

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Del?y in laying the twenty-sixth report by the Deputy Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in India

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): Madam Deputy Chairman, the Twenty-sixth Report of the Deputy Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in India pertaining to the period July 1985 to June, 1986 in the printed form was received in the Ministry of Welfare in September, 1989. Thereafter, relevant extracts of the Report were sent to the concerned Central Ministries and State Governments/Union Territories for their comments. The process was complete on 2nd July, 1991. The copies of the Report were sent to the Raiya Sabha Secretariat on 12th July, 1991. I assure the House that in future the explanatory statements concerning all these things will be tabled in time. This much I assure

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Satisfied?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI P UPENDRA CAndhra Pradesh): Madam, this is 1985 Report. The remarks have come in 1991. How can we be satisfied?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Tamil Nadu): This Ministry is Rip Van Winkle Ministry So, we excuse it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, that Report related to 1985-86. And it was submitted to the Ministry in 1989. And it was submitted to the Rajya Sabha, in 1991. It merely stated the facts but did not give the reasons. We are not satisfied. But then, since he is Mr. Sitaram Kesri, we cannot press further.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for being kind to Sitaram] i. Actually he came yesterday and he wanted to say. He gave the explanation. I hope next time it would not happen.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu) Madam, because he is supporting the Mandal Commission, we are not pressing.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now Special Mentions. Shri Prakash Ambedkar. He is not there. Oh, you are there. Orientation has changed. You were somewhere here and went over there.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Nominated): I am in the middle. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He was left of the centre be'fore.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, your orientation must be changed now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: My orientation is always in the centre and straightforward.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Hanging of two boys and one girl in . Meharana. near Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Nominated): Madam Deputy Chairman, I want to refer to the incident of hanging of two Scheduled Caste boys and one Jat girl which took place in Village Mehrana, Uttar Pradesh. Madam, this incident has shocked the nation and has spread fear in the Scheduled Caste communities. Atrocities on Scheduled Castes take place daily. Some of them are noted and action is taken on them. But many, due to fear, are not reported, and no action is taken against them. What is more glaring in this case is that the Panchayat of the village Mehrana sat and discussed as to how the punishment should be inflicted. One aspect of it is that the State Government and the Central Government have assured that proper action will be taken against those who

[Shri Parkash Jashwant Ambedkar]

are involved in the murder. But what we have not considered over here is that in many parts of India—this is not the only incident— I can give a number of instances—there are instances in a number of villages where the Panchayats have sat and taken a decision collectively as to how and the form in which the Scheduled Castes should be punished. Today we have no law, no machinery in which these panchayats can be stopped from taking such actions. The panchayats have started functioning as a parallel Government, as a semi-judicial Machinery. As we have laws to deal with the local aspects, we have to ensure that these kinds of incidents, atrocities, which take place in which the panchayats who have to uphold the social objectives of the society, misuse the panchayat system, are not allowed and we should have a machinery, we should have laws in which these kinds of culprits are punished. Secondly, these incidents cannot be stooped with the help of the Government machinery. Many a time, the police and the administrative officers....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a special mention. It is not a debate.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: I am not debating. My only request is that, looking into this aspect. I wish the Government, for the self-defence of the Scheduled Caste people, comes up with a plan of arming these people.

Killing of pilgrims at Pilibhit

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government as well as the House to a very serious matter. Madam, it was reported earlier in the newspapers that on 13th July 10 persons were gunned down as suspected Punjab militants in an encounter with the police in Pilibhit. But today the Times of India has brought out the

real fact behind it. Those killed in an encounter were not suspected Punjab militants, they were actually pilgrims. They left Punjab 20 years ago. They used to live in Pilibhit and they had a bus to go to Sikh Sarai at Maharashtra. The Government and the local administration wanted them to leave not only Pilibhit but / Uttar Pradesh also. Because they did not leave Uttar Pradesh and did not satisfy the local administration, the local police, particularly the PAC had organised and engineered this attack on these pilgrims. In the name of a fake encounter they killed actually the pilgrims. The SP of Pilibhit had identified these persons. Most of these persons had no connection with the Punjab militants. They were actually farmers living in Pilibhit and they were on the pilgrimage. Madam, this is very serious in the sense that innocent pilgrims are being shot down in fake encounters in the garb of fighting Punjab terrorists. But here in this case it is the handwork of the Hindu fundamentalists and the present Uttar Pradesh Government and its police administration is involved in this murderous attack on Sikh pilgrims. I am glad that the Home Minister and Leader of the House is present today and I would appeal to him to institute an inquiry into this so called shooting down of the Punjab terrorists in Pilibhit in a fake encounter and take appropriate action against the people who are involved in killing these pilgrims in the name of fake encounter with the Punjab terrorists.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): This is a very outrageous matter. We would like to associate ourselves. It is unpardonable. It has very serious consequences and I would request the Home Minister to react to it.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I sought permission of the Chair to associate myself with what Mr. Ghosh has said. While endorsing what Mr. Dipjn