

with the LIC. The LIC has called them for discussions. I hope out of this discussion some settlement would be arrived at and that it will be advantageous to both the employers as well as the employees.

Now, about recognition, this matter was referred to the central evaluation committee of the Ministry of Labour and the information given to me is that the All India Insurance employees Association has refused to sign the code of discipline and in a resolution passed in February 1972, the association has repudiated this code... (Interruptions) If you feel that the information that I am giving to you is not correct, and if your information is correct, the situation becomes simpler. Meanwhile you have also to find out facts because recognition is based on the code of discipline.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मने एक नोटिस दिया था विशेषाधिकार का ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह अभी मेरे पास है । मने अभी इजाजत नहीं दी है उसको ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : वही मैं प्रतीक्षा कर रहा हूँ, कब इजाजत देंगे ? काफी समय हो गया ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब समय तो होता जायगा । देखने वाली बात है । अभी मैं देख रहा हूँ ।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : You had issued instructions, that the statement should be supplied half an hour before, the statement has been supplied only at 11:45. It is for your information. They do not care for us. That is all right. But they should at least care for the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER : Sometimes they say that there are difficulties. In spite of that I repeat my direction that it should be there.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह दूसरा कालिंग अटेशन अब कल नहीं होगा । वह आज हो गया ।

श्री एस० एम० बनर्जी : हो जाने दीजिए ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नहीं, वह आज हो गया ।

श्री एस० एम० बनर्जी : वह भी हो जाने दीजिए ।

MR. SPEAKER : I allowed it today. There is one more pending. I want to accommodate them also.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Your own assurance should be honoured by these people.

12:12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED TRAFFICKING IN ADIVASI
GIRLS IN ORISSA

SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bhanjanagar) : I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The reported trafficking in Adivasi girls in Orissa."

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL
(SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :** Sir, as a result of the closing down of mining operations of the Tata-owned iron mines at Gorumasiani and Badampahar in the district of Mayurbhanj in Orissa a few years back, a large number of workers engaged in the mining operations in these mines and, belonging mostly to the Adivasi communities, were thrown out of employment. Some of them had moved to nearby mining areas and industrial townships in Bihar while others are still unemployed. Recruiting parties, on behalf of mining contractors have, from time to time, made recruitment in this region and taken the recruited labour to the mining areas and factories mostly in Bihar.

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

Two incidents were reported recently from Orissa in which the local agents of the contractors recruited women labour from the area. According to the State police, in one case in September 1971, three young girls and one old woman were taken from this area to Narsingh Garh in Bihar wherefrom, on the pretext of getting them better wages in other areas, these four persons were taken by train to an unknown destination. After alighting from the train, the young girls were asked to change over to 'Kurta' and 'Salwar' and were taken away leaving behind the old woman, whose movements were watched by one of the contractor's men. The old woman however escaped from there and after 15 days of travel and unsuccessful search for the girls in Jamshedpur came back to the village and reported the matter to the police at Gorumasiani.

In the second incident from Rairangpur police station a few days before the Pujas in 1971, three girls, who had gone to a local 'hat' were tempted out of the State with promises of better wages and their whereabouts are still not known. Some other older women who were taken away by the same contractors along with these girls, however, returned home and reported the matter to the parents who, after making their own searches for the girls in the industrial townships of Bihar, came back unsuccessfully and reported the case to the Rairangpur police station, Mayurbhanj District, in November, 1971.

In view of these incidents that had taken place last year, the State Government have ordered a thorough investigation into the entire matter through the State Police C. I. D.

The State Government have reported that it is not true that a large number of Adivasi girls have been kidnapped from this region. The appeal to the local residents of Mayurbhanj District and the other mining areas of Orissa was made by the Inspector General of Police with a view to eliciting the cooperation of the local population in preventing such kidnapping and alerting them against unscrupulous agents indulging in this activity.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : There are three aspects of the matter which the statement has either knowingly suppressed or of which they are ignorant. Firstly, certain incidents took place and it was brought to the notice of this Government in September, 1971, but the Central Government has not taken any steps so far and has remained content with the State Government's appeal to the villagers in those areas.

Secondly, it is mentioned in the statement that the Gorumasiani mines were closed a few years back. But, since 1961 these mines were closed and the Adivasis, who constitute 60.60 per cent of the total population in Mayurbhanj district and also the working population in those mines, have been thrown out of employment. Thirdly, the statement does not say anything with regard to the responsibility of the Centre towards the tribal people. There is a provision in the Constitution which categorically speaks of the responsibility of the Government to the tribal people. In Orissa Scheduled Tribes constitute 24.5 per cent and Scheduled Castes constitute 15 per cent of the total population. One-third of the total area in Orissa has already been declared as scheduled areas. 90 per cent of the mineral production area comes under the tribal areas. Because of the non-working of the mines and the accumulation of iron ore on account of the shortage of wagons, thousands and thousands of workers have been thrown out of employment and 90 per cent of them constitute Adivasis. Yet, government seem satisfied with the present position and they have only made a statement.

There is a recommendation made by a Central Study Team on Tribal Development Programme in 1968 which says at page 72 :

"In the tribal areas of Orissa State, which is more than 90 per cent, more mineral-based industries could be established in tribal areas which are potentially rich in minerals. This will widen the economic base of the tribal people by opening up employment opportunities, in addition to its assistance to the national economy."

Since 1968 have any steps been taken

towards the implementation of the recommendations made by the Central Team which toured the entire tribal areas? May I also know whether the Government is now going to appoint a Commission of Inquiry? Are they going to abolish the contract system of recruitment in the mining areas? Are they going to have a long range programme to remove the economic distress in the tribal areas? Are they going to supply wagons immediately so that the accumulated stocks of iron ore can be moved? The police have been saying that the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act requires drastic changes so that it can be enforced effectively. Are they going to make the necessary changes in this legislation? Finally, are they going to ask a Central Team to go into this?

Lastly, I want to refer to one case. In Bhanjanagar of Ganjam district of Orissa sometime back three officers, namely, one district forest officer, another sub-divisional officer and a mines officer misbehaved with an Adivasi girl. When we came to know about it we arranged for a protest meeting and in response to our request a Commission of Inquiry was appointed. A sessions judge held the inquiry and came to the finding that one of the officers was criminally guilty and the other two were his accomplices. Because the State Government of Orissa is a reactionary government, instead of helping the enquiry, they helped the accused officers; they did not permit even the sending of witnesses to Berhampur to the court of the District Judge. Is the Central Government going to give free legal aid to these Adivasi people?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The hon. Member has raised a number of points which do not arise out of this particular incident on which the call-attention is based. He generally talked of the development of Adivasis, particularly about starting of metal-based industries in Tribal areas where most of the iron ore mines are situated. A lot of industries are being started and from time to time the Government has been taking steps for the amelioration of the general condition of the Tribal people.

As regards this particular incident, it is not correct to say that the Government of India has not taken adequate steps in this

and similar matters. Whenever such things come to our notice, we take up the matter with the State Governments. When we came across such incidents in 1969, we wrote to the Governments of Orissa and Bihar saying that these things were happening; our reports showed that these kidnappings were taking place and we asked them to be more vigilant, to take a serious note of these happenings and alerted them as to their duty and responsibility for the maintenance of law and order particularly with respect to these offences. Since then we have been constantly in touch with the two State Governments. But it has to be admitted that basically the problem of registering cases, investigating them, arresting people and sending them up for trial, belongs to the State Governments; the responsibility primarily is of the State Government so far as these things are concerned. The Central Government, on its part, is vigilant on this. We have been collecting information and intelligence on such happenings. We have been passing them on to State Governments and have been urging them to be more vigilant. I think, our taking up some matters with the State Governments has resulted in the detection of certain cases and the State Governments are taking all steps that are necessary to detect these cases.

As regards the particular Ganjam District case, I do not have any information about this; therefore, I cannot say anything now.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : What about the inquiry committee? That was my specific question.

MR. SPEAKER : This was a very specific question and not a very general question.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : All lost! Where are those girls?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak) : Sir, it is a very serious problem. This was discussed in Parliament not once but many times. Many Members of Parliament have drawn the attention of the Minister and the Government to this so that the condition of the weaker section of the people and their life may be safeguarded by the Government. But what appears from the statement is only this :

[Shri Arjun Sethi]

"In view of these incidents that had taken place last year, the State Government have ordered a thorough investigation into the entire matter through the State Police C. I. D."

I have a press report wherein the CID officer himself, who is now in charge of the investigation, expresses his worry and anxiety. He said :

"...according to the investigation so far, Gorumahishani and Rairangpur tehsils of Mayurbhanj district were the main centres of trafficking in women since the iron ore mines in Gorumahishani were closed in 1967 creating unemployment among the Adivasi labour there.

About 2,000 Adivasi girls from these tehsils had been taken out of the State this year and the whereabouts of most of them were unknown after their departure..."

But from the statement, it appears that all these facts have not been taken notice of. Moreover, the Government has given the charge to C. I. D. to investigate all these matters. When the investigating officer himself has expressed worry and anxiety over these things, I am afraid, how he can inquire into these things and see that justice is meted out to these poor Adivasi people.

Further, article 23 of the Constitution says ;

"Traffic in human beings and *beggar* and other similar forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law."

This is the guarantee given in Chapter III, Fundamental Rights, of our Constitution. Why is it that the Central Government has asked the State Government, the State officials, to inquire into this matter ? I think, it is the primary responsibility of the Central Government to inquire into all these matters because these are the people who have been subjected to inhuman treatment from times immemorial and, since our Independence,

these poor Adivasi people, who are the weaker sections of our society, have been experiencing and facing so many difficulties and problems.

I want to ask two questions to the hon. Minister and, I hope, he will answer them. Why is not the Government appointing a special Commission of Inquiry for the purpose of dealing with the cases of such nature so that when any case of such nature occurs, it goes to the Commission and it can be dealt with by them and every kind of delay may be eradicated ? Secondly, why is not the Government creating some special cells for the Adivasi dominated areas to see that contractors and the men of motive may not exploit these poor Adivasi people.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The hon. Member referred to the press report that 2000 girls have been kidnapped from these areas. But the State Government has informed us that it is not true that 2000 or any large number of girls have been kidnapped. They are not aware of it. Whatever cases are with them, they are investigating them and, particularly the two cases out of which this Calling Attention notice arose are being very thoroughly investigated by the State Government branch of the C. I. D. Firstly, it was the normal police which were looking into it but because of the important nature of the case, they have brought in their C. I. D. agency for investigating into it.

As regards the hon. Member's suggestion for appointment of the Special Commission of Inquiry to deal with such cases in order to avoid delay, I beg to state that it is not possible to have a Commission of the type suggested by the hon. Member. We have under the laws of our land the courts which try such cases and it is, basically, the responsibility of the State Government to investigate and send these cases for trial.

As regards the general question of abolition of the contract labour and other ways of dealing with the situation, I am not in a position to say anything at present. This is a much wider question on which the Labour Ministry may be able to say something.

SHRI B. R. SHUKLA (Bahraich) : In the Statement which has been given to us, it is stated that the closure of mining operations in certain areas has thrown out of employment many girls belonging to Scheduled Tribes and to other weaker sections of the community. Now, the closure of operations took place pretty long time ago. I think, in the year, 1967. I request the hon. Minister to throw light on this aspect of the matter, whether after the closing of the operations in that area, any steps were taken to rehabilitate those persons who were thrown out of employment because the reported cases are not ordinary cases of kidnapping and abduction under the Indian Penal Code; this affects a particular community which constitutes a very weak section of our population. Prevention of trafficking in girls and women for immoral purposes is the direct responsibility of the Centre. Moreover, it has also been reported in press that the Inspector-General of Police of Orissa, Sri V. V. Mishra, has made a public announcement about the menacing situation arising out of these cases. If it had been merely a case of just kidnapping or some isolated case concerning a few girls, certainly it would not have been a matter of such public importance as to constitute the subject-matter of a call attention motion. But it appears that there is something deeper, some thing more serious. Otherwise, such a high dignitary as the Inspector-General of Police would not have gone to make a public warning about these matters. So, the fact that there are only two isolated cases which have been reported with the local police does not mean that the trouble is confined only to those two cases which have come to light. Through you, Sir, I would ask the hon. Minister whether he is going to institute a broad-based inquiry—through a committee of inquiry—to find out as to how many cases, as a matter of fact, have taken place in this context, and whether the recurrence of such cases in future would be prevented by providing suitable jobs and employments to these young girls. It is also intriguing in this context that both males and females have been thrown out of employment. The closing operation would not have affected only some young girls; it would have equally affected the other persons who are males but nothing untoward has happened to them. It means that the genesis of the trouble lies somewhere else than in the unemployment of the girls as a result of the closure of

the mining operations. It appears that some unscrupulous elements are involved in this nefarious thing. The other question which I would like to ask is this, whether these girls had been or are being used for immoral purposes in brothels. It has also been reported in the press that these girls, after having been kidnapped on the lure of employment, are being used in brothels.

On all these points I would like the hon. Minister to make his comments and to enlighten the House.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : It is true that these mines were closed in 1967, and since then there has been some unemployment in that area. I myself said that as an introduction to the statement that I made. That is the background why this area has particularly attracted this sort of crime. I cannot say what ameliorative steps were taken to see that unemployment caused by this closure was not aggravated. I am not in a position to say that at present. But there are a number of other industries that are coming up in the neighbourhood. It is presumed that a number of these workers who were working in the mines formerly must have gone to work in these industrial townships. It was as part of the exodus to the industrial townships that this particular aspect of the matter has come to light, namely, kidnapping of women or enticing of women from these tribal areas to areas where there are industries or where employment is available.

Well, as regards the Commission of Inquiry which the hon. Member has suggested, I do not think that it will serve any purpose. There have been two or three cases which have come to notice as I mentioned and certain cases are under investigation. The names of culprits have also been identified. There are some contractors, sub-contractors and certain small gangs who are doing this work and necessary action is being taken and enquiries made. It is not as if the whole thing is not known. The extent of mischief is also known and the State Government is taking concrete steps to apprehend the culprits and particularly the ring leaders. That is what we have been impressing upon them. The people who have been organising this thing on a commercial basis are the worst criminals than their agents or other

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha

people taking them away. The State Government has given certain names of persons who are involved in this and they are making enquiries against them.

The Central Government are deeply concerned about this thing. Earlier also, whenever we received such information, on our own, we had taken up the matter with the State Governments. They inform us about the action taken. We are in constant touch with them. We have offered our services, the services of the Central police agencies, if they so desire, for checking this most obnoxious racket.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : This is a grave and serious matter. They commit a most heinous crime. This matter is being treated lightly by the Government. (*Interruption*)

SHRI B. P. MAURYA (Hapur) : They must give special protection to those sections of the people. (*Interruption*)

SHRI KARTIK ORAON (Lohardaga) : We are not satisfied with a Calling Attention Notice. We want to have discussion for 1½ hours. (*Interruption*)

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : I want to bring this to the notice of the hon. Minister. He should not treat this matter so lightly. So far as I understood, he is also having the feeling that there is something which is hidden, which must come to light. The e. i. d. investigating officer who investigated into this matter himself has said that 2,000 adivasi girls have been taken away. He specifically mentioned the number. 2,000 adivasi girls had been taken away to other States, U. P., Bihar, Punjab and other states. One thing has become clear. As the hon. Minister said, a gang is operating. Names of the contractors have come to notice. Names of certain persons who are taking these girls have come to light. Sir, this is not a new thing. Since 1965 till today, till April, 1972, has the Orissa Government given any intimation to the Central Government? If so, what is the action taken? Is it not the duty of the Central Government to come to their rescue and render assistance

to them, to apprehend the culprits, because the young Adivasi girls have been sold to the brothels? In remorse, in anguish and in sympathy I say, shame to those persons in authority there who have not been able to protect the honour of our women, the honour of the adivasis and who have not been able to prevent starvation your people. Even when there are starvation deaths which we pointed out, they denied them. But they were the persons who would unleash brutal police actions against a peaceful demonstration, against the leaders of the opposition and beating. Members of Parliament and MLAs on 6th January, 1972. Here is a matter which needs the immediate attention of the Government of India. The hon. Minister should not treat it so lightly—the honour of our women is involved. This is what I would say, Sir.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : On a point of order...

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : He is a CPM fellow; he is in league with the Syndicate people there. What is the point of order? He is a CPM Member who is in league with the Swatantra Members there. They are members who supported Utkal Congress against the National Congress in recent by elections there.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY (Kendrapara) : What does the hon. Member opposite think of himself? I rise on a point of order...

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Sir, please see the combination.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : What is this? What does the hon. Member opposite think of himself? He is crossing the limits of decency and he is utilising this forum for political vendetta.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN (Madras North) : The hon. Member Shri Chintamani Panigrahi has attacked the State Government in a cavalier fashion. I never expected that he would indulge in such an attack to discredit the State Government which is an Opposition Government.

DR KAILAS (Bombay South) He is stating only the facts... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU We are not going to be shouted down here in this manner.

Abiding by the ruling granted by the Chair a couple of years ago, we have accepted a code of conduct here, namely that we shall not take in our hands a long stick to beat the State Government or the Chief Minister with, whatever may be their political affiliations, because the Centre or this Parliament has no right to criticise the State Government or the State Assembly or its Chief Minister here on the floor of the House because they are not here to defend themselves. Now, Shri Chintamani Panigrahi, an old veteran Congressman has behaved in this manner, but we are sorry to find that he has not been pulled up at all by the Chair. This whole thing should be expunged from the records. This cannot go on record. It should be expunged from the records.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI The hon. Member opposite thinks that anything can be expunged?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU I submit before you that the whole thing should be expunged from the records.

MR SPEAKER Shri Chintamani Panigrahi belongs to that State, and, therefore as I feel, he has got quite emotional. So far as the State Government were concerned, the hon. Minister replied that the State Government were doing everything. Shri Chintamani Panigrahi is contradicting the hon. Minister's statement. I think he went just a little further, but there is no point of order in it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU I am sorry to see this attitude on your part that there is no point of order. What you have said should be expunged. We from the Opposition expect protection from the Chair. His observations against the State Government should be expunged.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Since you yourself, Sir, have said that he has gone too far, is it not right on your part to order the

expunction of those remarks? You yourself have admitted that he has gone too far.

MR SPEAKER After all, every Member has the right to say that such and such State Government have failed in their duty. The hon. Member himself says it every time...

SHRI K. MANOHARAN After you have said that he has gone too far, is it not right on your part to expunge those observations?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU I could give you one example where I had attacked a State Government on the floor of the House and you had expunged it. So, what you are saying is not correct.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA (Bhavnagar) This is not a shame for just one State only, but it is a matter of shame for the whole country. It is a matter of shame for all.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) They go and kidnap those girls and then they blame the Government.

SHRI SURI NDRA MOHANTY On a point of order. Is it in order for the hon. Member to...

MR SPEAKER The hon. Minister said that the State Government were doing everything. The hon. Member said that the State Government were not doing everything. What is wrong about it?

SHRI SURI NDRA MOHANTY Innuendoes were made suggesting that the State Government were failing in their duty. The innuendo was... (*Interruptions*) It is for the Speaker to decide, and not for the hon. Members.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU May I ask my hon. friends through you, Sir, what they had done when for instance, 14 Santals were beaten to death by a former Congress Speaker in Bengal? What did they do about it?... (*Interruptions*) Their own Congressmen had been murdering tribals everywhere... (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER I think only a few days back, the hon. Member himself made

[Mr. Speaker]

such a virulent attack against the West Bengal Government and the Chief Minister there. He himself did it

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU Where ? Never. That was something different On a point of order, Sir...

SHRI K MANOHARAN One wrong cannot be substituted by another wrong. Now, we are discussing about the present situation...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : I have done nothing wrong. What you are saying is not correct.

DR. SARADISH ROY (Belpur) : You are not impartial

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY The intoendo that he had suggested was that the State Government of Orissa had been encouraging this kind of abduction It was entirely wrong...(Interruptions) Let it be verified whether these are facts Otherwise, those observations should be expunged

MR. SPEAKER : Whatever be the reasons, whosoever's fault it may be, from the story that came out, the feelings that we have on this are very different things and I must say that under that impression we are bound to be carried away by emotions also...

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY But how does he suggest that the Orissa Government encourages it ?

MR. SPEAKER Let not Shri Chintamani Pamgrahi please do it.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Am I to take it that the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is also trying to say that the Government of Orissa is aiding and abetting this.

MR. SPEAKER ; Well, I shall tell him when I go to my chamber, how I feel about it.

श्री बी० पी० मोर्य : इस प्रकार की घटनायें होने के बाद यहाँ पर इस तरह की

चर्चा करते हुए उनको शर्म आनी चाहिये चाहे वह केन्द्र के जरिये हो चाहे सूबे की सरकार के जरिये हो। इस प्रकार की घटना चाहे काँग्रेस शासन में हो चाहे आपके शासन में हो। इस प्रकार की घटनाओं का खण्डन होना चाहिये और आपको शर्म आनी चाहिये। यह गरीबों के नेता बनने का दावा करते हैं। इस प्रकार की घटनायें किसी भी सरकार में हो, चाहे...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU We condemn this, but we do not approve of this idea We condemn the atrocities committed. Tribals were murdered in Bihar by Congressman...(Interruptions)

श्री बी० पी० मोर्य : चाहे काँग्रेस सरकार में हो चाहे गैर काँग्रेसी शासन में हो, उन सरकार की आलोचना इस सदन में अवश्य होगी और हम करेंगे। मुझे अफसोस हुआ कि इस तरह की दृश्य का उठाकर इस समस्या को और खराब करने की कोशिश की गई।

MR. SPLAKER, Shri B P Maurya may kindly sit down now

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai). My humble submission is that it should be your pleasure to examine the records and find out if something undignified has been said about a State Government, and if you find it necessary to expunge the remarks, you may expunge them.

MR. SPEAKER I will see to it.

SHRI B. P. MAURYA : He is talking of the remarks, but I am talking of human life, and I am talking of our respect and I am talking of our womanhood; they are talking of words, but I am talking of our womanhood...

MR. SPEAKER : May I request the hon. Member now to resume his seat ?

SHRI B. P. MAURYA : It is really a matter of shame that when such an impor-

tant issue is being discussed, they are talking of points of order...

MR. SPEAKER : May I request him to sit down now ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA (Domariaganj): Am I to understand from what Shri Pilo Mody has said that we are going to minimise the gravity of the situation which has been pinpointed here ?

SHRI D. K. PANDA : About this matter...

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member may resume his seat.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : Regarding the procedure, I would like to make one submission...

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed him.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : This came in the newspapers, and on the basis of the newspaper reports...

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed him. Why does he not sit down ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : What has happened is really very unfortunate and one should try to understand the angry reaction and anguish of hon. Members like Shri Chintamani Panigrahi on this most reprehensible incident; it is most reprehensible and unfortunate that the backwardness and poverty of these Adivasi people are being exploited by certain people for their own selfish ends. The Government of India take a very serious note of this, and we will do everything in our power to see that all these things are set right and the culprits are brought to book.

I have nothing more to add to what I have said. As for the number, the figure 2000 has been denied by the State Government, and that is where I would like to say a word...

SHRI KARTIK ORAON ; What is the exact figure given by them ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The exact figure has also not been given by them.

AN HON. MEMBER : The State Government is fooling the Central Government.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : As I said earlier, we are in touch with the State Government not only when this incident came to our notice, but continuously for a long time. It was our own agencies which brought these things to our notice and we on our own have been taking up this matter with the Governments of Bihar and Orissa, and we would continue to do so. We have offered them all possible assistance that they want of central agencies in investigating these things and putting down such nefarious activities.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola) : I have listened to the explanation given by the hon. Minister and also the things that have been said here just now. My hon. friend here was asking just now whether there is an allegation implied that the State Government had failed to do its duty or was suppressing something. It has come from the mouth of the State Government itself, because the Minister has given the information in these words :

"The State Government have reported that it is not true that a large number of Adivasi girls have been kidnapped from this region..."

The *Times of India* reports :

"The State CID officer" -- not the Central Government's man -- "Mr. P. K. Das, told UNI that one of these complaints was lodged by one of the women who escaped her purchasers and returned to her village from Tatanagar after a 15-day journey."

He continues :

"About 2,000 Adivasi girls from these tehsils have been taken out of the State this year."

Kindly see the gravity of the situation. In one year, 2,000. We do not know how many were taken before.

AN HON. MEMBER : In 1967 ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We do not know how many were taken in 1967. He speaks about this year. He says :

"The whereabouts of most of them were unknown after their departure."

This is the version of the State CID officer and yet the State Government has the check to inform the Central Government that nothing serious is taking place. Not only this, but what is most painful and shameful is this. If they were taken from one State to another and given jobs by these contractors somewhere else, in Punjab or U P. or somewhere else, it could be understood. But that was not why they have been taken away. The CID officer himself says :

"However, investigations based on the new formal complaints received so far showed that the labour contractors or traffickers posing as contractors usually received Rs. 100 per girl."

What can be more shameful than this that human beings are sold in this age, even now in Free India "A large number of these girls eventually reached brothels in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh from where their ignorance, and distance from home made their escape almost impossible." Mr. Das added.

AN HON. MEMBER : Shame, shame.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : This is what the investigating officer has to say. What I want to submit is that this malaise is something deeper, something basic, and we cannot really have a casual approach to this problem. This is ingrained in fact in our whole system; this new class, the contractors' class which is an appendage to the present capitalistic system, this new-rich class, particularly in the urbanised sectors, poses this problem.

MR. SPEAKER : Come to the question very soon.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I am coming to the question. The question is, what are you, the Central Government, doing ? Because this problem covers the whole country. Therefore, this State Government may be guilty, and what action is to be taken against them is also relevant. What action are you taking against the State Government ?

Secondly, what are we doing to have this problem basically tackled, so that in urban areas, these women, these girls, are not brought and sold like chattel here ? That is the basic thing. That is a permanent problem not only in this case but in every case, in Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi. What are we going to do about that ? That is the first and fundamental question. Nowhere have you stated what action has been taken against all these contractors. You know who the contractors are. The women have reported against these very contractors. What action has the State Government taken against them ? They have brought and sold them in Punjab or Uttar Pradesh. Is that not under your jurisdiction, or will you say that "we are not concerned with it and it is for the Punjab or the UP Government ?" Can we really throw away our hands and say that we are not responsible in the matter ? I want to know from the Central Government what action are we taking to see that those guilty are brought to book by yourself if the State Government fails. Are we going to be helpless ? That is what I want to know.

SHRI B. P. MAURYA : What measures are you going to take ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : We have seen press reports that a large number of girls have been kidnapped from this area. Even the figure of 2,000 has been mentioned. We took it up with the State Government, and as I said earlier in my statement, they deny that 2,000 or any large number of girls are involved in this.

AN HON. MEMBER : Have a Parliamentary Committee appointed. (*Interruption*)

SHRI B. P. MAURYA : They have got the vigilance department. What is their vigilance doing ?

MR. SPEAKER : Do not interrupt.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : About the investigating officer that made the statement or is alleged to have made the statement—we have nothing to say on that. But we referred all these facts for the comments of the State Government. This is what they informed us, that except in certain cases which have been registered and which are being properly investigated into, no large-scale kidnapping cases have taken place. That is what the State Government states. (Interruption) I hope the hon. Members will understand and appreciate the limited function that the Central Government can perform in respect of the particular cases registered in the State Government.

SHRI B. P. MAURYA : Not with regard to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Even there, the Government has been very concerned and active in exercising a general responsibility that devolves on us through the Constitution for the welfare of the backward classes. But I still do not think that it gives us the power to go and take over police powers of a particular State and arrest those persons on our own. All that we can do is to work in concert with the State Governments. I do hope that the State Government is also alive to the situation as it is, and we will constantly be in touch with them and we will get some more facts about the allegations that have been made in this House, and what sort of vigilance could be maintained by the Central Government. We would act in concert with the State Government to the utmost possible extent and I do hope that the culprits who have been named will be brought to book; some of them are absconding. We are after it. I would not like to discuss all that we have done or all that our branches have done all over the country. I can assure the House that the Government of India feels greatly concerned at things like this and it will do all in its power to see that those offenders are brought to book... (Interruptions.)

13 hrs.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : This is not enough. Please protect the Scheduled Castes

and Scheduled Tribes. We want a full discussion on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down; I am standing now.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (मुरेना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस विषय पर दो घण्टे की चर्चा होनी चाहिए ।

MR. SPEAKER : I shall look into it. I should also request the whip on this side to please see that when the Speaker is standing no Member gets up. It is too bad... (Interruptions) If you want a discussion, let the hon. Minister find time; I have no objection.

13'01 hrs.

RELEASE OF MEMBER

(Shri Bhogendra Jha)

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that I have received the following telegram, dated the 24th April, 1972 from the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Mirzapur :

"Shri Bhogendra Jha, Member, Lok Sabha, who was detained in District Jail, Mirzapur, for trial under section 188, Indian Penal Code, was released from jail on the 24th April, 1972, on furnishing personal bond pending trial."

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : He is a Member of Parliament... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is only for civil cases, not criminal.

13'02 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

FORTY-THIRD AND FORTY-FIFTH REPORTS

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam) : I beg to present the following Reports of the Public Accounts Committee :—

(1) Forty-third Report regarding Chapter II of Report of the Comptroller and