

[Shri David Ledger]

explanation to the entire nation. The entire nation has been taken for a ride.

SHRI M.M. JACOB : The hon. Member has presumed certain things and is going on on the basis of this presumption.

SHRI DAVID LEDGER : No, Sir. It is not a matter of presumption. The Home Minister of India is yet to visit Assam. He is on record, I think, Sir, that he has no business to visit Assam because the army is there. I feel that the Home Minister has taken the country for a ride.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. NAGEN SAIKIA) : The Minister of State for Home has visited Assam twice.

SHRI DAVID LEDGER : The Minister of State for Home has visited. We are grateful to him. But Mr. Chavan is yet to visit.

SHRI M.M. JACOB : We are one.

SHRI DAVID LEDGER : Let us hope so.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Sir, we demand a statement from the Home Minister on this issue.

[The vice-chairman (Shri Bhaskar Annaji Masodkar) In the Chair]

Agreement between India and China to resume border trade

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN (Sikkim) : Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman.

Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention and, through you, the attention of this House, and that of the Government, to two things. The first one relates to the various agreements that have been signed between the Government of India and China recently. Both the Governments need to be congratulated on these achievements and on the progress and improvement they have made in the bilateral relations. We in Sikkim, who live in border areas, are happy that the border problems are now nearing solutions and peace along the Himalayan ranges is more firmly secured. A step forward in the normalisation of the borders is the signing of the recent agreement on the resumption of border trade. We congratulate the two Governments on this. But at the same time, we in Sikkim feel a little bit disappointed that Sikkim has been given a step-motherly treatment by the Centre. Before the border was closed, the main border trade was carried out through Sikkim. In fact, a flourishing

border trade through the State existed before 1962 and that trade contributed significantly towards the economic prosperity of the State. The international boundary on the Sikkim side has never been disputed. The border here has been peaceful for a long time. Adequate facilities and infrastructure exist on both sides of this border for carrying out a very flourishing trade. Both sides have motorable roads right upto their respective borders. Therefore, it is logical for us in Sikkim to presume that the border trade would naturally be resumed through Sikkim. However, this border trade is, instead, being resumed through the borders of U.P. where the trade will be of a very limited nature and where adequate facilities are yet to be provided. The border trade there will also not add significantly to the economic prosperity of such a large State whereas in Sikkim, where resources are scarce, the resumed border trade will bring immense prosperity to the whole State. Hence I would request, through you, that the Government of India take up, with the Government of China, the question of resuming border trade through the State of Sikkim immediately.

Sir, I have taken up this matter with the Prime Minister and also with the Commerce Minister, through my letters sometime ago and I was hoping that during the visit of the Chinese Prime Minister to Delhi, the matter would be sorted out. But, unfortunately, as this has not been sorted out, I am raising it again in this House through this Special Mention.

Sir, the other thing is also somewhat related. There was an incident which took place at Chanakypuri yesterday around 3 p.m. when a group of Tibetan school and college girls were holding a peaceful protest march. The police suddenly swooped down upon them and arrested the whole lot. Not a single policewoman was among the arresting force.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Mr. Topden, just listen. You have been permitted only with regard to the agreement.

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN : This is related to border trade.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : How can it be related to the agreement?

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN : Because peace in the border is important.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) :

You are going beyond your Special Mention. Please conclude.

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN : Sir, when the Tibetan children, all young girls, were peacefully demonstrating, asking for peace and justice in Tibet, the Delhi Police swooped down upon them and arrested all of them. While they were arresting them, they mishandled and molested the girls and, while pushing them inside the vans, they tried to lift the dresses of the girls...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : What is this, Mr. Topden ?

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN : ...and while they were being taken to the police station, they were molesting the girls and, in the scuffle, the police van overturned.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Please conclude. Other wise nothing will go on record.

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN : And all the girls were injured. I went to the hospital... *(Interruptions)*...

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal) : He is alleging. The Home Minister should take note of it.

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN : I went to the hospital yesterday, I saw all these girls. They were all under 19 years of age. They were all badly injured. A few of them were very seriously injured. One has an arm broken. Because the police people in the van...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : We can't permit all this... *(Interruptions)*..

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN : When the police in the van were trying to misbehave with them, the protested and the police molested them... *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Please conclude. Nothing will go on record now.

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN : I would like to bring this to the attention of the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Nothing to go on record. It is

not going on record because it is beyond your Special Mention.

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN : Sir, I had mentioned in the morning that this is a thing. I would also like to bring up, when I asked for the Special Mention. I was told...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Were you permitted by the Chair ?

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN : Yes, Sir, by the Deputy...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Then you can make it. If you were permitted, then you are entitled.

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN : Anyway, I am not raising anything controversial.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Nothing shows that but that you have been permitted only with regard to the agreement between India and China to resume border trade. Now, the incident which you are referring to has nothing to do with this.

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN : Sir, I mentioned this in the morning when I asked for permission to speak, that there were two topics that I would like to bring up.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : One part is all right. But the other part is whether he is entitled to raise this point or not. But a certain point has been made out and what he says in the House is extremely serious—what the Member says in this House. I think the Minister of State for Home Affairs should take urgent note of it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Professor Bhattacharya, he can take care of this subject, I believe.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Then they can take care of everything. Why should we mention anything here ?

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN : I am not trying to argue or quarrel with anybody

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Please conclude.

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN : It is a very unfortunate incident that occurred yesterday. I would, in all humility, like to bring this to the attention of the Home Minister because we on the borders, who live on the borders, are the same ethnically as the Tibetans on the other side. We have very close cultural ties, very close religious ties. It hurts us, those of us who are sentinels on the border in the Himalayas, that our Tibetan brothers and sisters in this city, in this city of our great democratic country where we are civilised....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Please conclude.

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN : These innocent girls were molested. Okay, you don't allow a procession. If they break a law, arrest them. But they were molested, they were beaten up and their hair pulled. I think, this demands an enquiry by the Home Minister, and action should be taken against the guilty persons.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : The Minister is responding to it.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA (Bihar) : I support the demand which he has made because this is a very unfortunate incident.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB) : Thank you very much.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Every-day we read in the newspapers that women are molested, harassed and beaten up, and atrocities are committed against them. It is more unfortunate that this is happening in the capital city of India.

SHRI M.M. JACOB : Let me have a chance to enquire into what has happened. If there is any truth in it, then, it is very bad. I will enquire into it. If there is anything substantial, I will come back to the House.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : I thank the Minister for the prompt reaction.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Now we proceed to the remaining discussion on the terrorism.

RE. DEMAND FOR ENQUIRY INTO LATHI-CHARGE AND ARREST OF C.P.I. PROCESSIONISTS IN CHANDIGARH ON 16-12-91

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, before you go to that subject, I would like to draw the attention

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Again on the same subject?

SHRI N. E. BALARAM : No, I don't want to raise that again.

This is another development. Today at 2-00 p.m. in Chandigarh there was an incident like this.

In Punjab now all political parties are carrying on serious political campaigns. A number of public meetings are being held. Processions are being held. Deputations are being allowed. All these activities are going on for the last two months more or less peacefully.

But today at 2-00 p.m. a big procession under the leadership of my party, was going to the Governor's residence for handing over a memorandum. It contained a package of demands of the people of Punjab. But, unfortunately, half a kilometer away from the Raj Bhavan this procession was stopped. It was not allowed to meet the Governor. There was some debate, there were discussions and arguments. Ultimately what happened was that the police started lathi-charge.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : He will look in to it. That is all. What can be done ? It is out of rules.

SHRI N.E. BALARAM : I am not saying out of rules.

The people were severely beaten up. The police beat up not only the processionists but the General Secretary of my party, Comrade Inderjit Gupta. He is a Parliament Member. He was arrested and taken into custody. Along with him about 150 leaders of my Party were taken into custody. They are all outstanding leaders. Some of them are national leaders like Mr. Satyapal Dang. (Interruptions).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Mr. Balaram, I agree, the subject is, no doubt, very important.