

ment is to encourage yellow journalism in this country? (Interruptions) Sir, he made a statement that there was no discrimination.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Sir, is it not a relevant question?

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think that it is a relevant question.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Sir, I seek your protection in this. My specific question to the Minister is this. Is it the attitude of this Government to encourage yellow journalism in this country?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lakkappa, I have already called Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Sir, May I draw the attention of the Minister to this fact that pressure was brought on the advertisers not to advertise in the papers that were critical of certain actions of the previous Government at that time? Would he make an enquiry into that and see that newspapers are protected from that kind of discrimination?

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: Sir, as I said earlier there have been certain things happening during the last nineteen months which we did not regard as correct. We would like to remedy them. But the process of remedy has to be initiated on the basis of specific complaints. That cannot be a general thing.

As far as general thing is concerned, I only said that the entire policy about advertising is being looked into and a comprehensive statement would be placed before the House.

As the hon. Member has just now pointed out, if all such instances are brought to my notice where pressure

had been exercised on any advertiser, whether in writing or orally, I shall certainly have the matter looked into and proper action will be taken.

### Naxalite Prisoners

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\*23. SHRI PRADYUMNA BAL:  
SHRIMATI PARVATHI  
KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Naxalite prisoners detained in various jails in the country; and

(b) whether Government propose to review their cases and release such prisoners against whom there are no specific charges or against whom false charges have been preferred?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH): (a) According to information received from State Governments, as on 25-3-1977, 645 Naxalites are under detention in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

(b) Yes, Sir. The State Governments are being advised to release all such Naxalites in detention except in cases where such detentions had been made on account of their recent indulgence in violent activities. The State Governments are being further advised that investigation and trial of cases involving Naxalites may be expedited.

SHRI PRADYUMNA BAL: Sir, the Hon'ble Home Minister has mentioned about only 645 Naxalite prisoners in the country. My information is that there are a large number of Naxalite prisoners who may be more than the number which the hon. Home Minister has mentioned. For examine, there are quite a number of prisoners in Orissa, Bihar and to so many other places. I think they have

not been included in this number. Actually, this number will run into several thousands in the whole of the country. I would like to know whether the government proposes to enquire into the details of the cases which are pending against them and what is the immediate step going to be taken about these cases?

**CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH:** My reply is based on the information supplied by the State Governments. If the hon. Member wants I will make further enquiries from the State Governments.

**SHRI PRADYUMNA BAL:** Mr. Speaker Sir, I have personal information as I have enquired into these cases as a member of a committee two years back that physical atrocities by the police and executive authorities were committed on the body of these prisoners. We found marks on their bodies. Hot iron plates were put on the breasts of a woman prisoner who was housed in Koraput jail. Her husband was also tortured who is also in Koraput jail. I would like to know whether enquiries will be made into such cases and the guilty punished. Some of the so called Naxalites have been killed in cold. All this merit investigation.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Home Minister has already said that he will make further enquiries.

**SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister in the context of the conditions in which these prisoners are being kept whether instructions have been issued that they should be treated as political prisoners and given proper treatment. Secondly, those cases which are pending whether they will be released on parole and given bail so that the conditions under which they are suffering are ameliorated?

**CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH:** I have already said that instructions are being issued for their release. As such, no further question about their treatment arises.

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT:** May I know from the hon. Home Minister whether he will enquire into the whole situation as the reply he has got from the State governments was because of the word 'detained' and not 'arrested under various charges'. There are thousands of people in prison on whom cases are being conducted for the last about ten years and the cases have not progressed much. In this connection may I also submit that because of the policy of the new government and the situation in the country whether his attention has also been drawn to the Resolution passed by CPI(M-L) on the 1st April, which shows that they are trying to abjure the application of violence and they are saying that CPI(M-L) is eager to participate in the democratic processes and eager to participate in the coming elections. In view of the new atmosphere they have created, will they see that the leadership of all the parties is released so that they can join with all of us to fight the wrong forces and join the mainstream of Naxalites?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The latter portion is not necessary as part of the question.

**CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH:** Am I expected to give a reply to the hon. Members? —There can possibly be only four categories: those who are detenues and no case is pending against them. About them I have already explained the Government's policy that the orders are being issued for their immediate release. There is another category against whom investigations into acts of violence are being carried on. We have asked for expeditious investigation. There is yet a third category of cases which are under trial. We

are still asking the State Governments to expedite the trial and to do their best to see that the cases are finalised as early as possible. There is yet a fourth category of those people who are being convicted. As regards these convictions, our policy is that they must run their full course. Law must have its course in regard to these gentlemen.

**SHRI JAGANNATH RAO:** May I know from the hon. Minister if a reference has been made to the Orissa Government about the number of Naxalites in Orissa prisons including those against whom some cases are pending because Naxalite activities in Orissa are on the border and I know in the Koraput district some Naxalites are in prison. I want to know whether any reference has been made to Orissa Government and what is the reply of the Orissa Government, because the hon. Minister has said that the information received from the State Government says that none from Orissa seems to be in jail.

**CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH:** I am having queries made from all the State Governments.

**DR. BALDEV PRAKASH:** I would like to know from the hon. Home Minister that he has just said that in case of violence State Governments have been asked to expedite the investigation. But we know that the cases of violence have been falsely fabricated. In those cases the Union Government will take universal steps to institute an independent Central enquiry to go into cases whether they are false cases or even those false cases were against us when we were put into jail. So, what steps the Central Government will take to investigate whether those cases are false cases or true cases of violence had happened.

**CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH:** It is only the courts which will be

able to decide whether the cases are false or true. In such cases which are under trial, Government cannot possibly appoint any other authority to decide whether they are actually guilty or not. It is for the courts to decide. I can only say that the proceeding authorities will take notice of the attitude of the Government, but we cannot say to them that the cases be withdrawn which, perhaps, the courts will not allow and there may be fresh investigation for them.

**श्री मधू लिमये :** तथाकथित नक्सलवादियों और नक्सलवादी कैदियों के ऊपर जो अत्यं चार किए गए हैं, जैसे भागलपुर विधिविद्यालय के प्रो० चक्रवर्ती के एक लडके को, प्रशान्त कुमार को भागलपुर जेल से बाहर लाया गया और गोली से पुलिस ने मार दिया और रिपोर्ट कर दी कि वह भाग रहे थे इसलिए उनको मारा गया है, उनमें क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार स्वयं कुछ दखल देगी विटनेसिस मौजूद हैं इस के बारे में। इस तरह के जो उदाहरण हैं क्या उनकी जांच करवाने के लिए कोई हिदायतें राज्यों का दी जाएंगी या केन्द्रीय सरकार स्वयं इन मामलों में कुछ दखल देगी ?

**चौधरी चरण सिंह :** अगर माननीय मित्र मेरे नोटिस में ऐसे कोई केस लाएंगे तो सरकार स्टेट गवर्नमेंटम का हिदायतें देगी कि वे उनको इन्वेस्टिगेट करें और अगर गवर्नमेंट इस मिलसिले में संतुष्ट नहीं होगी तो हम इस बात पर विचार करेंगे कि केन्द्रीय सरकार उन मिलसिले में क्या कर सकती हैं।

**DR. SUSHILA NAYAR:** I should like to know from the hon. Minister, how many of those prisoners were women? Has the hon. Minister any information with regard to the torture committed on women prisoners?

**CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH:** I have no information.