

Mr. Speaker: If they are being raised in the garb of points of order . . .

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Because you throw them out of order.

Mr. Speaker: He should tell his hon. friends also not to raise points of order like that.

Shri Nath Pai: I do not use any garb; I am straightforward.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर राज्य सरकारों को इतना स्वातन्त्र्य है कि इस प्रकार के विवादों में केन्द्र हस्तक्षेप नहीं कर सकता तो कभी राज्य सरकार यदि यह कह बैठें कि हम तो केन्द्र के अधीन नहीं रहेंगे तो आप क्या करेंगे? यदि उनको इतना स्वातन्त्र्य होगा तो आप क्या करेंगे उनके सम्बन्ध में ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं तो यह नहीं बतला सकता ।

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: I wanted to ask a specific question. I want to know when and from whom was this intimation received by the Union Home Ministry, and whether in the reference to the Attorney-General this question of the operation of article 143 in invoking the advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court has been specifically or generally referred to?

Shri Nanda: Yes, Sir. We have requested the Attorney-General to give advice on the point whether it would be appropriate to make reference to the Supreme Court.

Shri Tyagi: In the meanwhile, have the summons been stopped or not?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am not allowing questions on this.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: It has not been answered as to from whom and when the intimation was received.

Shri Nanda: It was from the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri J. B. Kripalani (Amroha): I want to know from the Home Minister whether it is in his power to ask the Vidhan Sabha to suspend the execution of the order that they have passed.

Mr. Speaker: Legal questions cannot be asked.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know under what provisions this intimation was received and what is the purpose of this intimation?

Shri Nanda: I would not be able to answer the question as to under what provision they gave us the intimation. We can give information only on the point whether we can act.

12.21 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE IN WEST BENGAL, ORISSA, BIHAR AND MADHYA PRADESH

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): 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 incidents of violence in Belghoria (West Bengal), Rourkela (Orissa), Jamshedpur (Bihar), Raigarh (Madhya Pradesh) and other places resulting in deaths."

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Nanda): Sir, it is with deep distress that I rise to make this statement on the incidents of violence that have occurred in some parts of the country during the last week.

As the House will doubtless remember, the communal situation in West

Bengal had been brought completely under control by 21st January. A serious incident of violence resulting in 21 deaths, however, occurred in West Bengal again on 16th March at Belghoria in the 24-Parganas district. On the same day, some shops were attacked and looted at Chakradharpur in Bihar where some more incidents of arson and looting occurred also on the 18th March. From 19th to 22nd March, there have been incidents of violence—some of them serious—in the Jamshedpur area of Bihar, Rourkela and Jilbani in Orissa, and Raigarh and Dharamjagarh in Madhya Pradesh. There have been also sporadic incidents usually of a minor nature at some other places in the Sundargarh district and at Sambalpur in Orissa and at a few places in Madhya Pradesh. In each case, action was taken promptly and further trouble was prevented. Even in the Rourkela and Jamshedpur areas, which were more seriously affected, the situation had been brought under control by the morning of 22nd March. I have to mention with profound regret that from the reports received till last evening the total death roll in these incidents last week appears to be of the order of 200.

The police are reported to have opened fire twice at Rourkela and 16 times in the Jamshedpur area, and the known casualties from police firing in Jamshedpur are 4 dead and 27 injured. A large number of arrests have been made in connection with specific offences and as a preventive measure. In Raigarh and Jamshedpur, considerable number of Muslims have been moved to safer areas and are being properly looked after. In addition to police reinforcements, troops have been called in by the State Governments at Rourkela and Jamshedpur to strengthen the civil authorities.

The majority of the incidents in Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh are linked with the passage of trains carrying the refugees from East Pakis-

tan to the camp at Mana near Raipur. The sight of these refugees and the accounts of their sufferings in East Pakistan aroused feelings which some misguided and ill-intentioned elements utilised to work up communal passions.

We have throughout been in the closest touch with the State Governments and have given them whatever assistance they needed. We have advised them to take stern and determined action to put down disturbances and to take preventive measures at the least sign of trouble. I have no doubt that the State Governments themselves fully realise the importance of active public co-operation and support, but even so we have advised them to mobilise public opinion in the cause of preservation of peace and tranquillity. It is our intention that joint peace committees of citizens will be formed at various places to mobilise public opinion and give active assistance in the maintenance of communal peace. At my request, leaders of INTUC, AITUC and Hind Mazdoor Sabha met yesterday and decided to form a Central Standing Committee for assisting in the maintenance of communal harmony in the industrial areas of the country. Tripartite committees will be set up at State level and in various industrial centres.

These happenings during the last week have caused us deep sorrow. It is a matter of shame that a small number of evil-doers should be able to cause so much suffering to innocent people and bring bad name to our peace-loving people and damage our reputation. These disturbances also dissipate the energies of our people, disrupt economic life and hold up our progress. They also impede our defence effort. I take this opportunity to assure the House that whatever may be the cost and whatever the effort involved, we will discharge our sacred duty to protect the lives, property and honour of all sections of the community. Every act of communal violence is an attack on human decency and the values of civilised

[Shri Nanda]

life for which we stand and I count on the help and cooperation of leaders of various sections of the community and the political parties in the maintenance of peaceful conditions and communal harmony throughout the country.

I may add that I had a meeting with the leaders of the Parties here this morning and I am very much heartened by the offer of cooperation from all of them.

Mr. Speaker: Papers to be laid on the Table.

Shri Hem Barua rose—

Mr. Speaker: I was told that there will be no questions on this.

Shri Hem Barua: It is a very important question. I do not think that would put them or the country in difficulty. I have to get one piece of information.

Mr. Speaker: If it starts, there will be no end to it.

Shri Daji (Indore): He wants to know something.

Mr. Speaker: Everyone would. The Members should refrain from putting any question on this at this moment. The desire of the House is that no questions should be put at this moment.

श्री राम सेवक यादव (बाराबंकी):
मैं आप से एक जानकारी चाहता हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यादव साहब शुरू करेंगे तो...

श्री राम सेवक यादव : हम जानना चाहते हैं कि यह फ़ैसला हुआ है कि प्रश्न नहीं होंगे या मन्त्री महोदय ने आपसे निवेदन किया है कि इस पर प्रश्न न पूछे जायं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : हाउस में कुछ मित्रों ने कहा है कि ये सवाल न पूछे जायं।

श्री राम सेवक यादव : ऐसा कोई फ़ैसला नहीं किया गया था कि प्रश्न नहीं पूछे जाएंगे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : ऐसा फ़ैसला न किया गया होगा, लेकिन इस वक्त यही भ्रच्छा है कि आप इस वक्त हाउस में सवाल न करें। यह हमारे देश के हित में नहीं है कि इस वक्त सवालात किए जाएं। आप मान लें।

Shri Hem Barua: You have given a good ruling. On second thought, I have realised that there should be no questions at this stage. It is a very nice stand that you have taken and it is a nice ruling.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (फर्रुखाबाद):
मन्त्री महोदय ने कहा कि सब लोगों ने अपने सहयोग देने का वचन दिया है। यह बात सही नहीं है क्योंकि जब तक हिन्द सरकार इस मामले में अपनी नीति ठीक तरह से ही बनाती और केवल जनता को भड़का दिया जाता है और कोई कार्रवाई नहीं होती तब तक उस सहयोग का कोई मतलब नहीं होगा। इस समय देश में ऐसी हालत हो गयी कि अगर यहाँ लोक-सभा में बातचीत हो जाए तो शायद आग बूझ सकती है, वरना इस देश में आग लगी हुई है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आर्डर, आर्डर।

Papers to be laid on the Table.

12.28 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ORDERS UNDER SUB-SECTION (3) OF SECTION 13 OF REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1950

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each