

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री सुबोध ईसरा) : (क) वर्तमान वितरण प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत कोट नहीं दिए जाते हैं। मुख्य उत्पादकों के स्टोकयाडों में इस्पात सामग्री इस बारे में बनाई गई नीति के अनुसार दी जाती है।

(ख) और (ग). हिन्दुस्तान स्टील लिमिटेड के इन्दौर स्थित स्टोकयार्ड से वास्तव में जितनी इस्पात सामग्री दी गई उसके बारे में जानकारी प्राप्त की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

इन्दौर और उज्जैन में कपड़ा मिलों द्वारा कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि जमा न कराना

400. श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा : क्या भ्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इन्दौर और उज्जैन में ऐसी कितनी कपड़ा मिलें हैं जिन्होंने कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि की राशि अभी तक जमा नहीं कराई है उनके नाम क्या हैं तथा उन्होंने कितनी-कितनी राशि जमा नहीं कराई है ; और

(ग) उनके विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

भ्रम मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री बालगोविन्द वर्मा) : (क) और (ख). भविष्य निधि प्राधिकारियों ने सूचित किया है कि सूचना तत्काल उपलब्ध नहीं है और एकत्र की जा रही है। वह यथा-समय सभा की मंजूर पर रख दी जाएगी।

12.00 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED INCREASING POLICE FIRINGS IN GUJARAT

SHRI P. M. MEHTA (Bhavnagar) : Sir, before I call the attention of the Minister to the situation in Gujarat, I would humbly submit that while you have been pleased to admit this important matter as a Calling Attention motion, no other Member from Gujarat has secured the ballot. So, I seek your indulgence and would

request you to kindly allow other Members from Gujarat also to put some questions if they so desire.

MR. SPEAKER : The rules do not permit it.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : Sir, 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 :

"Reported increasing police firings in different parts of Gujarat resulting in the death of students and other people."

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad) : Sir, I rise on a point of order.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur) : Sir. . .

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Lakkappa, kindly keep sitting unless I call you some time.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR : Sir, my point of order is this. When an important question like the agitation and disturbances in Ahmedabad and other parts of Gujarat is raised, and when my friend Shri P. M. Mehta has specifically requested the Minister of Home Affairs to answer, why is the Minister of State rising to answer this on his behalf? Where is the Home Minister? Is it because that the UP elections are more important than the situation in Gujarat? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : On the one hand you are complaining that your Members are absent. Why are they not present? Something which you are asking for yourself and telling about yourself, you are denying it to others.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR : My point of order is this. Why the Minister of Home Affairs is not present? Does the Government consider Gujarat is less important than the electioneering in UP? Why is the Minister of Home Affairs not present here?

**MR. SPEAKER :** Order, order. Kindly sit down. If you can take back your Ad-  
 journment Motion in the ground that many Members have gone out in connection with the elections, why are you blaming the others now? On the very first day you said, "We are taking it back; we are all going for the elections" But now you are denying it to them. Please sit down. Be reasonable.

**SHRI P. M. MEHTA :** As no other name from the Gujarat MPs has secured a place through the ballot, I requested the Chair to allow other Members also from Gujarat to put questions. That was my submission.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Do not enter into arguments.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA):** Sir, short supply of certain essential commodities and steep rise in prices sparked off agitations by different groups of people in various parts of Gujarat from the beginning of the current year. In the course of these agitations, extensive attacks on Government grain godowns, grain shops, oil depots, Municipal and State transport buses, looting of grocery shops and fair price shops, damaging public and private property by stone-throwing and arson occurred in several parts of the State. It is a matter of deep regret that the police had to resort to use of force in dealing with such disturbances.

Prior to the 9th February, 1974 when a proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution was made by the President, police opened fire at 30 places resulting in the unfortunate death of 45 persons and injuries to 137. One Police Sub-Inspector and two police men were killed and 919 police officers and men had received injuries during the agitations. After the 10th February, 1974, until the 20th instant police had to open fire at six places resulting in the death of one person and injuries

to 20 persons. It has come to Government's knowledge that the situation in Ahmedabad yesterday was very unsatisfactory and the police had to resort to firing at a number of places resulting, according to available information, in a tragic death of one person and injuries to about 25. The Government would like to express its deep grief over these incidents and extend its full sympathies to the bereaved families of those who lost their lives in the course of these agitations.

The State is facing difficult problems arising out of shortages and high prices and the undivided attention of the administration will have to be bestowed on seeking satisfactory solutions to the pressing economic problems of the State. I sincerely hope all sections of the House would join me in my earnest appeal to the students and others in Gujarat to cooperate whole heartedly to the immediate restoration of normalcy so that the problems facing the State could be resolutely tackled.

**SHRI P. M. MEHTA :** I have listened carefully to the statement made by the hon Minister. I am not satisfied with it; I hope the House also is not satisfied with it . . . (Interruptions)

**SHRI M. C. DADA (Pali):** How can you speak for the whole House?

**SHRI P. M. MEHTA :** I say it has not satisfied the House because it does not go into the basic reasons for the recent disturbances in Gujarat. The whole country knows that Gujarat is agitated for more than 1-1/2 months and the people there are suffering a lot. This agitation has not erupted overnight. I Charge the State Government and the Central Government with inefficiency, complacency, corruption and tactless handling of the situation. The State Government miserably failed on two major counts: firstly, holding the price of essential commodities, foodgrains, edible oils, sugar, etc. and secondly providing adequate quantum of foodgrains and other essential commodities at reasonable rates.

[Shri P. M. Mehta]

to the people through the public distribution system. As you know, the people of Gujarat are peace-loving and they believe in the constitutional and peaceful ways and means. They never adopt violent methods for the redressal of their grievances and solution of their problems.

MR. SPEAKER : He can refer to facts but let him not go on reading. Further, he has only a few minutes.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : I am using restrained language because I do not want to add fuel to the fire. Even today the situation in Gujarat is tense. The ruling party in the State has pushed the patience of the people to the breaking point and paid no heed to the demand of the people and other political parties who have been peacefully high-lighting the issues and demanding adequate supply of foodgrains.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not want to interrupt him. In a Calling Attention Motion, he can have a little introduction before asking a question, but there is no procedure for reading a statement. Kindly avoid it. While he can make some reference to a paper, he cannot read it. Because, it will establish an unhealthy precedent.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : I am doing it to save time.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not read it.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : For the last one and a half years we have been demanding adequate supply of foodgrains to the State of Gujarat both inside and outside the House. But, both the Central and State Government have neglected this genuine demand of the people for adequate supply of foodgrains. My party offered satyagraha. Members of Parliament and the members of the State legislature courted arrest and a deputation headed by Kumari Maniben Patel met the Prime Minister and the Food Minister. It brought no results because they were power-drunk. Because of the massive majority in the Centre as well as in the States they did

not bother to consider the hardships and untold sufferings of the people. It is not as if this violence erupted overnight. The party in power remained complacent and did not pay any heed to the genuine demands of the people. On the contrary, they were responsible for adding to the miseries of the people by their wrong economic policies and undemocratic approaches. Prices of wheat, bajra and sweet oil went on rising unchecked and people saw unprecedented all time high level of prices. Even during the drought year the prices had not gone so high as now after a good monsoon.

Various organisations had time and again warned the Government to take immediate action to ensure sufficient food supplies and other essential things of life at reasonable prices. But, even since the Assembly elections in 1972, the State Government had no time to think of the people. The Ministers and M. L. As. of the ruling party were preoccupied with their own selfish fightings among themselves. This reflected adversely on the functioning of the State administrative machinery also.

As we know, in January, 1974 the mess bill of one engineering college of a small town went up and the students felt the pinch. Naturally, they got annoyed. In the face of the growing unemployment and stagnant economy, the parents could not remain unaffected. All sections of the community—teachers, farmers, industrial workers and women—expressed sympathy with the cause of the students, which was actually the cause of the people. They also demanded adequate foodgrains at reasonable prices.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul) : We all agree that this is a very important matter. Still, the speech should be reduced to a question in a Calling Attention . . .  
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Mehta, as you know, there is a set procedure for it. A question is asked and before the question, a little introduction is allowed. We allow 5

minutes to each Member except the first one. We, normally, give 2-3 minutes more to the first Member, that is, 7-8 minutes. You have already taken that much time. Why don't you put your question and finish it?

**SHRI P. M. MEHTA :** May I humbly submit that your honour was pleased not to admit an adjournment motion and, therefore, I take liberty, with your permission, to put facts before the House?

The State Government and the Central Government went on blaming each other. While the State Government blamed the Centre for not making adequate allocation of foodgrains, the Food Minister at the Centre blamed the State Government of mismanaging the whole affair. The ruling party MLAs also protested against the rise in prices in a meeting and expressed concern on the inability of Chimanbhai Patel's Government to supply foodgrains. They themselves asked for the imposition of the President's Rule in the State. Some Ministers of Chimanbhai's Cabinet made allegations of corruption against the Chief Minister himself.

It is a well-known fact that the Chief Minister removed levy on groundnut oil to collect Rs. 25 lakhs for the party. It is said that a substantial share of this money has come to the Central party for use in recent elections to Assembly in U. P. and other States . . . (Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER :** Will you please sit down? Mr. Mehta, in spite of my requests, you are not putting your question and finish it.

**SHRI P. M. MEHTA :** Strong armed tactics to curb the agitation has taken lives of 60 to 70 innocent people . . . (Interruptions) I do not want to add fuel to fire. I have restrained myself in narrating the situation of Gujarat State in this House.

Now, I put my questions.

Why did it take so long to impose the President's rule in the State of Gujarat? Why do Government not consider dissolving the State Assembly and conducting new elections immediately in response to the popular and genuine demand of the people? Why did the Central Government not supply sufficient foodgrains and essential things of life to the people of Gujarat State at reasonable prices and in time? What action is being taken now to ensure that the people of Gujarat get sufficient foodgrains and other essential commodities at fair prices? Is it not a fact that firing, since the people started agitation in Gujarat, has gone very high and no State in India suffered such a huge loss of lives as Gujarat, in no State has such firing taken place since independence as in Gujarat?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** The call-attention motion was specifically about the increase in police firing and connected matters. But the hon. Member has raised a number of other points and issues and made a long speech. I have said in my statement that the food situation in Gujarat was difficult at a certain time. There was shortage of essential commodities. The Central Government tried to help the State Government by supplying foodgrains to the extent possible, but in view of certain difficulties, the price situation also got out of hand to some extent. The hon. Member has asked what the Government is doing to improve the situation now. The situation has, of late, improved a lot. Prices of foodgrains are coming down. Food is being rushed from other State Governments—from State to State basis—and if the hon. members belonging to the Opposition parties co-operate with the administration that is now in office there, the situation could be improved to a large extent.

Some parties, taking advantage of the difficult situation which was facing the people, resorted to agitation which turned violent on many occasions. That was the reason why the police had to resort to firing in certain instances.

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

Policemen also have suffered. Hundreds of them have been injured and some of them have died in these violent agitations. . .

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : On a point of order, Sir. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): They are not party to the call-attention motion. They should not be allowed to speak.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Policemen were killed by policemen themselves.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI (Patna): How many hoarders and black-marketeers were shot ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह क्या बात है ? आप शांति से बहस नहीं कर सकते, सोच नहीं सकते । अगर ऐसे ही शोर से फैसले करने हैं तो बाहर कर लीजिए । हाउस में तो एक दूसरे की बात सुननी पड़ती है । उसके लिए एक प्रोसीजर है । अगर आप समझते हैं कि ऐसे ही एक दूसरे से भगड़ने और शोर करने से काम चल सकता है तो फिर हाउस की जरूरत ही नहीं है । बाहर फैसले कर लीजिए ।

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : There is a different forum for that, not here.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : It is a travesty of truth.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : In my statement I have said that one Police Sub-Inspector and two Policemen were killed and 919 Police Officers and men received injuries during the agitations. I have given the figures in my statement itself. Police had to resort to firing because the agitations turned violent.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : I have asked certain specific questions. Why did it take the Government so long to impose President's rule ? No. 2: Why did not the Government consider dissolving the Assembly and holding fresh elections at the earliest in response to the popular and genuine demand of the people? He has not answered these questions.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR : It is a straight question.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not one question. You have asked so many questions. You cannot settle them here in this House . .

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : I have said that a situation arose when the Police had to resort to firing.

Why did the Government take so long to impose President's rule—I would like to submit that the Government did not take a long time. It was watching the situation and trying to meet the situation. It did not take a long time. It was watching and it took appropriate action at the appropriate time.

Regarding the demand for dissolution of the Assembly, I would request the hon. Members to co-operate with the administration to restore law and order and create a situation in which the economic conditions of the people and the distribution of foodgrains would improve.

श्री मूल बन्व डागा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, धमकी के रास्ते लोकतंत्र में नहीं चला जा सकता । जब कोई जन-आंदोलन सत्ता की राजनीति को ले कर चलता है तो वह आंदोलन राजनीति से पीड़ित हो जाता है । जब हम फूट मांगने की जगह पर आगजनी और लूट का काम करते हैं . . .

श्री एस. ए. शमीम (श्रीनगर) : कॉन करता है ?

श्री मूल बन्व डागा : आप कर्ताते हैं । मैं समझता हूँ कि जब कभी कानून को आप हाथ में लेना चाहते हैं तो यह सवाल अहमदाबाद की कुछ गलियों में तय नहीं हो सकता यह संसद में या विधान सभा में तय हो सकता है । लेकिन सवाल यह नहीं है । सवाल यह था कि आप क्या लोकतंत्र को जिन्दा रखने के लिए . . . (ब्यवधान) . . . जिस में आपका विश्वास नहीं है . . . (ब्यवधान) . . . अगर आप को लोकतंत्र में विश्वास है तो उसको चलाने का तरीका सीखना पड़ेगा । मुझे यह बतलाइए कि 9 फरवरी के बाद . . . (ब्यवधान) . . .

**अध्यक्ष महाशय :** वह क्या हो रहा है, आप कुछ तरीका अख्तियार कीजिए ताकि मेम्बर अपनी बात कह सके। आप सभी लोकतंत्र की बात कर रहे हैं, लेकिन मुझे लोकतंत्र का कुछ खाया जा रहा है, इस तरह से कैसे चलेंगा। इतने शोर में आपके विभाग कैसे काम कर सकते हैं—मैं तो बहुत हैरान हूँ। देश के किसी भी मसले पर गौर करने के लिए, फैसला करने के लिए ठन्डा और साफ विभाग होना चाहिए, बिलेंस्ड विभाग होना चाहिए, लेकिन इतने शोर में कैसे काम किया जा सकता है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस हाउस में जो भी फैसला हो, शांति और ठण्डा दिल से होना चाहिए, लेकिन आप क्या करते हैं, सुबह से लेकर शाम तक इसी तरह से चलता है, इस तरह से तो आपकी उम्र घट जायेगी, उम्र के 15-20 साल घट जाएंगे, इस तरह से दिल की बीमारी हो जाती है। आप तो हॉस्पिटल में रह कर आए हैं फिर भी बाज़ नहीं आते हैं।

**श्री मूल चन्व डाना :** कुछ राजनीतिक नेता देश में सेवा कर के पैदा होते हैं, लेकिन कुछ जब आंदोलन होता है तो उसका लेकर नेता बन जाते हैं। अखिर ये लोग क्या चाहते हैं—जब आंदोलन हुआ तो कुछ नेताओं ने भाषण दिए कि वहाँ की विधान सभा भंग कर दी जाए। लेकिन सबाल दूसरा था जिसके कारण कि वहाँ पर आक्रोश था, अशांति थी और जिस की वजह से सरकार ने कदम उठाया वहाँ पर राष्ट्रपति शासन कर दिया, लेकिन उसके बाद भी वहाँ पर आंदोलन हुए। इराका मतलब यह है कि आप देश में अशांति फैलाना चाहते हैं। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि हमारा गृह विभाग या हमारा शासन इन लोगों को भी जो असामाजिक तत्व हैं, जो देश की विधान सभाओं को भंग करने के लिए कहते हैं, घर-घर जा कर धरना देते हैं और कानूनी तरीका है, इनके खिलाफ क्या कदम उठा रहा है ?

एक समय आ सकता है जब इसी तरह से लोग संसद सदस्यों के घरों पर भी, धरना देना शुरू कर देंगे . . . (व्यवधान) . . . अध्यक्ष जी, ससीम साहब को कहिए कि वह इस तरह से

कानून की हत्या न करें, वे बीच-बीच में बोल रहे हैं, इसमें उनकी तारीफ नहीं होती है . . .

**श्री एच. ए. शबीज :** मुझको यहाँ बोलने के लिए भेजा गया है।

**श्री मूल चन्व डाना :** आपको बीच-बीच में बोलने के लिए नहीं भेजा गया है, इसलिए भेजा गया है कि आप अपनी बात ढंग से कहें। अगर आप इस तरह से बोलेंगे तो लोग कहेंगे कि हमने जो मेम्बर भेजा था, वह ढंग से अपनी बात नहीं कह सकता है, हमने गलती की है। इस तरह से बोलने में आपकी शोभा नहीं बढ़ती है।

हमारे कुछ संसद सदस्यों ने भी कहा है कि वहाँ की विधान सभा भंग होनी चाहिए, लेकिन वहाँ पर सवाल था—अभाव का, अनाज के अभाव का। इस सवाल को हल करने के बजाय वहाँ की विधान सभा को भंग करने की मांग की जाए और उसके लिए धरना दिया जाए—यह सही तरीका नहीं है। इस सवाल को विधान सभा में तय कीजिए, वहाँ प्रस्ताव पास कीजिए।

आपको मालूम होगा—हमारे एक बड़े सर्वोदय नेता ने भी इसी तरह का भाषण दिया, उन्होंने कहा कि विधान सभा के विधायकों से इस्तीफा दिलाने के लिए आज से आंदोलन शुरू करना चाहिए। अखिल भारतीय विद्यार्थी परिषद् के नेता—राजगुरु ने भी वहाँ जा कर विधान सभा के सदस्यों के घरों पर धरना दिया और कहा कि इस्तीफा दो घरना यहाँ रहना मुश्किल हो जाएगा—मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे लोगों के खिलाफ सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाये हैं ?

भड़ौच में म्यूनिस्पैलिटी में भाई पटेल बैठे हुए थे उनको धमकी दी गई कि हम आ गवाह करेंगे, सूसाइड करेंगे। लोकतंत्र को चलाने का यह तरीका नहीं है कि इस तरह से आत्मदाह की धमकी दी जाय। शासन को चाहिए कि इनके खिलाफ क्वा 307 और 309 में मुकदमा दर्ज करें। भड़ौच में म्यूनिस्पैलिटी के अन्दर विधाय-

रिथियों ने क्या जुलूम नहीं किया, उनके दबाव और जुलूम की वजह से श्री पटेल का त्यागपत्र देना पड़ा। इन विधायरिथियों ने उनका आत्म-दाह तक की धमकी दी—इस तरह से वे लोग



[श्री मूल सन्देश]

लाकर्तव्य की इन इकाइयों को खत्म करना चाहते हैं। यह नव-निर्माण समिति क्या है, इसका कब निर्माण हुआ, इसके चलाने वाले कौन हैं—उन पार्टियों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही कीजिए।

एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ—इस प्रकार के जो पत्र वहाँ निकलते हैं—जैसे सन्देश या जनदुग्ग, क्या इनको आपने देखा है, क्या इन पर कभी रोक लगाई है। ये पत्र जान-बूझ कर लाकतांत्रिक तरीके पर सरकार के न चलने की आवाज उठा कर लोगों को जकसाते हैं। यह आंदोलन जन-आंदोलन नहीं है बल्कि राजनीति प्रेरित आंदोलन है—मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसके लिए आप क्या कदम उठाना चाहते हैं ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, it is really unfortunate that even after the imposition of President's Rule, peaceful conditions are not prevailing in Gujarat. The agitation is taking an increasingly violent form and, instead of cooperating with the administration in removing the real difficulties of the people, the Opposition Parties are resorting to violent agitations. (*Interruption*)

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : But, you have not heeded the advice. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : I am telling the situation that is existing there. I hope that the hon. Members will agree that the greatest need of the time is to restore normalcy there so that the difficulties of the poor people could be removed, so that the essential commodities can be rushed to the places and administrative measures taken could bring relief to the people.

I would appeal to the hon. Members to cooperate in this task of the Government and not to resort to coercive measures against the peaceful citizens of Gujarat.

SHRI BIREN DUTTA (Tripura West) : I want to know from the hon. Minister whether many people in Gujarat were dragged out of their homes and shot as by

the police, whether young men were forced to take off their dress and were made naked and dragged through the streets and shot down in the streets.

I want to know whether in Naddad town, a 28-year old carpenter and a 21-year old mechanic were killed. I want to know whether there are cases of rape where even the police were so merciless that they killed themselves and there was shooting between the police, one section of the police killing another section of the police. I want to know whether Manoj Shah, a B.Sc. student was dragged from his house and killed and whether many children were also beaten and they were wounded and one was killed ? I want to know whether Pankaj Joshi, son of a correspondent of a Delhi newspaper preparing for Ph. D was dragged and killed at Dhari-pur Shah. May I know whether in Raj Pipla, a thirteen-year old tribal boy was killed and another was assaulted there and died in the hospital at Baroda ? May I know whether these dastardly acts were perpetrated by the State Government to safeguard the interests of the landlords or what is known as the Khedut Samaj which had concerned all the foodgrains thereby making the people in Gujarat starve ? May I know whether all this has happened because of the surrender by the ruling party to the hoarders, blackmarketeers and monopolists ?

May I know whether Mr. Narendra Singh Zala was the Minister in charge of Civil Supplies in Chiman Patel Ministry, who was alleged to have gathered along with the Chief Minister Rs. 31 lakhs bribe from edible oil magnates or *Tella rajas* as they are called . . .

SHRI NATWARLAL PATEL (Mehsana) : He has been misguided by somebody. It is a false statement.

SHRI BIREN DUTTA : May I know whether Mr. Ratubhai Adani's name is involved in the episode which is by now popularly known as the Cotton Purchase Scandal where when the Government of

India's new cotton policy was spelt out, Rs. 61 lakhs was taken as bribe, and Mr. Adani was the leader of the Adani PSP-Oza Group and this happened during the days of the Oza Ministry? More than Rs. 70 lakhs corruption is said to have been managed by the GPCC president, Mr. Zina Dorji during floods, from the flood relief allocation. May I know whether the police, medical and revenue departments are spotted out for huge money collections for transfers? May I know whether levy collection has been totally sabotaged and corruption charges from talati to M.I.A and Minister are galore? May I know whether quo a distribution and allocation in fertilisers, diesel, cement, steel etc. has been openly fixed with an amount of corruption involved? May I know whether all this has led to the situation which is still raging there? May I know whether Government are thinking of dissolving the Ministry and the Assembly and thereby help in the people to come to peace as early as possible, before the lives of many more people are lost there?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** The hon. member has given certain instances of alleged atrocities by the police. I am not at present in a position to say anything about them. But I can assure the House that all complaints that would be received against the police and the administration would be fully inquired into and if any one is found at fault, all appropriate action would be taken against the persons involved.

**AN. HON MEMBER :** By what time?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** As regards allegations, or rather wild allegations, regarding bribe collected by certain Ministers and others—sometime back the figure was Rs. 25 lakhs and now it has gone upto Rs. 30 lakhs and even more; I do not know which figure to believe in—all I can say is that these wild allegations do not merit any attention.

12.46 hrs.

# STATEMENT RE ALLEGED ARREST OF SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE, M.P.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :** Sir, on 26-11-1973, Shri Saroj Mukherjee, M.P., wrote to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha regarding the circumstances of his alleged arrest by Calcutta police on 15-11-1973 and their alleged failure to intimate the Speaker about the fact of arrest. Shri Mukherjee stated in his letter that this involved a breach of his privilege as Member of Parliament.

Shri Mukherjee's letter was forwarded to the Home Minister by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs the same day. The Government of West Bengal were requested by the Ministry of Home Affairs the same day i.e. 26-11-1973 in a wireless message to intimate the connected facts. The State Government sent their reply on 3-12-1973 and a copy of the report was sent to the Lok Sabha Secretariat on 7-12-1973.

According to the report of the State Government, nine political parties took out a procession as a part of their civil disobedience movement on 15th November, 1973, in Calcutta from Raja Subodh Mullick Square and the procession was led by leaders of these parties, including Shri Saroj Mukherjee, M.P.

On reaching Esplanade Row East, the processionists became violent, broke through police cordon and started brick-battling. The police arrested 610 persons. None of the leaders was arrested. When arrested persons were being removed to Presidency Jail, Calcutta, Shri Saroj Mukherjee, M.P. and some other leaders, insisted on accompanying the arrested persons although they were told by the officer-in-charge of the police party at Esplanade Row East that they were not under arrest. Shri Saroj Mukherjee, M.P. alongwith other leaders, arrived at Presidency Jail gate the same afternoon.