

2.37 HRS.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
RECENT COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN
CERTAIN PART OF THE COUNTRY**

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda Not here. Shri Ishaq Sambhali.

SHRI ISHAQ SAMBHALI (Amroha) : 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 :—

“The recent communal disturbances in certain parts of the country.”

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : Sir, this House has been rightly perturbed over the persistence of communal tension in certain parts of the country. I need not refer in detail to the incidents that took place recently but it is a matter of deep concern to us that in Bhagalpur, Meerut, Chickmagalur and Karimganj communal violence has claimed a number of innocent lives and has also led to loss of property. While the immediate causes which led to trouble in each case may vary from place to place, the main sufferers have been members of the minority community.

Yesterday I paid a visit to Karimganj and was distressed to find that a number of families have been rendered homeless and have been suddenly subjected to hardship, all on account of what every one in the town agreed was a petty quarrel. I have impressed upon the State Ministers, who were camping at Karimganj, and the local administration the urgency of rehabilitating the affected families. I have been assured that rebuilding of houses will start immediately in all earnestness. All sections of the town were unanimous in their resolve to ensure that peace and harmony was maintained and they too would unreservedly participate in the quick rehabilitation of all affected persons. Prime Minister has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 25,000 for providing immediate relief. About the administrative action being taken, I may mention that a large number persons have been arrested in connection with specific offences. A special investigation team has been set up and vigorous investigation and search of houses are being undertaken. Some looted property has already been recovered.

This House is aware that I had written to all Chief Ministers soon after the Ranchi riots and had impressed upon them the need for utmost vigilance and firmness in dealing with communal trouble because the very foundations of our national honour and integrity are involved in this matter. This House is also aware that a Commission of Inquiry was appointed to go into some of the major disturbances that took place in 1967. Action has been initiated to revive the National Integration Council in which the fundamental problems of national integration can be considered dispassionately and long-term solutions found for meeting evils like communalism and regionalism. A great responsibility lies on the Administration as well as on all political parties to ensure that communal harmony is not allowed to be disturbed. I have emphasized this in all meetings of the Zonal Councils which have been held since August 1967.

I assure the House that the Central Government would use all their power and influence to uphold and protect the right of citizens, irrespective of the religion they profess, to live and work in peace and with honour. Government would welcome any suggestions the Hon'ble Members may have to make in this matter.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : I have a suggestion to make.

MR. SPEAKER : He may make it privately to the hon. Minister. He can write to him. Now, Shri Ishaq Sambhali.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : The first thing is that the Home Minister should resign. There is a huge intelligence force under his Ministry for which he will be placing the Demands before us very shortly. . . .

MR. SPEAKER : Order. order. I have called Shri Ishaq Sambhali.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : It is a suggestion for action. You may put it to him for his consideration.

श्री इसहाक सम्भली : क्या यह ठीक नहीं है कि एक हमारा कायदा सा बन गया है कि जहाँ कहीं मारपीट हो, लोग मारे जायें, जलाये जायें, कत्ल किये जायें, उसके बाद हम यहाँ पर थोड़ा-सा ब्याख्यान दे दें कि हमें बहुत अफसोस है और हम पच्चीस हजार रुपये

[**श्री इसहाक सम्मली**]

या पांच हजार रुपये भेज रहे हैं, उनकी मदद करने के लिए? क्या इस तरह से यह कत्ल व गारत बन्द होने वाली है?

सरकार को बार बार मुसाव दिया गया है कि जहां कहीं इस तरह की डिस्टर्बेंसिस हों, वहां डिस्ट्रिक्ट आपोरेटिज को जिम्मेदार करार दे कर उनको वहां से इमिडिएटली ट्रान्सफर किया जाए और उनका सर्पेशन किया जाए। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इसके बारे में क्या किय गया है।

जो लोग मारे जाते हैं या जिनका नुकसान होता है क्या उनको पूरा पूरा कम्पेंसेशन भी आप देंगे?

जिस एरिया में ये डिस्टर्बेंसिस हों, वहां पर क्या आप कलैक्टिव फाईज भी इम्पोज करेंगे?

जो अखबार इस तरह से नफरत की बात फैला रहे हैं या फैलाते रहते हैं उनके खिनाफ भी क्या आप कोई एकशन लेंगे?

ये जो सारे सुभाव हैं इनको मानने म सरकार को क्या दुश्वारियां पेश आ रही हैं। क्यों नहीं इनको माना गया है।

[**श्री اسحاق سمبلی**] - کیا یہ ٹھیک نہیں ہے کہ ہمارا قائدہ سا بن گیا ہے کہ جہاں کہیں مار پیٹ ہو، لوگ مارے جائیں، جلائے جائیں، قتل کئے جائیں اس کے بعد ہم یہاں پر تھوڑا سا ویسا کھیان دے دیں کہ ہمیں بہت افسوس ہے اور ہم پچیس ہزار روپے یا پانچ ہزار روپے بھیج رہے ہیں ان کی مدد کرنے کے لئے۔ کیا اس طرح سے یہ قتل و غارت بند ہونے والی ہے۔

سرکار کو بار بار سجاؤ دیا گیا ہے کہ جہاں کہیں اس طرح کی ڈسٹربنس ہوں وہاں ڈسٹرکٹ انٹھورٹیز کو ذمہ دار قرار دے کر ان کو وہاں سے امیڈیٹی ٹرانسفر کیا جائے اور ان کا سسپنشن کیا جائے۔ میں جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ اس کے بارے میں کیا کیا گیا ہے۔

جو لوگ مارے جاتے ہیں یا جن کا نقصان ہوتا ہے کیا ان کو پورا پورا کومپنیشن بھی آپ دیں گے۔ جس ایریا میں یہ ڈسٹربنس ہوں وہاں پر کیا آپ کلیکٹو فائٹز بھی امپوز کریں گے۔

جو اخبار اس طرح نفرت کی بات پھیلا رہے ہیں یا پھیلاتے رہتے ہیں ان کے خلاف بھی کیا آپ کوئی ایکشن لیں گے۔

یہ جو سارے سجاؤ ہیں ان کو ماننے میں سرکار کو کیا دشواریاں پیش آ رہی ہیں۔ کیوں نہیں ان کو مانا گیا ہے۔]

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : These are all suggestions, which will have to be considered by the respective authorities. As far as the district authorities are concerned, things vary from place to place. For example, in Karimganj which is the headquarters of a sub-division, I found that even most of the leaders of the minorities told me that the district magistrate there had acted promptly and that but for his intervention things would have been still worse. If you, therefore, have a uniform rule that all district officers should be transferred, then things possibly might worsen.

In this particular case, can say that the whole thing started with some sort of quarrel between two young boys. The local administration had no intimation about it because there was no tension existing before that. Whatever police force was there had to be used there for some other purpose, because on that very day, there was a very well organised public demonstration by the Communist Party in the city, but they had nothing to do with the communal riot; let me, therefore, not be misunderstood. That day, there was a very big demonstration and the police force was busy attending to their duties in connection with that. Suddenly in the morning, at about ten o'clock this trouble started and the police force did reach the place immediately. The MLA who comes from that place, who does not belong to the Congress Party or the ruling party, himself reached the spot and he did his best also to stop the things from happening, but unfortunately he did not succeed because the area was full of tree growth etc. and nothing could reach there; but the police reached there and they used tear gas but they did not succeed in preventing what had happened there. But I cannot say that the administration was not aware of what was going on.

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY (Nominated-Anglo-Indians) : What about Meerut? The district magistrate abetted the murders.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : The first suggestion that Shri Ishaq Sambhali made was that the district authorities should be automatically transferred, and I am saying that that is not applicable in this particular case.

Another suggestion that he made was in regard to collective or punitive fines. . . .

SHRI ISHAQ SAMBHALI : Compensation also.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I personally think that this suggestion needs to be considered. Unless the local people feel the brunt of the consequences of these troubles from the point of action taken, unless they feel that they will have to share the losses involved, it will be very difficult to persuade them. But I was awaiting the Report of the Dayal Commission which is going into the matter. After receipt of

that report, we can formulate some definite policy in the matter. But even otherwise, the local administration and local authorities take strong action, as they have in this matter. I can very well understand and share the concern of the hon. Member.

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY : What happened in Meerut?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : They are watching the fun for six months in Meerut? The district magistrate was most inactive.

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : From Ranchi to Meerut and now to Karimganj in Assam, it is a distressing spectacle that we are witnessing which challenges the basic foundations of our democracy and threatens all the values India stands for. The image of secular India has been desecrated and the integrity of India on the emotional plane has been disturbed by these events and incidents. In this context what positive steps have Government so far taken to see that there is communal balance, that the balance is established, that there is psychological rehabilitation of the different sections of the Indian community? Secondly, there are now two festivals coming, Id-ul-Fitr and Holi. There is apprehension of a threat to communal relations again. In this context, have the Central Government instructed the State Governments to take adequate steps to see that these things do not get repeated?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : As I mentioned in my statement, these are matters which really speaking, the State Governments are constantly considering. As to the action taken in this matter, I consolidated a list of the whole thing, as to what action they took. I think in some States they have taken action to prevent these things from happening.

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY : In others, they encouraged it.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : No.

SHRI HEM BARUA : He has not replied to my question. He discarded Shri Sambhali's suggestions in a very rude manner. Whatever that be, what steps has he himself taken to stabilise these relations and to rehabilitate the minds of men?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : As far as the minds of people are concerned, I quite agree that it is the basic remedy in this country. Unfortunately, there is communal politics

[SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN]:

in the country; we have to take note of this particular factor also. In this matter, the forum of the National Intergration Council may be useful for us.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : That never functions.

MR. SPEAKER : His name is not there. This is call attention.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : My name was balloted.

MR. SPEAKER : It is his ill-luck that it did not get through.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : In view of the fact that even after 20 years the law and order situation is deteriorating and well-planned and well-executed riots and disturbances, whether based on religion or community or language or caste or sect, are taking place throughout the country, more especially in strategic areas which are only reactions of political, social and economic instability, which is the result of 20 years of Congress misrule and also in view of the fact that Government must be receiving intelligence reports before these things happen, what preventive action have Government been able to take or are contemplating taking to restore the confidence of the people in the administration and engender respect for law and order?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I do not agree with the hon. Member's political analysis. But as I said, these incidents take place due to local reasons also. As for the intelligence part, it is gathered by the local people. In some places I find in the last few weeks the preventive action taken on the basis of this intelligence has worked. Naturally, in the case of Karimganj, there was no previous intimation about it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : What about Meerut?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : What about Ranchi?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : In Uttar Pradesh the hon. Member knows the SVD Government was there. I am only reminding them about this matter. In this particular matter, we have to depend upon the State administration, the local police administration. We can certainly guide them as to

what action they should take. If they want any police help from us, we are always willing to give police help to them. Whatever police force we have, we are prepared to place it at their disposal. The Central Government is always willing to co-operate in this matter to help them.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North-East) : I wish the Government was more acutely aware of the dangers to the country and its reputation which is implicit in the repeated occurrence of this most blackguardly happening. After all, in Meerut, which is 40 miles away from the capital, life was paralysed for several days. On account of the jamboree of Sadhus in Delhi, the previous Home Minister had to give up his job. This is a very serious matter. May I know why it is that Government seems absolutely insensitive to demands put forward by such unexceptionable organisations like the Sampradayikta Virdohi Committee with which many Congress members are closely associated and which is bringing out publications condemning the activities of organisations like the RSS and certain bodies like the Nizami Jamiat or something or the other, communal organisations, rabid, chauvinistic communal organisations on the Hindu side as well as on the Muslim side? They are bringing out these publications with which the Prime Minister personally perhaps should be very familiar, and no steps are being taken and no steps are even being contemplated, and repeatedly this kind of incident is happening, tarnishing the image of our country and we are hurting ourselves almost beyond redemption. I think the Government should take a very serious view of this serious matter and state its policy in regard to the continued activities of these communal, chauvinistic organisations.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : As I said, I agree with him that there is the communal view and the chauvinistic attitude in the political life of the country and they are mainly responsible for creating this atmosphere in the country. It is exactly for this matter that we should all come together, and there is certainly no party attitude to this question, where all political parties including the hon. Member's party and he himself can help in formulating certain solutions about it.