

Report of the Standing Committee of Agriculture (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1999-2000) relating to the Ministry of Water Resources.

- (v) Fifth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in Twenty-second Report of the Standing Committee of Agriculture (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1999-2000) relating to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

### Re. KILLING OF DALITS IN KARNATAKA

**श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम** (उत्तर प्रदेश): सभापति जी, आप मुझे एक मिनट की इजाजत दे दीजिए।

**श्री सभापति** : किस बात के लिए?

**श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम** : महोदय, अभी 11 तारीख की रात को कर्नाटक के कोलार जिले के एक गांव में 200 आदमियों ने अमानवीय ढंग से 7 दलितों को ज़िंदा जलाया है। यह बड़ी दुखद घटना है। ऐसी घटनाएं सैकड़ों वर्षों से हो रही हैं, आजादी के बाद हो रही हैं। इस पर ह्यूमन राइट्स कमिशन ने भी चिन्ता व्यक्त की है। अमरीका में बैठे हुए चिन्ता व्यक्त की है। मैं आपके माध्यम से इस सरकार का, खास तौर से हमारे गृह मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि यह अमानवीय कृत्य दलितों के प्रति कोई नया प्रकरण नहीं है। हम बराबर इस संबंध में सदनों में चर्चा करते रहे हैं।

**श्री सभापति** : देखिए, मैंने कालिंग अटेंशन के लिए कहा है। मैंने आपको कहा था कि स्पेशल मेंशन दूंगा।

**श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम** : मैं एक वाक्य कहकर समाप्त कर रहा हूँ। मैं आपके माध्यम से भारत सरकार के गृह मंत्रालय से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए, आप भले ही बजट में सख्त कदम उठाएं, न उठाएं लेकिन इन मामलों में सख्त कदम उठाने चाहिए, सामूहिक जुर्माने करने चाहिए, बड़े पैमाने पर गिरफ्तारी होनी चाहिए और वहां के जन प्रतिनिधि और जो अधिकारी हों उनके खिलाफ ऐक्शन लेना चाहिए।

**श्री सभापति** : हो गया।

**श्री अमर सिंह** (उत्तर प्रदेश): यह बहुत गंभीर मसला है...(व्यवधान)

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU** (Karnataka) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what is unfortunate is that, instead of arresting the accused, the Dalits are

being arrested. The Dalit families, who are the victims of this incident, are being arrested and harassed. It is a very serious situation. I request the Chairman to allow this to be raised in this House. We have given notice of a Special Mention also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have told him that I will give him  
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, you know that this is not a political issue. It is an issue which is very sensitive in nature.

श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत (राजस्थान): दलितों को जला दिया है...(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN : But the Calling Attention Motion cannot be removed. Now, it is the turn of Calling Attention at this time.  
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, I am not objecting to the Calling Attention Motion. It is also equally important.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have told you that you give me a notice, and I will allow you tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, why not today? It is really surprising to see the silence from the Congress Party on such an important issue. This issue is not related either to the B.J.P. or to the Congress. My point is that the House, which is in Session, should really be concerned about it, and should take up the issue on a priority basis. We have taken up such issues which were not of that much importance, and which could have been avoided. But this is a situation ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu) : Sir,  
...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत : जला दिया है उनको...(व्यवधान)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, she is trying to divert the attention of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is not the issue. The issue is that, not only the Dalits were burnt alive, but they are also being harassed by the State Government and the Police. That is why we want the House to take up the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... We have seen that when a similar thing had happened in Orissa, the Chief Minister was changed. ...*(Interruptions)*... A similar incident had happened in which one man was burnt alive, and the

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Chief Minister was changed in Orissa. But here is a situation where seven persons including women and children were burnt alive. Sir, what can be more horrible than this? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal) : I wholeheartedly support the issue that is being raised, and I expect the Home Minister to make a statement. I also appeal to the Government to take adequate steps for the protection of the interests of the Dalits in Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*..

श्री राघवजी (मध्य प्रदेश): भारत के इतिहास में आज तक ऐसी घटना नहीं हुई है...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, one person was killed in Orissa and the Chief Minister had to go. ...*(Interruptions)*... Their families are being harassed. ...*(Interruptions)*... My humble request to the Chairman is that we should take up the issue on a priority basis. This issue should not be discussed in a partisan manner.

श्री नरेंद्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश): : इस पर आपकी कृपा हो जाए तो चर्चा करा दें...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Leader of the Opposition.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we share the concern. ...*(Interruptions)*...

We share the great anguish and concern of the hon. Members on this ghastly incident. We are second to none in saying that every effective measure must be taken to stop the atrocities on Dalits and other oppressed sections of our community. I understand that the hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka has gone to the place. If the House would like to discuss this, we have no objection to this matter being discussed if the rules permit it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

We have also no objection to the hon. Home Minister making a statement. All of us are interested that these ghastly incidents should never recur ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन : आप चर्चा कराने की अनुमति दे दीजिये।...*(व्यवधान)* विपक्ष और सत्ता पक्ष दोनों चाहते हैं...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I suggest ...*(Interruptions)*...

I request the hon. Home Minister to make a statement today at an appropriate time, and, on the basis of the statement, we can discuss the issue as has been asked for by all of us. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन: इसकी प्रायर्टी से चर्चा कराइये।...*(व्यवधान)*... दलितों पर अत्याचार हुआ है, चर्चा होनी ही चाहिये।...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I am suggesting: let the Leader of the House agree to request the hon. Home Minister to make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: It has to be discussed in Parliament. I appeal to you, Sir, to understand the mood of the House. Let us discuss this issue ...*(Interruptions)* ...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Let the Leader of the House say when the Home Minister will be in a position to make a statement on this.

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन : इस पर आज ही आधे घंटे की चर्चा करा दें तो ज़्यादा अच्छा होगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह ऐसा मामला नहीं है जिस पर स्पष्टीकरण से काम चल सकता हो।...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Let us discuss the issue ....*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन : पूरे सदन की यह मांग है कि इस पर चर्चा करा दीजिये। ...*(व्यवधान)*... प्रायर्टी के आधार पर चर्चा कराइये। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राघवजी : पहले चर्चा हो फिर जवाब होना चाहिये, उनका वक्तव्य आना चाहिये।...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Everybody is agreed. Why are you shouting? ...*(Interruptions)*...

The Press has already noted it. Don't worry. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Everybody is agreeing. Why are you shouting? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन : आपकी अनुमति हो जाए तो सब शान्त हो जाएं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Opposition and others have given their suggestions. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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One suggestion is that the Home Minister should make a statement and then we will have a discussion on it. The other is that we should have a discussion, and then the Home Minister will reply to it. I would like to know the view of the Leader of the House.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): It is entirely possible that the Home Minister will come to the House with the facts of the matter. He will also obtain from the State Government concerned the information on what action it has taken, what action it has not taken and why the incident took place. Some kind of a preliminary report has to come from the State Government before the House can be seized of the matter. There has to be a statement from the Union Home Minister. The Government will act as per your direction. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You decide about it. You talk to the Home Minister. If he makes a statement here, we will discuss about it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Let the Home Minister make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन : सभापति जी, समय बहुत कम है, चर्चा नहीं हो पाएगी। ...*(व्यवधान)*... चर्चा कराइये। समय नहीं है और समय न होने की वजह से तुरंत चर्चा कराने की अनुमति दें। चर्चा होती रहे और उसके बाद प्रधानमंत्री जी अपना वक्तव्य दे सकते हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: May I suggest ...*(Interruptions)*...

Just one minute: एक मिनट सुन लीजिये ।...*(व्यवधान)*...

Sir, I am suggesting to you to fix the time. Let us fix the time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन: स्टेट गवर्नमेंट जल्दी रिपोर्ट नहीं भेजेगी, समय लगेगा। ...*(व्यवधान)* समय नहीं है, चर्चा पहले होनी चाहिये।...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री गुरुदास दासगुप्त: एक मिनट सुन लीजिये। हम लोगों का सजेसन है।...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन: मैं वही कह रहा हूं। मैं आपकी बात कह रहा हूं कि चर्चा पहले होनी चाहिये

**SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:** Sir, my suggestion is let us fix up the time.

**श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन:** चर्चा पहले होनी चाहिए ...(व्यवधान)...

**SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:** Sir, I suggest that you specifically mention the time when we should have a discussion on this.

**श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन :** अगर राज्य सरकार से ब्योरा मांगेंगे आप तो इसमें बहुत देरी हो जाएगी और फिर चर्चा निरर्थक हो जाएगी। समय नहीं है ...(व्यवधान)...

**SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:** Let us have a discussion at 3'o clock.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal):** On what basis can the discussion be there?

**SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:** On the basis of the Government's statement. Let the Government make a statement at 3 o' clock. ..सुन लीजिए हमारा सजेशन Sir, you direct the Government to make a statement at 3 o'clock.

**श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन :** आपोजीशन मेम्बर्स के नेता ने हां कर दी है, सदन के नेता ने भी हां कर दी है। आप अनुमति दे दें ...(व्यवधान) चर्चा हो जाए। उसके बाद गृह मंत्री जी अपना स्पष्टीकरण ले आएँ या जो भी कहना हो कह दें। लेकिन इस पर चर्चा हो जानी चाहिए ...(व्यवधान)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I would like to know at what time can the Home Minister make a statement.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** I think what the Leader of the House has stated should be the position. Let him consult the Home Minister to ascertain whether the Home Minister will be in a position to make a statement right now. And if the Home Minister wants to make a statement *(Interruptions)* Please, there is no difference on these matters. If the Home Minister says that he is in a position to make a statement, you can call the Leaders of all the political parties for a discussion in your Chamber to find out in what modality we can have a discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*... If you want to disturb the House, I have no objection. You can go on doing that. It is your business and we will be too happy. ...*(Interruptions)*... Carry on.

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन : मैं इससे सहमत नहीं हूँ ... (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : आप उनको बोलने दीजिए ...

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन : नहीं, यह चर्चा हम तुरंत चाहते हैं ... (व्यवधान) ... हम प्रतीक्षा नहीं कर सकते हैं। हम चाहते हैं कि इस पर चर्चा हो। प्रतीक्षा करने का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ... (व्यवधान) ... हाथ जोड़कर प्रार्थना है कि चर्चा की अनुमति दें ... (व्यवधान) ... मैं अपने नेता सदन से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि वे भी सहमति दें ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत : सात लोगों को जिंदा जलाया गया और वे हंस रहे हैं, बड़ी प्रसन्नता व्यक्त कर रहे हैं। बड़े खेद का विषय है ... (व्यवधान) ... बड़े दुख का विषय है।

श्री सतीश प्रधान (महाराष्ट्र) : चर्चा शुरू करें। गृह मंत्री जी बाद में आकर बात कर सकते हैं। इसमें आपत्ति नहीं है। लेकिन चर्चा शुरू करें। यह बहुत गंभीर मामला है। लोगों को जलाया गया है फिर भी हम दूसरे विषयों पर चर्चा करना शुरू कर दें तो यह ठीक नहीं है। इससे देश में गलत संदेश जाएगा जो सदन के लिए अच्छा नहीं होगा। तो चर्चा शुरू होनी चाहिए इसी विषय पर जैसे वेंकैया नायडू जी ने बताया है कि चर्चा शुरू करें और गृह मंत्री जी सब इन्फार्मेशन कलेक्ट करके कभी भी बयान दे सकते हैं ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, my purpose of raising the issue is very simple. I request the other side also to understand that. Seven or eight Dalits, including women and children have been burnt alive. The Parliament should express its concern on that. ... (Interruptions) ... What is this?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: We agree with you.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, my point is after all it will be State Government which will be ultimately taking action. I am not going into that. If there is to be an inquiry, it can be done, but Parliament should show that it is very much concerned and agitated at the horrible situation, which has been reported in the papers. It was not a clash. It was a brutal act committed by some people. They set fire to their huts and seven or eight Dalits, including women and children, have been burnt alive. That being the case, Sir, you have seen umpteen cases in Parliament where such issues have come up in the House and they were discussed. My interest is to see that the House expresses a unanimous view on this and expresses its anguish, so that a correct message goes. It is not a political issue, but a social problem. I am

happy that the Leader of the Opposition has said: "Yes, have a discussion in whatever way it is." My point is instead of allowing other issues to be taken up now, let us take up this issue and have a discussion. In the mean while a message should go to the Home Minister to collect the information from the Karnataka Government and also find out what action is being taken by the Karnataka Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute, please. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please, please, the question here is, it is a very sensitive matter. The most downtrodden community of the country has suffered. The House seems to be unanimous on this. There are methods of showing the concern, the unanimous concern of the House. One is by a Short Duration Discussion ; and the other is every Member can speak. But, here again if we want to regulate and show the consensus of the House, then, how is it to be done? If we agree that one Member from each political party can express his concern, whatever he has to say, then, it will mean the concern of the whole House. There should be only one Member from each political party.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : If you say like that, then, it is difficult for me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have made a suggestion. I am only trying to find out a consensus as to how it could be done in the shortest possible way.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : My point is, whatever you say in the House becomes the final modality of discussion. That is why I have suggested. I have no problem if we have a discussion immediately. But a modality has to be worked out. It can be under Rule 176 or Rule 180 or in whatever form.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is what I am suggesting.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Please call some of us to your Chamber. In the meantime, the House can transact the other business. We will decide in your Chamber in which form it can be discussed. We have no problem in having a discussion either under Rule 176 or under Rule 180 or even under a substantive motion, under Rule 170. But let that be discussed because we have had procedural wrangles for days together in these two areas, Rule 170 and Rule 176. Under this, the Leader of the House has to indicate the time. That has been the position. You can do it under Rule 180.

You can admit a Calling Attention Motion. Right now you can admit it for a discussion. But the Members must give notice of a Calling Attention Motion. Therefore, my submission to you would be, you can call some of the leaders. Everyone would like to have a discussion on this matter. There are no two opinions on this. I entirely agree with Mr. Venkaiah Naidu that if this House can express its concern over the ghastly incident which has taken place, then, it will have a salutary effect. But please decide about the modality of the discussion. If you just say here that from each party, we will have one speaker, then, a party having two Members will have one speaker and a party having 60 Members also will have one speaker. Then, that will be a little difficult. That is my submission.

SHRI M. VENKAIAHA NAIDU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no division on this issue. The issue is, Members want to express their views; and the House, collectively reflecting the views of the nation, sending a message across to the people. If further action is needed, then, the Government of India can intervene. There is a request from some people, some organisations, for a CBI enquiry. Can it be done? What should be done to get a CBI enquiry ordered? All these things have to be discussed. We have already given a notice. It is not that suddenly we have raised it and we want to disrupt the House and doesn't want other issues to be taken up. The Calling Attention Motion which is being raised by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta is also equally important. I am not denying that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us understand that a Calling Attention Motion has been admitted. I had called him. He has raised the issue. In the meantime, he said, "I want one minute." It is very sensitive matter. Everybody is concerned, deeply concerned. We have to find out the *modus operandi* as to how it can be unanimously done without any differences. The question is in process. I would like all of you to come to some common process so that at least we do not fight on the process.

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : यहां तो 170 का सवाल ही नहीं है ।

श्री सभापति : आप कहते हैं अभी शुरू कर दीजिए, वे कहते हैं प्रोसेस में करके, बात करके, टाइम रख दीजिए। होम मिनिस्टर को बात करने की बात है । उनको भी साथ में लेने की बात है । श्री शंकर राय चौधरी ।

SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY (West Bengal) : Sir, of course, I agree with the House that a discussion should be held on this ghastly

incident. But the only thing I would like to know is how many such discussions were held when similar atrocities were committed in Bihar, when Hindus were killed in Jammu and Kashmir, when people were killed in Nagaland, when we have atrocities in Tripura daily. I fully agree that these are all atrocities. Is it going to be the rule that we should have a Calling Attention Motion every time we have atrocities of this type. Unfortunately, our country has surfeit of such atrocities every day. Thank you.

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, killing of people, women and children belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is altogether different. The hon. Member has to realise the gravity of the situation. It is different. That is why, a number of times, discussions have taken place in this House. During the last about seven years of which I am aware of.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want to know from the Leader of the House as to how to go about it so that we can have a method of agreeing to discuss unanimously and express our views.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Considering the views expressed by the hon. Members and considering the sensitivity of the issue, I do not think that the House wants to get involved in a procedural wrangle. The issue is not of which particular rule of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business you will take up this under. There are really two proposals. One is that the Union Home Minister comes here and he obtains, before coming here, from the State Government, information. It is essentially the responsibility of the State concerned to maintain law and order. Let that issue not be confused. The issue itself is larger. But the responsibility is of the State concerned. What the Union Home Minister can do is to obtain from the State the information that is available to make a statement on the basis of the information that is in his possession and the hon. Members can seek clarifications on it. That is one way to do it. I am agreeable to that. The other is--what you have suggested, Mr. Chairman--that one Member from each of the parties concerned gives voice to his concern, whatever suggestions he wishes to give can be given; and then they all be compiled and the Home Ministry can take action on them. I am agreeable to that also. I do believe, Sir, that this is an issue that does not warrant getting entrapped in procedural wrangles. And, I will abide by whatever you decide in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to tell Mr. Roy Choudhury.

Parliament has always been concerned about the conditions of or anything that happens to the minorities or the Scheduled Castes and women. Let me tell you that. So, the concern can be expressed. If something happens more often, then we have to do something. We do express our views. And Parliament's concern is a very healthy situation, a very healthy thing, which shows that the country is one on whatever happens to the minorities or the Scheduled Castes or the weaker sections. So, we can express these things. *...(Interruptions)...* Let him understand. I am only telling him. The question is only of the modalities. There are two. One is, if you want to merely express your views and do not want to hear anything from the Government, that is a different thing. If you want to hear from the Government, the right course, as suggested, is that we ask the Home Minister, get a time from him, maybe this afternoon, and if something can happen, he can get the information and then he makes a statement. Members can seek clarifications. And all the proceedings can be sent to the State Government.

SHRI B.P. SINGHAL (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, one person speaking from each party is a very nice ruling you had given. That could take place and then later on *...(Interruptions)...* the issue is important enough to warrant the Home Minister's statement later on at any point of time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Even after the Home Minister makes a statement, there will be clarifications. It will be duplication of the same thing. At that time, the Chair can allow a Member from each party to seek clarifications.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : सभापति जी, यही ठीक रहेगा कि एक-एक पार्टी के एक-एक मेंबर को बुला लीजिए ।

श्री सभापति : लेकिन पहले होम मिनिस्टर को टाइम देना चाहिए । आप चाहते हैं आज, तो आज किस वक्त ? लीडर ऑफ द हाउस उन से पूछ लें कि वह किस वक्त यहां आ सकते हैं, उस के बाद ...

Let a Member from each party seek clarifications. If he has to say anything, he can say. Then, the whole thing can be sent to the State Government. *...(Interruptions)...* I think the best way would be, we ask the Leader of the House to find out the time when the Home Minister can come. Can it be around 3 o'clock? I do not know what his business is in the Lok Sabha. At 3 o'clock or so, the Home Minister can come. In the meanwhile, he can collect the information. It will be an informed debate. And then we can

go about it. The question is, I do not know what his engagement in the Lok Sabha is.

**SHRI JASWANT SINGH:** I will communicate this to the Union Home Minister. In fact, if you can give me a little flexibility, it can be between 3 and 4.30 P.M. There are other issues which can be taken up. Between 3 and 4.30 P.M., we will have a statement from the Home Minister, after he has obtained whatever information he can from the Government of Karnataka. He will come with whatever information he is able to obtain from the Government of Karnataka, and certainly, the hon. Members can seek clarifications.

**SHRI B.P. SINGHAL:** Sir, you have given your ruling. But when the king has died just now, I can postpone my mourning till tomorrow! It is just like that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** As a matter of fact, hon. Members the concern has been shown by all sections of the House even just now and the concern must have reached Bangalore through the wire. There is no doubt about it. When the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition speak, all parties speak, and it means the concern of the House. Procedurally, we can express much better. Now, the right of the Member to raise a Calling Attention Motion should also be allowed. During the whole Session, we could not have many. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

### **CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

#### **Situation arising out of mounting non-performing assets of banks**

**SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal):** Sir, through this Calling Attention Notice, I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to the situation arising out of the mounting non-performing assets (NPAs) of many of the public sector banks and the need for urgent steps for restoration of the health of such banks.

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, asset classification and income recognition norms were initially applied to banking sector in 1992 and banks started asset