

[श्री द्वा० ना० तिवारी]

कर सकते और जब दलाल उनके साथ लग जाता है तो उनको जो मिलता है उसमें से एक चौथाई रकम तो उड़ ही जाती है। तो अगर कानून में सिम्पलीफिकेशन हो तो कोआपरेटिव मूवमेंट से ज्यादा फायदा हो सकता है। और जितनी आज साधारण कोआपरेटिव सोसाइटीज हैं उनको मल्टी परपज कोआपरेटिव्स आप कर दें तो ज्यादा फायदा हो।

शुगर केन कोआपरेटिव्स जो हैं उनको तो फी मन एक पैसा या दो पैसा मन कमीशन मिल जाता है और इसलिये उनके पास कुछ साधन हो जाता है। लेकिन जो आरडिनरी कोआपरेटिव्स हैं उनको कोई आमदनी नहीं है। वह रुपया लाती हैं और लोगों को देती हैं और उनको एक आध पर सेंट जो मिलता है वह खर्च के लिये भी काफी नहीं होता। अगर उनको मल्टी परपज कर दिया जाए और उनके द्वारा कोई छोटा उद्योग धन्धा या व्यापार चलाया जाए तो उनका भी काम चल सकता है।

कुछ जमाने पहले हमने पढ़ा था कि हर एक ब्लाक डेवेलपमेंट लेबिल पर गोबर का गैस प्लांट दिया जाएगा। लेकिन पता नहीं वह कितने बनें, कितने लोगों को दिये गये और कितने सफल हुए। वह किस कम्युनिटी डेवेलपमेंट ब्लाक में गए इसका भी पता नहीं

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मुझे फिर आपका ध्यान इधर दिलाना पड़ेगा।

श्री द्वा० ना० तिवारी : तो मैं कह रहा था कि मवेशी के गोबर का जो गैस प्लांट निकला है उसका डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन कम्युनिटी डेवेलपमेंट ब्लाक्स में होने वाला था। लेकिन वह हम लोगों की तरफ नहीं

गया है। हमने सुना कि उसमें कुछ इम्प्रूवमेंट होने वाला है। अगर वह इम्प्रूवमेंट होकर आ जाए तो उससे कुछ लोगों का उपकार हो सकता है और कुछ काम चल सकता है।

तीसरी बात जो आपके सामने रखनी है वह यह है कि दस वर्षों से गांवों में कम्युनिटी डेवेलपमेंट का काम चल रहा है। उससे क्या फायदा हुआ इसके भी आंकड़े होने चाहिए जो कि नहीं हैं। जिन गांवों में यह काम किया गया है उनमें कितनी इन डेटेडनेस कम हुई और कितने लोग अपने पैरों पर खड़े हुए और कितने गांवों में कुछ काम सफल हुआ इसका कोई तखमीन नहीं है। तो मैं चाहूंगा कि इन सब बातों का विवरण मिनिस्टर साहब दें ताकि लोगों की समझ में सही बात आ सके। नहीं तो बहुत से लोगों का खयाल है कि कम्युनिटी डेवेलपमेंट के होने से सिर्फ कुछ आफिसेज खुल गये हैं और कुछ लोगों की परबस्ती हो रही है लेकिन असल काम नहीं हो रहा है। हालांकि इसका ध्येय अच्छा है लेकिन काम करने के तरीके ऐसे नहीं हैं जिससे लोगों को अधिक फायदा हो सके और खास कर ऐसे लोगों को जो कि गरीब हैं और जिनके पास न जमीन है और न कोई और साधन है उनको कर्ज मिल सके।

मैं इन्हीं बातों की ओर आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता था।

11-17 hours.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SITUATION IN EAST PAKISTAN AND INCIDENTS AT MALDA

Mr. Speaker: I must refer to the notices of calling attention that have

been received. I have received two notices, one from Shri Prakash Vir Shastri and Shri Subodh Hansda and the other from Shrimati Renu Chakravartty. I will call Shri Prakash Vir Shastri to read it. In his absence let Shri Subodh Hansda read it.

Shri Subodh Hansda (Jhargram): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The outcome and the future policy decided regarding the report submitted by Shri Rajeshwar Dayal, Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan, after studying the situation in East Pakistan arising out of the recent communal riots there."

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barackpore): I must also mention that these reports that have come in the *New York Times*, reproduced in *Dawn* are blood-curdling reports.

Mr. Speaker: She may also read her notice.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Sir, under rule 197 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, I beg to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and to request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"Issue of 'Dawn' of 10th May, 1962 reproducing blood curdling accounts of riot affected victims of Malda, West Bengal, written by the Special Correspondent in Pakistan, Mr. Robert Trombell and appearing in *New York Times*."

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must apologise for not being here at 11 o'clock. I arrived here 5 minutes later. It had escaped my notice that there is no Question Hour today. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty has referred to a report

that has appeared, apparently, in the *New York Times*. As I came here I saw the issue of *Dawn* of the 10th May. I have not read it fully. I have had no time; but I read the headlines. I was deeply shocked to read it. Mr. Trombell went, it appears to Rajshahi and he has given an account which was supplied to him, presumably by some officials as well as some of the refugees and migrants who had gone there. Now, the refugee and migrant accounts are notoriously exaggerated because they are excited and they are not very good witnesses. But, nevertheless, it is amazing that an experienced correspondent of a responsible paper should have given such accounts without further enquiry. He has given accounts about what happened in Malda. It was not difficult for him to go to Malda and enquire there himself.

So far as we are concerned, we welcome any newspaper man, foreign or Indian, to go to Murshidabad or Malda. Murshidabad is a peculiar case. If one reads the Pakistan accounts about Murshidabad, one is aghast; and they are blood-curdling, and call them what you will; hundreds of people killed. But, yet, according to us, in Murshidabad nothing happened. There was no trouble of the slightest kind. It is no question of exaggeration; it is a question of invention. How does that come about? The best evidence of that is that a Dacca newspaper, the *Pakistan Observer*, sent a special correspondent there. His report says that nothing has happened there. Strangely enough, that report was repudiated by the newspaper two or three days later. That repudiation does not alter the fact that nothing happened at Murshidabad.

I shall now read a statement which I have prepared. There might be some repetition in it of what I have already said. The unfortunate incidents that occurred in March and April last in West Bengal and in East Pakistan, began in Malda district of West Bengal on the 9th March, when there was some quarrel or altercation between a Muslim and a Santhal

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woman in Digirghat village over some fruits which she was selling. The woman was slapped and this subsequently led to a clash between the Santhals and the local resident Muslims in which several Santhals were injured. No other Hindus were involved in this, apart from the tribal Santhals who decided to take revenge by what they called a *bitlaho*, a tribal form of revenge. Apparently this consists of burning of huts of the others. They were, however, prevented effectively by the police and the local authorities from doing so.

On the 22nd March, in another village nearby named Bilkanchan, there was again some trouble between the Santhals and Muslims during the Holi celebrations. The Santhals attacked the village and killed three Muslims using bows and arrows for the purpose. Eight Muslim houses were set on fire, and in one of these, a tragedy occurred. Six persons Muslims—were killed when the thatched roof collapsed. This also was not a Hindu-Muslim riot, and only the Santhals were concerned. The other Hindus of the village actually gave shelter to the Muslims during the trouble. Firm action was taken by the local authorities again, and the situation throughout the district was brought completely under control. The West Bengal Home Minister toured the area and arranged for assistance and rehabilitation, of the families of those who had suffered in the riot on Holi day.

The Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner and his First Secretary asked to be allowed to visit Malda district, and they were enabled to go round several of the villages on the 5th, 6th and 7th April. They met a large number of Muslims in various villages, went to a mosque for their prayers, meeting more people and even addressed meetings at some places in the presence of West Bengal officers. We have had complaints that the Pakistan diplomats did not adhere to the pre-arranged itinerary and on

occasions they met local residents privately. There was some little trouble on their trying to take photographs when they were told that this could not be allowed.

Unfortunately, the Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner's visit had an unhealthy effect on the resident population, and there was recrudescence of trouble in some of the areas in Malda district again between April 16th and 20th. The Pakistan newspapers reported that over a hundred people had been killed and six hundred houses and shops had been looted and burnt, and 1500 girls had been abducted, and hundreds of people had crossed over into Pakistan. The facts are that between the 16th and 20th April there were four Muslim deaths and about thirty six Hindus and twenty-eight Muslims were injured. After April 20th, there has been no trouble in Malda district. We informed the Pakistan Government officially, in a note dated 27th April in answer to their protest note, that there had been no incident in Malda after April 20th. Over seventy persons had been arrested immediately and law and order had been again fully restored and, so far as we know, there has been no abnormal migration from Malda across the border into Pakistan.

Not content with exaggerated reports of incidents in Malda the Pakistan newspapers headlined: "Fresh outbreak of violence in Murshidabad". The *Pakistan Times* of April 26th spoke of 150 Muslims having been killed in Murshidabad, etc. Then the *Pakistan Observer*, a newspaper published in Dacca, sent a special correspondent to the district and his report published in that paper on 2nd May said—it is a long report and I am only mentioning a small sentence from it—"My two-day visit to Murshidabad district areas and talks with reliable and influential non-official Muslims and officials confirmed that there had been no clash or even a minor incident in Murshidabad preceding, during or after the Malda disturbances."

I might mention that in this report of the *Pakistan Observer* he gives interviews from the leading Muslims of Murshidabad thus: he says that he interviewed Dr. Faizuddin Ahmed, the most popular doctor among the Hindus and Muslims of Golaghat who categorically denied any communal incident in Lalgola and adjoining areas in the sub-division. He then interviewed Professor Radhole Karim of Berhampore, the district headquarters and others—Professor of the Berhampore Women's College, gives what they said.

The special correspondent states that people told him in Murshidabad that Muslims were eighty per cent of the population there and Hindus were in a relatively small minority. If there had been any trouble, it would be the Hindus who would be the main sufferers. Some what later the *Pakistan Observer* repudiated their own correspondent's report. The fact remains, however, that no incident and no communal trouble occurred in Murshidabad district.

All these exaggerated reports in the Pakistan newspapers and some statements by high-ranking officials naturally excited the people in Pakistan greatly and led them to commit violence. On the 26th, 27th and 28th April, there were several cases of stabbing in Dacca and perhaps about a dozen people were killed and many more injured. In Rajshahi district, the situation was particularly bad, and the Pakistan authorities admitted that the situation in that district had been a very serious one and the Government were obliged to order East Pakistan Rifles to fan out all over the countryside and control the situation.

A Calcutta-bound train is said to have been halted on the 25th April somewhere outside Rajshahi station and attacked, and it is reported that a large number of people were killed in this tragic incident. The worst reports received by us are from Darsha, a village in Rajshahi district. Here, a large number of Hindu refugees had been collected and put under the protection of the armed guard

On the 29th April, for whatever reason, the armed guard was withdrawn and this was followed by an attack on the refugees in which very many of them are said to have been killed.

Other reports have reached us, of serious trouble involving killing, arson, etc., in the districts of Pabna, Bogra, Khulna and Mymensingh. The latest report on the situation in Rajshahi district states that matters have been brought under control and troops are being withdrawn from those areas.

I have deliberately refrained from giving figures of casualties where the reports are vague and we could not obtain details. I do not wish in any sense to exaggerate and thus add to communal bitterness. In regard to Malda, the figures we have given are precise. In regard to what happened in Pakistan, it is not possible for us to give exact figures. Pakistan appears to have imposed an effective black-out on the news and the movement of people from East to West Bengal is severely restricted. It is not possible for me to give any correct figures about this movement on either side.

I am afraid the exaggerated accounts published in newspapers have led to great excitement, producing unfortunate reactions. Some of these accounts appearing in the Pakistan press have been reported in the foreign press too, apparently without any personal enquiry. Murshidabad is a special case where it is clear that nothing happened and yet lurid accounts have been given of troubles there.

It will be observed that the statement I have made and others have made in India differ very greatly from the statements made in Pakistan and apparently now in some of the foreign papers, who have got the information from Pakistan. The difference is so vast; it is not a question of a slight exaggeration.

Take Murshidabad. We say nothing happened there and others say that hundreds of people were killed

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and 1500 women abducted. There is a tremendous difference and surely it should be possible to find out exactly what happened, if there was trouble or not. It is not a question of a few persons this way or that way.

I would invite correspondents, foreign or Indian, to go to Malda and Murshidabad and find out for themselves what happened and what truth there is in the report appearing in the *New York Times*. I would invite that correspondent himself. He is a responsible newspaperman. He has made some statements sitting in Rajshahi. He might have gone to Malda, which is not too far and found out from there what the facts were. It is most deplorable that these exaggerated accounts should be given. The Murshidabad incident is symbolic, where, as I have said, apparently nothing happened. If that is so, we can test the other stories given about Malda.

In Malda, something did happen undoubtedly and unfortunately. But the large number of casualties given and these harrowing tales are exaggerated. As a matter of fact, it was stated, in Malda the trouble started by a quarrel between a Santhal woman and some Muslim. That excited the people and the Santhals actually killed three or four Muslims by bows and arrows on the first day. I cannot naturally say how many refugees have gone across or have come over. There are a large number of demands of people of the minority community in Pakistan to come over here and some people, some considerable number, may have gone. The difficulty is, normally there is a big traffic in between. People come and go. They are adjoining areas and it is quite possible that some people might have gone over. I rather doubt if the numbers are as stated.

I am very much concerned about these matters and these reports are bad enough to help such troubles and conflicts. One should try to give the facts, but when one gives these exaggerated facts and unfounded al-

legations, it is a crime for those who make themselves responsible for this kind of thing. I can very well imagine an average reader of newspapers in Pakistan getting vastly excited when he reads these newspapers and sees this has happened. The newspapers, whether in Pakistan or in India, have a very particular duty fulfil. I would again point out that the Murshidabad incident is symbolic, how out of nothing something was created, which excited people greatly and led to other troubles.

According to our information, the trouble that happened in Rajshahi district was very very bad. I would refrain from giving figures. But in Darsha and in the railway train, according to us, a large number of deaths took place and the whole incident was pretty bad. But we have tried to be moderate in our statements. In the present statement that I have read out before you also, I have attempted to be moderate. We have given facts, about which we felt we had some basis and foundation and they were correct. I cannot guarantee if something else did not happen, but nothing very different could have happened. In Malda, the Governor of Bengal went towards the end of April and spent some time there. Hon. Members of this House who represent that area here have gone there and reported to me and mentioned their experiences to others. The High Commissioner in Pakistan went to Dacca and spent four days there. He sent a senior official to Rajshahi. Then he sent us a report which made very painful reading. He could not go to every village in the district of Rajshahi, but such information as he could get he sent to us. I have ventured to state the facts we have, I hope, with some moderation. But I do not wish to exaggerate. It does me no good whether a Hindu is killed or a Muslim is killed; killing is killing and that kind of killing is bad killing, innocent people suffering and all that. But I

think it is almost as bad for people to exaggerate this and excite people's passions on this communal basis.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Sir, Pakistan has behaved in this manner in the past, it behaves like that even now, exaggerating what has not taken place. But, when the American newspapers have been flashing it in order to bring discredit to India, why is it that our own Press Attaches and our embassies there have not issued a very strong rejoinder to it? When this matter was taken up in the *New York Times* of 4th May and today is 12th May—we get it *via* Pakistan having been reproduced in *Dawn* and then we see it in India—why is it that every time we have to wait for things to come like this and it is not taken up quickly enough in order to scotch this kind of wild propaganda which took place after Goa and which now takes place again at the slightest happenings in Malda? I would like to know what steps Government are taking to see that our Press Attaches and our embassies react immediately to these things and scotch such propaganda in time so that it would not lead to such bad consequences.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is very difficult for our Press Attache there to contradict a statement made by a correspondent who presumably had been to the spot. Our press correspondents have issued statements there, but it may not have in the eyes of the editor of that paper the same value. The unfortunate thing is that such statements have been issued by a correspondent without apparently enquiring on the spot but by just taking the exaggerated and lurid accounts that were given to him in Rajshahi. Our Press Attaches, as a matter of fact, have stated this, I believe, even in the United States, but it is very difficult for them when a correspondent says so. That is why I am inviting the correspondent and other correspondents to go to Malda find out for themselves, hold an enquiry which

will help them in every way and not be so eager to accept every rumour and story that is told to them by excited people.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Did our embassy or the Press Attache bring to the notice of the Government of India what had actually appeared in the Press there and asked us to issue some sort of contradiction to it at a sufficiently authoritative level, or is it that this was brought to the notice of the Prime Minister only when we raised it as a Calling Attention Notice?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I can't answer that, but I do believe that our missions in various important places did issue what might be called our version of these incidents. I am glad this matter has been raised here because, perhaps, my speaking on it may draw a little more attention than official statements made by the Ministry here or our missions abroad.

Shrimati Renuka Ray (Malda):
rose—

Mr. Speaker: No questions by other hon. Members. We shall now proceed with other business.

11.40 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND CO-OPERATION—contd.

Shri Kolla Venkaiah (Tenali): Mr. Speaker, although the total amount of the three Demands relating to this Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation is paltry and insignificant, the issues and policies involved are the main things that we have to discuss now to see whether the programme has been implemented all