. This is the Call Attention that has been selected.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Because this is not my call-attention. It reads as follows:—

"Intrusion of different foreign agencies in Marichjhapi in Sunderban in West Bengal creating a serious law and order situation involving about 10,000 refugees there."

That was my Call Attention. Sir, your Secretariat has done nothing wrong; I am not blaming them. But what happens if the first man whose name comes in the ballot is not here... (Interruptions).

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: On a point of order. When the Call Attention of one kind has been accepted, he cannot call his call attention. He can mention it in the course of his speech but it should not go as his call-attention. (Interruptions) He can mention it in the course of his speech, but he cannot call it as his call attention. It is absolutely wrong. I want to know from you Sir; can he mention?

MR. SPEAKER: He has selected the subject in question. It is up to him. If he thinks that the Call Attention is not according to his taste, according to his wish, he may drop out. . .

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: Yes; he could drop out; he may not speak at all.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: This is one of the worst instances where frustrated politicians and foreign agencies, joining hands together, are creating human miseries for political gains....

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: I strongly object to it. Seven of our MLA's have been arrested; the Leader of the Opposition of West Bengal has been arrested. I want to know this. Is Leader of the Opposition a foreign agent? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has not mentioned it.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: On a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order. He has not mentioned any name at all. I do not think any objection can be taken to that. Mr. Samar Guha, you are trying to snatch every opportunity to make a speech. This is not proper at all.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: No, Sir; I am not trying to make a speech. Blood is boiling there. It is not a question of making a speech. Butcheries are being committed. It is not a question of making speeches. I know how to make speeches outside. It is a question of human concession. It is a question of protesting against brutalities. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Is he going on record? On other occasions you say that it will not be recorded.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Samar Guha, this is not proper at all. You are setting a very bad precedent. Don't record him.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA:*

MR. SPEAKER: I have a right to look up to the senior Members for assistance. If you set a bad example, the others will certainly follow it, they have a right to follow it. This is a Call Attention. Your name has not come in the ballot. Therefore, you should patiently wait for another opportunity to make your speech. But you are interfering at every stage and are trying to make your own contribution to the debate. That is not proper. He has not called the Leader of the Opposition as a spy. He was saying, some others; it may be his imagination; I do not know; it may be real or it may be false; I am not concerned about it.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: Sir, may I make a submission? -

MR. SPEAKER: No.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: On a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: My hon. friend, Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu, has mentioned that foreign agents are there, foreign agents have gone and created trouble....

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: They are there. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has risen on a point of order. Let me see whether there is any point of order at all.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: On 12th February....

MR. SPEAKER: Don't record anything. I am not allowing it.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA:*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order. You are trying to make your contribution.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: On a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Before you begin, please tell me which rule is contravened, which provision of law is contravened.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: I want to know. Will you permit this, that the Leader of the Opposition is....

MR. SPEAKER: He has not mentioned it at all. I will not permit it at all.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

Prof. Guha. why do you get so emotional? You do not hear me. You want to talk all the while.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Don't record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Don't record. Prof. Guha, have you finished? May I say what the order is? I will not allow any individual's name to be brought in. Supposing somebody either feels or imagines or things that there are foreign agents, that does not mean that the Leader of the Opposition is a foreign agent.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I take the full responsibility for what I say. Would the Home Minister be kind enough to look into the documents of 1977-78? I have been repeatedly writing to the Home Minister that the Sunderbans has become a playground of foreign intelligence agencies. Whether the letters are there or not—let them find out. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Now please come to the point.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am saying it once again that it is one of

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

the worst recent instances where frustrated politicians and foreign agencies joining hands together are creating human miseries for political gains. This is the worst type of political opportunism.

Sir, it is on the Bangladesh border. There is a concentration of foreign intelligence agencies, using disgruntled and frustrated politicians of the Congress and a section of West Bengal Janata, only a small section—not all of them but only a minor section of them. I want to make it clear.

... (Interruptions)

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: Will you allow me? He has specifically mentioned Janata and the Congress also he has specifically mentioned. This means by implication those MLAs and the leader of the Janata Party who visited recently the Sunderbans. He is implicating them. Am I not duty-bound to defend them? I leave it to you.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: How can an individual or a few individuals induce 120,000 persons to come away all the way from Dandakaranya to the remotest part of the Sunderbans, facing the Bay of Bengal which is a reserved forest? Who had financed their journey? Who had financed their food? Who had made the propaganda? Who had conducted them? Who had told them? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I can now understand it. Please go on.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: 120,000 refugees were induced to come away from Dandakaranya to Sunderbans. You know what the distance is. It is more than a 1000 km. How did they come? Who paid for it without the foreign intelligence agencies' hand? Sir, I am putting it at my own responsibility on the floor of the House and I have written to the Home Minister categorically, that the Sunderbans has become a playground of foreign intelligence agencies—the Hillary

expedition and the visit of the Smithsonian Institute people. I have mentioned there all these things. He can search these documents.

Sir, the Chief Minister and the Government of West Bengal are anxious to avoid any sort of violence. The Hillary Expedition visit and the visit of the CIA—controlled Smithsonian Institute people and many other events were indicators and some of us were apprehending some trouble which has now come to be true.

One of 120,000 refugees, except 8000 of them, the rest realised their mistake and went back to Dandakaranya for which the West Bengal Government had to spend Rs. 4 crores out of their funds. The rest 8,000/10,000 refugees, under the leadership of Shri Satish Mondal, the Chief of the Agent Provocateurs are creating the law and order situation. Arms have been smuggled from Bangladesh.

Now, Sir, the refugees in Marichijhapi had declared freedom demanding statehood and running a parallel Government, the worst ever, not allowing anybody from outside to enter. Even the District Magistrate and the S.P. are not allowed to enter. The Prime Minister's right stand has supported the Chief Minister, West Bengal Government's actions, in this regard and assured all help to maintain law and order enforced by lawfully established Government in West Bengal. Enormous foreign money is giving encouragement and impetus. Shri Satish Mondal owns a bus route in Raipur—I am told—and owns property. He is giving the leadership. The situation has become very tense and, as a result of police firing, one died and one injured. We say that that is very very unfortunate. I say this on my party's behalf and on behalf of the West Bengal Government. (Interruptions)

Sir, as soon as the news of death of one refugee came to the Writers' Building, Calcutta, immediately, the West Bengal Government had held an emergent session and deputed three

ministers—one belonging to my party, the other belonging to R.S.P. and the third one belonging to Forward Block who went and visited that place.

One hon. Member of this House should have been present here—Prof. Dilip Chakravarty—to reply and refute it. He said that 70 persons died as a result of police firing. The West Bengal Government repeatedly asked him to give some names and details but he failed and avoided that and ran away.

They are violating the forest law, felling trees and making furniture and exporting them to Bangladesh and selling land to misguided refugees—a coterie, a bunch of miscreants. So many police personnel have been found at fault and action has been taken. The malicious propaganda of economic blockade is nothing but falsehood. Government has created transit camps with all the facilities. They are still to go there. There are being brought to Dandakaranya at government cost.

Will the Minister bear with me and may I ask him as to what assistance is the Central Government willing to give in solving the residual refugees' problem, those who came from erstwhile East Pakistan.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The only question is this. I would like to say that on this repeated statement that the foreign intelligence agencies have been in existence there and are in operation, we have no such information. We have made special enquiries to see if there was any foundation.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: If I write to the Home Minister whether he will reply or not.

MR. SPEAKER: That by itself is not proof.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: That does not mean that those are at work.

So far as this question is concerned it is really a hypothetical question. The point is: your State Government itself is determined; and it is the right policy of it to send the refugees back to Dandakaranya.

On the question of assistance to maintain them, in this new home, this does not really arise because that is not the problem.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: What about the residual refugees problem?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I do not know what is meant by residual refugee problem. There is no such thing as residual refugee problem now. I thought that he meant those persons who have been left behind here and who have come from Dandakaranya and who have not gone back that is the only question. On this I can give him the reply. My reply is that they have to be persuaded to go back.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I asked you what assistance the Central Government gave to solve the residual refugee rehabilitation problem?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Hannan Alhaj.

श्री एम० ए० हनान अलहाज (बसिरहाट): अध्यक्ष महोदय सुन्दरवन के जंगल में हरिजन रिपयुजियों पर पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार की पुलिस ने जो अत्याचार और जुल्म किये हैं उसकी मिसाल पिछले तीस सालों में नहीं मिलती है। यह एक नज़ीर बन कर रह गयी है। आपको मालूम है कि पिछले साल एक लाख से ज्यादा रिपयुजी, पोलिटिकल मोटिव्स से, सी.पी.एम. सरकार के कुछ लोगों द्वारा भड़का कर सुन्दरवन में लाये गये। उनको रंगीन सपना दिखाया गया था कि पश्चिमी बंगाल चलो, वहाँ तुम को हम लोग अच्छी तरह से रखेंगे, हम तुम लोगों की अच्छी तरह से देखभाल करेंगे। लेकिन वह सब गलत था। भड़काने वाले कौन लोग थे यह बात पश्चिमी बंगाल की सरकार को अच्छी तरह से मालूम है। लेकिन वह उनके खिलाफ कोई कार्रवाई नहीं करती है क्योंकि ये लोग फ्रंट सरकार के लोगों में से ही हैं, उन से ही सम्बद्ध हैं। यही लोग उन लोगों को भड़का कर लाए थे। कुछ दिन पहले आपको मालूम ही होगा कि मारिचझापी में पश्चिम बंगाल से सात एम० एल० ए० गए थे जिस में अफ़ोजीशन पार्टी के लीडर भी थे। वे वहाँ हालात को देखने के लिए गए थे। वहाँ पर धारा 144 लागू थी या नहीं थी इस बात का पता नहीं था। वहाँ पर रिपयुजी लोगों ने कुछ भी जुल्म नहीं किया, उनका कोई दोष नहीं। उन लोगों ने रिजर्व पुलिस में कुछ भी नहीं किया था और न वहाँ कोई कम्युनल टैन्शन ही था। फिर भी उन लोगों पर पुलिस द्वारा

[श्री एम० ए० हनान भलहाज]

घांसू गैस छोड़ी गई, गोली चलाई गई और बहुत सारे हरिजन उस में मारे गए। पुलिस ने उन पर लांच चला दिए। और उसकी वजह से तीस चालीस देशी... नावों को डुबो दिया। इसकी वजह से भी काफी बड़ी तादाद में रिफ्यूजी डूब कर मर गए। भ्रफसोस की बात है कि पश्चिमी बंगाल की सरकार ने कुछ भी कार्रवाई उस पर नहीं की है जो जुलूम पुलिस के द्वारा किया गया है और जिस की इतिहास में मिसाल नहीं मिलती है। इस घटना की जांच के लिए हमने पश्चिमी बंगाल सरकार पर काफी जोर डाला है और कोशिश की है लेकिन कोई सुनवाई नहीं हुई है। हमारी इस मांग पर पश्चिमी बंगाल सरकार ने कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की है। मैं बिनती करूंगा कि हमारे गृह मंत्री जो ऐसी व्यवस्था करें कि यहां से एक सैट्रल पार्लिमेंटरी ग्रुप मारिचझापी जाए और वहां की जो हालत है उसको देख कर अपनी रिपोर्ट दें। श्री राज कृष्ण दान ने सुझाव दिया है कि इन हरिजन रिफ्यूजीज को भ्रमर भद्रमान निकोबार में बसा दिया जाए तो बहुत अच्छा होगा क्योंकि इन लोगों के पास कोई अच्छी जगह वसने के लिए नहीं है और ये लोग भटकते फिर रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसके बारे में भी क्या आप कुछ करेंगे ?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I have nothing to say as he has not put any question.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrack--pore): Sir, it is not very often in this House that I have to take up cudgels to speak against the State Government but Marichjhapi is an issue on which whole of West Bengal is burning. The Bengali mind is agitated and I have to bring forward certain facts in order to expose the real face of this very Left Front Government. Of course it is very convenient for our Marxist friends whenever there is any opposition to them they call it a conspiracy by foreign elements. When they create some trouble it is people's upsurge and when something is done against their government it is foreign conspiracy. Whether it is Tripura where people are up in arms against the Left Front Government or it is in West Bengal where people are agitated over this question of Marichjhapi they say it is foreign conspiracy. And Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu's imagination runs riot and he says it is the foreigners who are running through Sunderbans and all sort of detective stories he imagines.

Sir, what are the facts of this matter (Interruptions) The Dandakaranya re

fugees have gone there as far back as 1950s. They are living there. From 1973-74 when the CPI(M) was out of power in West Bengal a consistent attempt has been made by the CPI(M) Leaders to lure away these refugees back to West Bengal. In 1959 when Dr. B.C. Roy was the Chief Minister they said that these refugees must be rehabilitated in Dandakaranya and Andamans. (Interruptions)

It is these people who incited the refugees and prevented their rehabilitation in Andamans. I have got documents to show that the leader of the CPI(M) group in this Assembly who is Secretary of UCRC, Shri Samar Mukherjee, had gone to Dandakaranya in 1975 and told the refugees that you must come to West Bengal and occupy areas in Sunderbans. At that time they did not in their farthest imagination thought that they would come to power in west Bengal and that is why they made those irresponsible remarks at that time. Even after he left Front government was formed in West Bengal, Shri Ram Chatterjee, a Minister in the Left Front government, as has been admitted by Shri Sikandar Bakht on the Floor of the House went to Dandakaranya.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): I know.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: He said that now your government is in West Bengal. You come back. We will give Sunderbans for your rehabilitation. What happened when these refugees go to West Bengal? I saw the condition of one lakh people rotting on the station beside Hassanbad station. On the open ground one lakh people are staying. Oxfam and Bharat Sevak Samaj gave the aid. The State Government does not show even human considerations. I am not talking about the question of rehabilitation. Oxfam and Bharat Sevak Samaj gave aid to them. Now, these people went to Marichjhapi.

Marichjhapi is an island surrounded from all sides by crocodile infested creeks and lagoons, etc. They went three braving everything. They put up bunds where saline water used to come. They made that land fit for cultivation. On that land they have cultivated. Sir, if you go there you will find that the genius of the Bengali people is still there. Out of saline land they have created something. What is this Government doing? These Left Front leaders induced these people to come. What is this government doing in Marichjhapi. I am sorry to say that the Home Minister's statement in this House is full of untruths because he has got it from Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister. He has said that it is not known whether they belong to the scheduled castes. Sir, everyone of those refugees remaining behind in Marichjhapi belongs to scheduled castes. I can vouchsafe for it and say it on the Floor of the House.

Sir, the minister said that they have set-up their own volunteer force and they resist by force. These refugees for days together are starving and you say that they are running a parallel government. This powerful so-called Left Front government are saying that those poor people are running a parallel government. Further they say that 8,000 of them are left. You go there and you will find 30,000 people are living in Marichjhapi. What West Bengal government has done! In the whole statement nowhere it is mentioned about the economic blockade. Sir, there is Article 19 in the Constitution which allows the right of free movement to everybody. From 24th December, 1978 this island has been under economic blockade. Police launches have surrounded the island. These police launches have surrounded the boats which were being plied by these refugees. From all sides these boats were sandwiched by police launches. Many boats capsized. One hundred and twenty eight people are missing. I will lay on the Table

of the House the list of those people who are missing. (*Interruptions*)

The refugees have been denied food and water. Oxfam, Ramakrishna Mission and Bharat Sevak Samaj are not being allowed to work there. These people are starving. I saw what they are eating. They are eating roots of grass there. The Home Minister says that only two people died. I say twenty-six people died in the police firing. I will give the names of all those who died in police firing.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: It is all utter falsehood.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: Let, there be a judicial probe in the firing. Why this so-called Left Front government refuses to have a judicial probe. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, fortunately in this country we have a free judiciary. When this Left Front government blockaded them, these refugees went to the High Court and obtained an injunction. Only by virtue of that injunction water and food is going to them. (*Interruptions*) The water there is saline. They set-up tubewells. Government has destroyed the tubewells, government has destroyed their boats and government has destroyed their property.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: It is all utter falsehood. It should not be allowed. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: I cannot be cowed down in this way. (*Interruption*)

SHRI K. GOPAL (Karur): We warn you...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bosu, kindly sit down. Order please.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: There is attack on women. Government has said glibly..

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, may I say...

SHRI K. GOPAL: Mr. Bosu, you have got your salary; you have done your job.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu, you have had your say. Please don't interrupt.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, he cannot make this expression..

MR. SPEAKER: I allowed you to make a full statement even though the other side objected.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, I have not said anything. (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER: Unless there is something unparliamentary I cannot do anything. Order please. Mr. Saugata Roy, please come to the question.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: I am coming to the question. The Government has made another untruth. Let there be no untruth.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, may, I say...

MR. SPEAKER: No, No. (*Interruption*) Please come to the question, Mr. Saugata Roy. (*Interruption*)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, you cannot allow this..

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: I am coming to the question. He is not allowing me. What can I do? I seek your protection, Sir. I am pointing out the inaccuracy when he said that there is no assault on women. Even 43 women are missing. In all the papers of West Bengal, this has come out. Women are molested. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow anybody else. Please come to the question, Mr. Saugata Roy.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: I am coming to the question. The West Bengal Government.. (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow him to put the question.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: The West Bengal Government takes umbrage in the fact that the Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai has written a letter to them saying that the refugees should go back. Sir, it is nobody's case. I repeat it, Sir, and say that it is nobody's case that all the Dandakaranya refugees should come to West Bengal. It is nobody's case. Nobody is saying that at all. This is a civilised Government running in a civilised country. No civilised Government has a right to deny food, water and freedom of movement to any section of people however small they may be. No Government has got any such right. You know how arrogant the West Bengal Chief Minister has become. In the Janata Parliamentary Party meeting some member said this. The Prime Minister agreed to send a Parliamentary Team of the Janata party to Marichjhapi in the Sunderbans. And do you know what the West Bengal Chief Minister did? The West Bengal Chief Minister made a statement that they must know the forest laws. He said, they will be arrested. He said that if the team of MPs. come, they will be arrested. People have a right to go there. I ask you, Sir...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Saugata Roy, please conclude.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: I will take only one minute. I will present to the hon. Home Minister the demand of the people of West Bengal on this issue. I want to know whether a judicial enquiry will be instituted. (*Interruption*) I again repeat: I want to know whether a judicial enquiry will be instituted? (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is all this? He has a right to put the question.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: Sir, the question is this. I want to ask of the hon. Home Minister whether the following demands of the people of West Bengal would be considered:—

Number one: I want to know whether a 'judicial enquiry into the causes of desertion will be made. Will a judicial enquiry into the question as to who was behind this desertion will be made, so that the truth will come out. May we know who actually have induced them?

Number two: I want to know whether you will make a judicial enquiry into the firing on the refugees. May I know whether such an enquiry will be made? This is a very ordinary demand of the people anywhere. So, I demand this.

Number three: I want to know whether a Parliamentary Delegation will be allowed to go Marichjhapi to see the condition there.

Number four: The Central Government has said that the refugees must go back; they have said that the Dandakaranya deserters must go back by 31st of March. I want to ask this question. Advantage is being taken by the West Bengal Government of this deadline set by the Central Government and so they are brutally behaving with these refugees. So, I want to ask this: May I know whether this deadline set up by the Central Government will be extended?

Number five: I want to know whether human treatment according to the Constitution will be accorded to the refugees. Sir, that is all that I want.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister. . .

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: Sir, I lay the papers on the Table of the House of those missing and all those killed by the police firing.

MR. SPEAKER: We will examine it.

Now, the hon. Minister.

13 hrs.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: If all that the hon. Member said took place, certainly it is a very distressing matter. But so far as the Central Government is concerned, it has no information of this nature.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): How can you say that? You depend only upon the Chief Minister. You have no agency of your own.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot have it. There are other States also. (Interruptions)

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: You have ruled for 30 years.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: It is this House, Sir, which always say that the Central Government should respect the autonomy of the State Government. This is an incident which has happened in the State. So far as the first question is concerned, it is perfectly relevant because he has asked whether the Central Government will order a judicial enquiry or do this in any other way to ascertain the reasons as to why these people left Dandakaranya. That is perfectly legitimate and I will certainly go into it to find out why they left. But the other questions are not at all for the Central Government to answer.

SHRI K. GOPAL: What about sending a parliamentary committee?

Shri H. M. PATEL: Sir, I have already said that I shall pass on this information. We shall obtain replies from the State Government. Therefore, we must have the considered views of the State Government. And, the point whether a parliamentary group should go or not is really a matter for the hon. Speaker to decide. (Interruptions) I think so; it is done in one case. (Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Let the Parliament decide.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Parliament can decide if you like. I have nothing to say. Whenever Parliament decision is involved, it is for them to decide. So far as other things are concerned. . . (Interruptions).

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR DHARA: May I put a question?

MR. SPEAKER: No please.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: As regards the other questions I will say this.

Regarding judicial enquiry in the State into the firing that took place in the State, there is no question of our doing anything of that kind. I will pass on whatever you have said. All those things will be passed on to the State Government, saying, this is what has been demanded. So far as the blockade is concerned, if it has taken place—as you know, the hon. Member himself has said—they have gone to the High Court and the High Court has stayed it and it has said it should not take place and it is not now taking place.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: It is still continuing. You don't know it. People are not allowed there even now. Drinking water is not allowed. They get only saline water there.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: If that is so, this is contempt of the High Court. It is open to anybody to take up the matter.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: Nobody is allowed to go there.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for lunch, to meet again at 2 O'clock.

13.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair].

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing the 26th Feb., 1979, will consist of:—

(1) Further discussion on the President's Address.

(2) Discussion on the Resolution seeking approval of increase in export duty on raw cotton and levy of export duty on turmeric.

(3) Discussion on the Railway Budget for 1979-80.

(4) Consideration and passing of the Special Courts Bill, 1979.

As members are already aware, the General Budget for 1979-80 will be presented at 5.00 P.M. on Wednesday, the 28th Feb., 1979.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): The hon. Minister of Labour has returned from a tour of the West Asian countries, reportedly to consider the question of Indian immigrants there. My submission is that the Minister should make a statement on his visit to those countries, and Government should find time to accept a motion which I have given—and possibly it might have been given by other Members also—on the entire immigration Policy of the Government and steps taken to protect the interests of our immigrants—apart from West Asian countries, in countries like United Kingdom, Canada, etc.

My second point is about the Adoption Bill. For all communities in this country, except the Hindu Community, there is no law to protect the adopted