

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 22, 1973/Sravana
31, 1895 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Harijan Women Branded with Hot Iron
Rod in Barari Village, Bihar**

*381. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR:
SHRI CHANDULAL CHAN-
DRAKAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether four Harijan women in Barari village in Bihar were branded with an iron rod by some persons; and

(b) if so, whether the culprits have been arrested and punished for committing such cruelty and indecency to innocent women folk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). A statement is laid down on the Table of the House.

Statement

According to information received from the Government of Bihar, on July 6, 1973, some persons of village Madhoban (and not Barari) under P. S. Madhepura, district Saharsa were alleged to have entered the house of one Shri Nand Keshwar Paswan, forcibly carried away four women of the house and branded them with hot iron rod in different parts of their bodies. In the course of investigation of the case, six persons were arrested and a charge-sheet under sections 148/149/452/342/307/324 IPC has been filed. The case is *sub-judice*. One of the accused was granted bail by the Court but on request being made by the po-

lice the bail has since been cancelled.

2. The Government of Bihar have reported that this incident was the subject of a Call Attention Motion in the State Vidhan Sabha and allegations were made regarding the conduct of the police and the medical officer. The matter has been referred by the Speaker to the Question Committee of the House. The report of the Committee is awaited.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: I am sorry to say that the statement which the Minister has laid on the Table of the House does not give adequate information about this ghastly and hideous act in a village of Bihar. May I know whether it was a fact that this particular incident in the village mentioned had taken place in the open so that hundreds of other people were witnessing this hideous act and if so, whether that information is available to the Minister.

Secondly, I want to know whether the Government are aware of the fact that this is not an isolated incident and such incidents were happening in all parts of India, particularly, in the rural areas. I want to ask this question. This is a very serious matter and you, Mr. Speaker, had already agreed for a discussion in the House on this matter. Sir, I want to know what steps the Government are taking to ensure the safety, security and honour of men and women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, particularly, in the rural areas. It is no use saying that the the matter is *sub judice* and we cannot do anything.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: It is very relevant to say that the matter is *sub judice* and, therefore, it imposes some restriction on the type of discussion we can have.

As regards the incident itself, we have given some facts. The incident is report-

ed to have taken place on 6th July 1973 and on the 7th July the Police went on the spot and registered a case. On the 7th July itself the Deputy Superintendent of Police went to supervise the case. So, we cannot say that there has been laxity on the part of the District Police authorities so far as this case is concerned.

As regards the other facts, I would not like to go into the details as the matter is before a court of law.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: My second supplementary is this. Sometime ago the hon. Prime Minister assured the House that she had instructed the Chief Ministers of the States to have a special cell in their governments to go into these questions of atrocities on Harijans. May I know whether this particular incident, barbaric as it is and ugly as it is, has also been under the active consideration of the cell of the Bihar Chief Minister and if so, will that report also be made available to this House so that the House may know what action, particularly, in terms of meeting out exemplary punishment to the guilty, has been taken?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The cell the Prime Minister has mentioned would not make reports to the Central Government. The whole idea of the Prime Minister taking up this matter with the State Chief Ministers was that they should personally take interest and see that cases of atrocities are properly taken note of, properly investigated and to see that justice is meted out to the backward classes and that the whole State machinery is used in such a way as to give protection to the backward classes and to see that the other benefits which should go to them also reach them.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: It is all on paper only. What is the Government doing in practice? That we want to know.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I know the hon. Member is making a very wild allegation that it is not in practice....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What is the wild about it? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: I seek your protection, Sir. I think it is very objectionable. We want to know what the Government is doing in terms of active steps.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मावलंकर साहब ने कहा है कि आप कागज पर काम करते हैं, व्यवहार में नहीं, इस में वाइल्ड क्या है ?

The hon. Minister himself is getting wild.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: It is no use making a general statement.

Times without number we have come before the House to say what steps the Central Government has taken and what steps we have asked the State Governments to take and it is the follow-up...

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: I seek your protection. I want the Minister to explain to me as to what was the wildness in my supplementaries... (Interruptions) This is a serious matter. Let him withdraw that expression.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: A mild person like him should not use such wild remarks... (Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHI: Shri Mavalankar said that it was only on paper. It was his that was wild, to say that it was only on paper and that nothing has been done. That is a wild observation and there is no cause for any apology... (Interruptions).

SHRI H. M. PATEL: This is not a thing which ought to be permitted. When a Minister says that the hon. Member makes a wild allegation... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): The point is that in this particular case, every care has been exercised. According to the information received by us, the Deputy Superintendent of Police and other officers went and a doctor was also sent. (Interruptions) and six persons under

serious charges under various sections of IPC were arrested. But was granted in one case..

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Why was bail granted?

SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT: Therefore, on behalf of the Government... (*Interruptions*)—the hon. Member should hear me—an application was moved and the bail was cancelled and the sixth man is also under custody and this matter has been mentioned in detail in the Assembly there. So, every care is being taken. So far as this question is concerned, it is not a paper matter. Every precaution is being taken and it is a matter of sadness and distress that such things happen. We feel distressed that under any circumstances such a thing should occur. Therefore, there is no question of merely saying that we are only working on paper. After all, all work is either by speaking or by writing.. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. The Minister has made a statement and he has given the details. Then I found that in spite of the latitude they are threatening and at the same time, they are aggressive..

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What aggressive?

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. I must say that your tone was very aggressive also. speaking together was for threatening. If the Minister described it like this, then you get annoyed. I must say that he has a right to say what he feels like. If you think it is an unparliamentary word, but I do not think it is unparliamentary. You describe others in worse terms even. **Please be patient all the time, do not be aggressive and threatening in your tone.** When the other person gets annoyed, you make a noise.

श्री चन्द्रलाल चन्द्राकर : बिहार में इस तरह की यह पहली घटना नहीं है, पहले भी इस तरह की घटनाएं हो चुकी हैं और वहां की सरकार ने कुछ रिपोर्ट भी भेजी है। इस बार जो वहां दुर्घटना हुई है उस के संबंध में क्या यह आश्वासन यहां से मिलेगा

कि जो अपराधी पाए जाएंगे उन को कठोर मे कठोर न केवल दंड दिया जायगा बल्कि साथ ही जो वहां की सरकार हैं या मुख्य मंत्री हैं उन को कुछ इस तरह मे चेतावनी दी जायगी कि इस तरह की दुर्घटना आये न होने पाए ?

श्री राम निवास मिर्चा : बिहार में पहले भी इस प्रकार की घटनायें हुई हैं, लेकिन उन घटनाओं में भी राज्य प्रशासन ने काफ़ी तत्परता से काम किया है। वहां के जो सीनियर पुलिस आफिसर हैं, उन्होंने उस विशेष क्षेत्र के डिप्टी-सुप्रीन्टेन्डेंट आफ़ पुलिस को भी सस्पेण्ड किया है। इस बात की कोशिश हो रही है कि इस प्रकार की जो भी घटनायें हों, उन को पूरे तौर से जांच की जाय। हम राज्य सरकार से इस के बारे में फिर निवेदन करेंगे कि सरकारी कार्यवाही सक्ती से होनी चाहिये—इस विशेष घटना के बारे में और दूसरी घटनाओं के बारे में भी।

श्री स्वामी, बहानन्दजी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह कोई नई बात नहीं है। हरिजनों पर अत्याचार होते ही रहते हैं। मेरा एक मुझाव है कि भारतवर्ष का गृह मंत्री किसी मेहतर को बनाना चाहिये—ऐसा तजुर्बा कर के देखा मेरा ख्याल है कि इस से हरिजनों पर जाय, कम होगा। वहां का एम०रो० हरिज जुन्म चाहिये, ऐसे काम हरिजनों को सौंपे न होना
..... (व्यावधान) जाय..

श्री अटल बिहारी वज्रपेयी केन्द्र में संविधान के अन्तर्गत परिगणित जातियों और परिगणित जन-जातियों के मामलों पर विचार करने के लिये एक कमिश्नर है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस मामले में केन्द्रीय कमिश्नर को कहा गया है कि वे मौके पर जाय और जांच करें तथा अपनी रिपोर्ट केन्द्र को दें।

दूसरी बात—मंत्री महोदय के वक्तव्य से यह स्पष्ट नहीं होता है कि इस सारे काण्ड का कारण क्या था, इतनी उत्तेजना क्यों पैदा हुई कि इस प्रकार से महिलाओं को उठा

लाया गया और उन के साथ इस प्रकार का बर्बरता का व्यवहार किया गया—इन के मूल में क्या कारण है ?

श्री राम निवास मिर्चा : हमारे केन्द्रीय कमिश्नर मीके पर गये हैं और आज भी घटना स्थल पर हैं। हम ने उन से निवेदन किया है कि इस के बारे में जांच कर के हमें अवगत कराये।

जहां तक घटना के कारण का प्रश्न है—यह तो मुकदमा चलने के बाद और जांच के बाद पता लग सकता है कि क्या सही कारण थे।

श्री उमाशंकर दीक्षित : इस घटना के बारे में मैं कुछ और बातें बतला देना चाहता हूँ। एक नाथन पासवान थे, उन के घर में यह घटना घटी। जिस प्रकार की शिकायत की गई है, जिन की और से यह अत्याचार हुआ है—मैं ऐसा तो नहीं कह सकता, लेकिन तथाकथित है, ऐसा कहा जाता है कि उन का लड़का मर गया। शिकायत यह की गई कि वह सांप के काटने से मरा, लेकिन वहाँ कुछ पिछड़े लोग हैं, सुपरस्टीशन को मानने वाले। उन्होंने कहा कि यह विल-क्राफ्ट से, जादु से मरा है—इसी भ्रम के कारण यह हुआ है। सांप के काटने से हुआ है या और किसी कारण से हुआ है, जादु-टोने का तो प्रश्न नहीं उठता, सिवाय इस के कि भ्रान्ति है, कुछ पुरानी रूढ़ियों की मुब्तला है, लेकिन प्रारम्भिक कारण यही दो हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में और ज्यादा डिटेल् में नहीं जाऊंगा। जब तक यह मामला अदालत में है, मैं ऐसी कोई बात नहीं कहना चाहता कि जिस से उस पर कोई अनुचित प्रभाव पड़े।

SHRI D. BASUMATARI: Sir, since from time to time, the serious matter of this kind has been raised in this House, you were good enough to consider this and appointed a Parliamentary Committee as watch dog for the purpose. I want to know whether it will be possible or not to empower this Joint Committee on the

Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to see and enquire into such cases and see that the State Governments expedited those cases.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, the Committee has got powers as have been approved by the House. This Committee can function only under such powers as are given by the House.

श्री बी० पी० मौर्वे : आदरणीय अध्यक्ष जी, जिस तरह की दुर्घटना या शर्पनाक वाक्या हुआ है, इस तरह की दुर्घटनाएँ हर नये दिन होनी रहनी हैं। इस को रोकने के लिये क्या ऐसी व्यवस्था करेंगे कि हर प्रदेश में एक आई०जी० रैंक का आदमी गेडयून्ड कास्ट्रस और गेडयून्ड ट्राइव्स पर जन्म न हो। पाये, उन की देखभाल के लिये, रखा जायगा ?

श्री राम निवास मिर्चा : राज्य सरकारों को हमारी हिदायत है किस प्रकार के जो घटनाएँ होती हैं, जहाँ भी जाति-पाँति की घटना हो, उस का रीजन रिपोर्ट केम की तरह में ट्रीट करें और उस की जांच हो। नोनिबर आफिसरों इस में परस्नल इन्टरेस्ट लेकर सुपरवाइज करे। राज्य स्तर पर कोई आई०जी० रखा जाय या कोई सेन बनाया जाय या मुख्य मंत्री का कोई निजी सेट-अप हो—यह राज्य सरकारों पर निर्भर है। लेकिन राज्य सरकारों ने विश्वास दिलाया है कि वह सब प्रशासनिक कदम उठायेंगे और पुलिस को सतर्क करेंगे ताकि इस प्रकार की घटनाओं की अच्छी तरह से जांच हो सके।

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Sir, the Minister, in his statement, stated that six persons have been arrested. But, the Calcutta edition of the *States man* dated 28th July, 1973 says that a dozen hoodlums of the same village stripped and tortured with the red hot iron rod. He says that only six persons have not been arrested. I want to know why the other persons have not been arrested. The paper further says that eight victims were sent to a doctor in Madhupura and the Police Station. They allegedly

lodged a written report. It appears that they accepted bribes from the assailants; the doctor also accepted the bribes and he is involved in this gruesome incident. Therefore, I want to know from him why the doctor was not arrested and why proper steps were not taken in this regard?

The hon. Prime Minister, in the House, stated that a Special Cell was being set up under the leadership of the Chief Minister of the State. But, in spite of that, in Bihar, this type of gruesome incident occurred. So, I want to know whether—in spite of the Special Cell being set up under the leadership of the Chief Minister such atrocities are committed on the harijans—the Government is prepared to institute an inquiry by a Parliamentary Committee into the horrible incidents.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Well, Sir, the matter is already before the Questions Committee of the Vidhan Sabha. When the matter came up in the Bihar Legislative Assembly, the Members were not satisfied with the answers given; or they wanted more facts. And therefore, the Speaker referred it to the Questions Committee of the Legislature. All the points regarding the doctor's certificate, the delay in registration of the case and other allegations or remarks made by the hon. Members and which were also mentioned in the debate in the State Assembly are all referred to the Questions Committee. We want to wait and see what they have got to say in the matter.

श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मझे दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि यह घटना मेरे ही निर्वाचन क्षेत्र से सम्बन्धित है। जहाँ तक मेरे निर्वाचन क्षेत्र का सम्बन्ध है, हमारे यहाँ यह पहली घटना है, हालांकि देश के अन्य भागों से प्रायः इस तरह की घटनाओं की रिपोर्ट आती रहती हैं। मैं केन्द्रीय सरकार से यह आशवासन चाहता हूँ—राज्य सरकारें जो कर रही हैं, वह तो ठीक है, लेकिन क्या केन्द्र सरकार इस तरह की कोई व्यवस्था करेगी कि आइन्दा इस तरह की घटनायें दोहराई न जायं ?

श्री राम निवारः निर्वा : केन्द्रीय सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में सचेत है और राज्य सरकारों से भी कहा गया है।

MR. SPEAKER: We have taken about 20 minutes already on this question. A discussion has already been fixed regarding this.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Apart from the fact that the Prime Minister has shown her interest in condemning these incidents and has appointed a cell, may I know whether any special meeting of the Chief Ministers will be convened to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future because this is not an isolated case of Harijans being tortured and they are being tortured in most of the States? May I know of the Chief Ministers to discuss this problem exhaustively with the help of the Opposition leaders?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The steering committee which has been recently formed under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister is meeting on 24th August, and this will be one of the points that will be discussed by the steering committee, so that when the national integration council machinery is activated, how these questions of atrocities and related matters could be tackled, will also be taken care of.

Report of Enquiry Commission into the Affairs of National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad

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*383. **SHRI VEKARIA:**
SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Report of the Enquiry Commission which was appointed by the Union Government to enquire into the affairs of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, has been since examined, and

(b) if so, the main recommendations made and action taken by Government thereon?