who looks after the MPLAD Scheme ...(*Interruptions*)... If I am wrong, I stand corrected. But I will verify it.

श्री गांधी आजाद: धन्यवाद महोदय। महोदय, वृद्धावस्था पेंशन वितरण में जो आय का प्रमाण-पत्र देना पड़ता है, व्यावहारिक रूप से देखा जाता है जो जरूरतमंद लोग हैं, वे आय का प्रमाण-पत्र बनवा नहीं पाते हैं। इसके कारण उनको पेंशन नहीं मिलती और जिनको जरूरत नहीं है वे लोग फर्जी आय का प्रमाण-पत्र बनवाकर इसका लाभ उठाना चाहते हैं और उठाते भी हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि 65 वर्ष से ऊपर के वृद्धों की देश में कुल कितनी संख्या है और उनमें से गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे जीवनयापन करने वाले वृद्धों की संख्या क्या है? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे जीवनयापन करने वाले सारे वृद्धों को पेंशन दी जाती है या नहीं?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, It is a specific question concerned with the widows, and he is asking about the total number of widows who are eligible below the poverty line. That information is not readily available with me. I shall try to collect it, and, then, convey it to the hon. Member.

With regard to part (a) of his supplementary, as I have already mentioned, if there are specific complaints, they will be enquired into. With regard to getting the certificate of their eligibility, this is looked after by the State Government, and if there are any complaints, they can address them to the District Administration or to the State Administration.

*423. [*The questioners (SHRI AMAR SINGH) was absent. For answer vide Page 27 infra.*]

Atrocities on Dalits in Gujarat

*424. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned, "Upper-caste men force Dalits to leave village," appearing in the Hindustan Times of 30th July, 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Dalits are being forced to leave the village in Junagarh, Gujarat under threats and intimidation by Upper-caste people; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken by Government to check these activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) on 25.06.2001, about 15 Upper-caste people threatened the Dalits of Khumbadi village in Junagarh district of Gujarat to vacate the waste-land occupied by the Dalits. An offence was registered against them by the Vanthli Police Station under sections 143, 506(2) of the IPC and under section 3(1)(10) of the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989. All the accused were asrrested and sent to judicial custody. Necessary police bandobast was maintained to protect the Dalits and their property in the village. Meanwhile, about 20 Dalit families sat on a fast from 26.6.2001 to 31.7.2001 in front of the District Collector's Office to regularize the waste-land occupied by them. A meeting was held on 31.7.2001 by the Collector Junagarh in his office in which the District Social Welfare Officer, local MLAs Shri Samatbhai Rathod and Shri Kanabhai Pulabhai and the Harijan leader of Khumbadi village were present. A decision was taken at the meeting that the proposal regarding regularization of land would be sent to the Government of Gujarat within one month and the sufficient police bandobast would be provided to the Harijans in Khumbadi village. With this assurance,the dalits concluded their fast and returned to Khumbadi.

On 1.8.2001, a get-together (Sneh Milan) was arranged between the upper caste people and the dalits in which around 300 men, women and children from both the communities participated alongwith their local leaders. Members of the district administration were also present on the occasion. Subsequently there has been no tension in the village. However, police bandobast and vigil continue in the village.

(c) 'Public order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Government of India has been advising the State Governments, from time to time, to give more focussed attention to improving administration of criminal justice system to ensure prevention of atrocities against Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women and other vulnerable sections of the society. The advisories issued by the Government

include, *inter alia*, sensitisation of police personnel in the matter of implementation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955; recruitment of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the police force; identification of atrocities prone areas with a view to preventing crimes, creating awareness among the weaker sections about their rights, etc.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir, I do not contest part (b) of the answer. I request the Government to follow it up and see that the land is distributed to the concerned people, with intimation to me.

So far as part (c) is concerned, I am not satisfied with the answer. The thing is that despite all the efforts that he has mentioned in part (c), the number of caste atrocities is increasing every day. An important feature is, when the country is getting hotted up with the Hindu revival, the domination of the Upper-caste in the State apparatus is increasing. From the figures stated in the reply, that he has given in the other House, I find that the incidence of caste atrocities are increasing. So far as Gujarat is concerned, it constitutes 15 per cent of the total caste atrocities committed in the entire country. So far as Gujarat is concerned, eleven districts are affected by this.

The second important factor is that the number of acquittals is increasing; the number of convictions is declining. This proves the caste domination in the State. I wish to know what steps the Government is taking. Special economic steps are required. Reservation alone won't do, and, therefore, land reforms etc. are also required.

Now in Durban, an International Conference on Racism is taking place. There is a demand from India that the matter of casteism should be included in the agenda. Casteism is a much more heinous crime against the humanity. Why is the Government not agreeing to include this in the Agenda?

श्री ईश्वर दयाल स्वामी: सर, इन फेक्ट, आनरेबल मैम्बर ने पहले ही इस बात को मान लिया है कि काम किया जा रहा है और उन्होंने यह पूछना चाहा है कि जो वादा किया था 15 दिन के अन्दर-अन्दर का, जो मुख्य रीज़न है, उसका क्या हुआ, 15 दलितों के साथ ज्यादती हुई है। एक तो सराहनीय बात यह है, संतोष की बात यह है कि गुजरात गवर्नमेंट ने, डिस्ट्रिक्ट अथारिटीज़ ने, डिस्ट्रिक्ट कलेक्टर ने सब लोगों को इकट्ठा बुलाया, अपर कास्ट के लोगों को भी बुलाया, शान्ति भोज का आयोजन किया और शान्ति मिलन किया और वहां पर शान्ति है। इसके अलावा उन्होंने यह बात पूछी है जिस जमीन का झगड़ा है, जो दलितों को अलाट होनी है, जो बंजर जमीन है, वह कब

तक अलाट हो जाएगी। डिप्टी कमिश्नर ने पहले ही वादा किया है कि एक महीने के अन्दर-अन्दर केस बना कर वह स्टेट को भेज देंगे और स्टेट उसके ऊपर कार्यवाही करेगी और जमीन अलाट हो जाएगी। शान्ति स्थापना होना और शान्ति मिलन होना, दोनों लोगों को मिल जाना...(**व्यवधान**)... जहां तक प्रश्न के दूसरे भाग का संबंध है कि एट्रोसिटीज़ बढ़ी हैं, यह बात बेसिकली गलत है। मैं फिगर्ज़ से आपको बता सकता हूं इस अगस्त हाऊस के मैम्बर्ज़ जानते हैं, मैं कोई नई बात नहीं कह रहा हूं, हमारे कांस्टीट्यूशन मेकर्ज़ ने इतने प्रोविज़न कांस्टीट्यूशन में प्रोवाइड किये हैं। दो एक्ट पास हुए हैं, पार्लियामेंट ने पास किये हैं। एक प्रिवेंशन आफ एट्रोसिटीज़ एक्ट है और दूसरा सिटीज़न एक्ट भी है, इन दोनों के मुताबिक काम हुए हैं। जहां तक कनविक्शंस का ताल्लुक है, कनविक्शंस भी कम नहीं हैं, काफी हैं। ...(**व्यवधान**)

श्री जीवन राय: मेरे पास फिगर्ज़ हैं, लोक सभा में आपने फिगर्ज़ दी हैं, मैं आपको फिगर्ज़ दे सकता हूं। ...(**व्यवधान**)

श्री ईश्वर दयाल स्वामी: पूरे भारत की फिगर्ज़ मैं आपको दे सकता हूं। इन सारी फिगर्ज़ के मुताबिक ...(**व्यवधान**)

श्री जीवन राय: मैं भी दे सकता हूं फिगर्ज़।...(**व्यवधान**)

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: फिर सवाल क्यों पूछ रहे हो। ...(**व्यवधान**)

श्री ईश्वर दयाल स्वामी: आप कह रहे हैं कि देश में अभी तक भी दलितों के खिलाफ अत्याचार हो रहे हैं और बढ़ रहे हैं, यह बिल्कुल, सरासर गलत है क्योंकि फिगर्ज़ भी यह शो करते हैं...(**व्यवधान**)

श्री राजू परमार: अभी रीसेंटली गुजरात में...(**व्यवधान**)

श्री ईश्वर दयाल स्वामी: मैं सारे देश की फिगर्ज़ आपको बता रहा हूं...(**व्यवधान**)... सारे देश की फिगर्ज़ बता सकता हूं, उस हिसाब से कम हुई हैं...(**व्यवधान**)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. (*Interruptions*)... Question Hour is over. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री राजू परमार: आप क्या बात कर रहे हैं। गुजरात में...(**व्यवधान**)... लोगों को जिंदा जला दिया जाता है...(**व्यवधान**)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. Papers to be Laid on the Table. ....(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, on this issue we need a discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give a notice. Question Hour is over.

श्रीमती जमना देवी बारूपाल: सरकार कानों में रूई डालकर बैठी है।