

ciation and the faculty doctors of the Cardio-Thoracic Vascular Surgery Unit and the ultimate result is that there is a lot of inconvenience to the patients. There is an erosion of the name and credibility of this Institute. The Out-Patients Department, the clinics, the operation theatres, all these are affected. The OPD has come to a standstill and only three or four operations are done per day and most of the patients are discharged and the Institute wears a deserted look. The working in the Institute has almost been paralysed. The resident doctors have said that the strike is because of the maltreatment and misbehaviour by the faculty members towards the resident doctors. They have threatened with rallies and hunger-strikes. But at the same time, the CTVS faculty members are saying that the resident doctors have pasted posters which are in bad taste. The Director of the Institute and the Ministry of Health have become passive onlookers only.

They have appointed an Inquiry Committee, of course, headed by Mr. Govind Narain. But both the parties have refused to hold talks with the Inquiry Committee. In the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, strikes are very frequent and they are either by the Resident Doctors' Association or the Karmachari Union or the Nurses Union or the Faculty Unions. Not just in this hospital, but in any hospital, strikes are not justifiable at all. Everybody is having a union, but the patients are not having any union for themselves and that is why these strikes are taking place. So, it is the duty and the responsibility of the Government to protect the rights of the patients.

Sir, there should be team spirit amongst the various categories of doctors and other employees in any hospital. Otherwise, it will be dangerous and it will lead to the death of the patients. Such a team spirit and co-ordination are lacking amongst the staff in this Hospital. So, my submission is that the Government

should come forward and hold talks and see that the strike is ended. It should also see that such strikes do not take place at all and, if possible, it should apply the provisions of the Essential Services Maintenance Act. So all measures should be taken to end the strike immediately. The Government should see that not only this strike is ended, but also no such strike takes place in any hospital in the future. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): Now, Mr. Salaria. Not here. Yes, Mr. Ambedkar.

Killing of Dalit Christians in Tsundur Village in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh

SHRI PRAKASH YASEWANT AMBEDKAR (Nominated): Sir, I would like to bring, through you, to the notice of this House and the Government an incident that took place at Tsundur in Andhra Pradesh on the 6th of August.

On that day, that is, on the 6th of August and prior to that also, for about two months, there was tension in this village, Tsundur. On this day, the Circle Inspector and the Sub-Inspector who were attached to different police stations were brought to Tsundur to look after the law and order situation there. Sir, these two police officers went round the Dalit Christians' hamlet stating that "there is a police raiding party which is coming behind us to arrest you and if you have to save yourself, run away into the fields." This incident happened from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Some of them were having their food. Without washing their hands, they just left their homes and went to the fields. While these were crossing the fields, some of the villagers from the other villages, Mattur and Alapada, were waiting for these people to cross the fields. And these Dalit Christians were attacked as soon as they crossed the fields. And nearly nine of them were murdered and in all 12 persons were

[Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar] missing on that particular day. Today's reports say that 5 of them have returned back. But what about the other seven people? Nothing is known.

Sir, I visited that village and I had talks with the police officers and the IG who was sitting over there. They have informed me that they have definite knowledge that these two police officers are involved in it. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh visited that scene three days later, and there was virtually total boycott of the Chief Minister. The action of the Chief Minister when he was there was that he said that he was going to suspend those police officers, and in the case of those whose names have been given involving in that incident, if they are not arrested and if they do not surrender to the police, their property will be attached. 15 or 17 days have already passed. Some of those accused have gone scot-free. The assurance given by the Chief Minister that the properties of those who are accused will be attached has still not been fulfilled. And even the assurance which is given by the Chief Minister and by the police officers who were investigating that these two police officers will be suspended has not been fulfilled. They have not been suspended. The matter does not rest over here. The Government has given Rs. 1 lakh of relief to them. But the victims have refused to take it. On the other hand, there are some groups who have offered to these victims two lakhs of rupees to state the names of those who were involved in the incident. The Government goes on giving certain names, and I would not go into those names. But the situation today is that Tsundur and the surrounding villages are still under tension. Anything might happen. I would request the Home Minister one thing. I know he will state that as far as law and order is concerned, it is a State subject. But it is not a question of law and order only. It

is a question of the other aspect also. There is retaliation from these Dalit Christians and they have been liberally supported by some of these groups. If you allow these incidents to pass by, without taking cognizance of them, in other places also where there will be atrocities on these Dalits, the same feeling of retaliation will come back and then there will be a chaos...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): Please conclude now.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Therefore, may I ask the hon. Home Minister to make a statement as to what action the Government has taken? It was reported in the press that special courts will be set up. But what I heard today is that no special court has been set up. A grant of Rs. 1 lakh given by some Congress (I) General-Secretary was also refused. No attempt has been made by the Government to see that that amount is accepted. Sir, today, in the city of Chundur again the agitation is going on on the same issue. I want to know what steps the Government is going to take to see that the situation is defused and culprits are arrested.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the happenings at Guntur are the most barbaric. Never before in independent India such a ghastly incident had occurred, involving the weaker sections. Even today, a number of people who were involved in the atrocious crime are at large and many of the culprits have not been arrested. There are charges that the Policemen on duty were colluded with the culprits. They were a party to the incident. Though one or two policemen have been suspended, we demand more stringent action against the police officers.

There is a lot of tension not only in Guntur District but also in a number of places in the State. Agitations and counter-agitations are taking

place. The action taken by the State Government is quite inadequate to meet the situation. Mr. Ambedkar has rightly pointed out that no steps have been taken so far to defuse the situation. Anything might happen anywhere in any part of the State. Even the open trial by the special courts, promised by the Chief Minister, has not yet started. The Special Court has not been instituted. The judicial inquiry, as ordered, has also not commenced so far. Even in the State Legislature also the matter could not be discussed in full. The protesting MLAs were bundled out and they were suspended for a week. Even today, one of the ex-Ministers is on an indefinite hunger strike in Hyderabad demanding action against the police officers and arrest of the other culprits. Therefore, the situation is very serious. I request the Minister of State for Home Affairs to take up the matter with the Andhra Pradesh Government immediately and see that stringent action is taken against the culprits and also take immediate steps to defuse the situation in the State. He was in Hyderabad, yesterday, when the police officers were waiting for him at the airport I was also there. I don't know whether he has first-hand information of the events in Andhra Pradesh, I want to tell him that there is a complete breakdown of law and order in Andhra Pradesh and the Centre has to take notice of it.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by my colleagues. The situation is very tense in the whole State of Andhra Pradesh because the caste war has started, retaliations have started, *Rasta Roko* has started, one against the other. All these things have taken place. In Chundur itself which is a very big village this horrible massacre has taken place. It is a savage attack by the oppressive castes against the Harijans. The blood of almost 15 people flowed into the Tungbhadra

drain there. Only 9 bodies could be found and other bodies are still there. The point here is, such a savage attack had taken place not because of any political vindictiveness not because of any economic grievance or any such quarrel, but the whole thing has happened because of the arrogance of the upper castes there. Led by the landlords of the village, they were taking cudgels against the Harijans who wanted equal rights. Some mistakes might have been there, but the point I want to make is, the whole village is almost dominated by Congress people. The sarpanch is a Congress man; Mandal Prajja Parishad Chairman is a Congress man; the MLA is a Congress man, and also the Deputy Speaker of the State Assembly. And all these incidents are taking place. This tense situation had been there for more than a month. Social boycott of the Harijans was there executed by the upper castes and it is known to the Congress party. There is Congress party in the Government; the Centre is also ruled by the Congress party. The point is that all these atrocities have been taking place in the State. How can they ensure that we are able to get rid of this casteism and restore caste amity? People are aroused by caste considerations and all these things are taking place. The Congress party should squarely bear the responsibility for this. The Harijans in the village voted for the Congress, and for one month this tense situation prevails and they did not intervene, they did not try to see that the matter was settled. That is why we demand, and the people of Andhra Pradesh are demanding that if there is any sense of shame for the Congress Ministry there, it should resign. Many stringent steps have been proposed by our friend. But at the same time, this fact must also be seriously taken into consideration; otherwise the caste war would spread and it would pose a danger for all of us. The Prime Minister coming from that state should have visited that place. But he did not care for it.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): I want to associate myself. Thank you for giving me this opportunity... (*Interruptions*).

The situation at Chundur village, Guntur district is offending. Actually, the upper caste people wanted to suppress the Harijan community in those areas. The hon. senior Member, Hanumantha Raoji has said that there is no political vindictiveness behind it. Actually, it was only a clash between two groups in the village. The Chief Minister immediately rushed to the spot and to control the situation, he has deployed police force. All the Ministers were helping in this, so that normalcy could be restored there. But close relatives of a Telugu Desam M.P. who got elected from there, were the persons who instigated it and they were responsible for the massacre... (*Interruptions*.)

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh): Who No, no... (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): Dr. Sivaji, you may speak when your turn comes.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: They are blaming Congress party. But actually the relatives of the Telugu Desam M.P. are involved in the rioting and killing of the people. So, it is the Telugu Desam party and their leadership who are answerable to this House and to the people.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: It is very irresponsible on the part of our colleague to say... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will he ask his M.P. to resign? Will he tell that M.P. to resign?

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will you your Deputy Speaker to resign?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You are blaming Congress; but your party MP was there.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Can you ask your Chief Minister to resign?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Demand was from your side.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Whoever may be the culprits, they must be punished.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): That is right. That should be the spirit of the House. The culprits should be booked.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I agree with that. The culprits involved should be definitely booked and they should be punished.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh): It was on record that the Chief Minister has said that even if his relations were involved in the crime, they would be dealt with. That means, obviously, some of the people who are involved in this sordid affair are related to the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister himself agreed.

SHRI H. HANUMANATHAPPA (Karnataka): It is a very serious matter. It is disturbing the whole country.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I am charging the Telugu Desam MP for having used his relatives in these incidents.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Shri Narayanasamy does not know about this. During the course of the election, our Telugu Desam MP was not even allowed to go to the village. It was a completely Congress dominated village. The votes he got were also only of two digits, that is, about 50 to 60 votes. Let him refer. During the course of the campaign, he was not allowed to go to the village.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Tsundur village happens to be the mandal headquarters with a police station. For the last three or four months since some incidents took place, heavy police bandobust has been put. The higher officials including the DSP and the Sp have been

constantly visiting that place. In spite of the police bandobust, with the connivance of the police officials, the DSP and others have ransacked the Harijanwadas and thrown them away literally into the tiger's mouth. The upper-caste people in that village belonging to the same community to which the Chief Minister belongs have killed more than ten Harijans and they packed the dead bodies into gunny bags and threw them into the drain. A dozen and a half more bodies of the people are still to be traced. A Harijan doctor working as a Civil Surgeon in Tenali, Dr. Ravichandra who was the brother of Mr. J. R. Pushparaju—the Minister in Telugu Desam regime—committed suicide as he could not withstand doing the post mortem of the killed Harijans. Even 3 or 4 days back, the Andhra Christian College was attacked by the upper-caste people. Not only in Guntur, but in several other places, such incidents have taken place. As mentioned by my friend in the morning, a woman was stripped and paraded in an open bazaar in front of 10,000 people in Chalama-kurti village in Nalogonda district. Since the Congress party came into power, the upper-caste people belonging to the same community as that of Shri Chenna Reddy and Shri Janardhan Reddy have been resorting to all sorts of atrocities on Harijans and other weaker sections, killing them, stripping and parading them in the open bazaar. As mentioned by Shri Narayanasamy, nobody involved in the incidents is related to the Telugu Desam MP. I would like to advise Shri Narayanasamy not to make any irresponsible statements against Telugu Desam MPs.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): I would like to say one or two sentences. I come from Guntur district. Our friends have only referred to the atrocities committed by the upper-caste people on Harijans. Unfortunately, several backward class people have been victimised...because of the retaliation by the

Harijans. Houses were burnt. Whose houses were burnt? These were of backward class people. Persons belonging to the washermen community, barber community and several other backward communities have fled from there. When we talk about these things, we have to be dispassionate. There is no point in criticising one political party or the other. What is the reason? There is social injustice. There are social inequalities. (*Time-bell rings*). Just two sentences, Sir. Social inequalities are growing. Economic disparities are increasing. Are we doing anything to remove these inequalities? Every day, we are talking about the atrocities on Harijans. But what are Harijans doing there? What about the backward class people? Many people have referred to the atrocities in Tsundur. But they did not refer to the atrocities committed on the backward class people. I would ask them, why? Therefore, justice will have to be done to the backward class people also. Justice has not been done to them so far.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am not going to enter into a discussion on this subject. I am sorry some Members were trying to politicise the issue and abusing each other.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Who?

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Some Members. (*Interruptions*) You cannot provoke me. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Because of factional politics, your Party people are politicising this. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. M. JACOB: You cannot provoke me.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTALAH: They have not talked about the atrocities committed on the backward class people. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. M. JACOB: I have been in politics for the last forty years. Sir, this is a matter on which all of us are equally concerned. Such issues are really important and serious.

I only wanted to inform the House, through you, that this is a matter in regard to which the Andhra Pradesh Government has ordered a judicial enquiry on 12th August. Three months' time has been given to the Commission to submit its report. I do agree that this is an important issue. I do not minimise the importance. But as a judicial enquiry has been ordered, I do not find any reason for us to spend more time discussing this today. This is all I wanted to say. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): I would like to know whether the Government agrees for a discussion, a full-fledged discussion on the atrocities now being committed on the weaker sections of the society throughout the country? Will the Government agree for a discussion? It is not a question of Andhra Pradesh only. In other parts of the country also, they are taking place.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Why do you want a debate here? The Business Advisory Committee is meeting at 4 p.m. today. You can take it up there.

Functioning of the Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA (Assam): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the functioning of the Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Limited—briefly, TRIFED—which is a Central Government undertaking. It has been working against the interests of the tribals and the country as well.

As it has come out in the newspapers, in a deal with a U.S. Company, the Managing Director of TRIFED very recently signed an agreement to sell Niger seeds at the rate of 785 dollars per tonne against the previously settled rate of 800 dollars per tonne, causing a loss of Rs. 57 lakhs. Niger seed is a forest produce, gathered by the tribals. On 13th March, 1991, TRIFED's Executive Director sent a note to the Managing Director stating that Berger and Company of San Francisco was ready to buy 5,000 tonnes of Niger seeds at the rate of 800 dollars per tonne. The Executive Vice-President of the Company was invited to Delhi and a discussion lasting 26 hours took place to arrive at an agreement. At that time the Managing Director of TRIFED asked the Executive Director to go ahead, but subsequently the Managing Director became silent and returned the file without order on 9-4-1991. But surprising everybody, on 5-6-1991 an agreement between TRIFED and Berger and Company had been signed and according to this agreement, TRIFED will sell 5000 M.T. Niger seed at the floor price of 755 dollars per metric tonne. The present Managing Director took over the charge in October, 1990. Later on, the Managing Director is trying to use the TRIFED neither in the interest of the tribals nor of the nation. Everybody knows in whose interest the Managing Director is working and for whom Rs. 57 lakhs were to be lost by the country.

It is also surprising that in TRIFED all excepting tribals are getting benefits. Sometime back, the Works Manager of the factory, who was absconding from service for about 7 years, was appointed as the General Manager violating the procedure of recruitment. He has been entrusted with high responsibility of planning and development of TRIFED. Moreover, the present Managing Director it is alleged, has no interest in procuring the products of the tribal areas so that the concerned people can be benefited but only running on his own