

[Shri Narayan Kar]

Minister. Food crisis, crisis in supply of essential commodities, unemployment and under-employment among rural poor, etc. lead to a deep economic crisis and to starvation deaths in tribal areas.

In this situation, I demand a statement from the Union Home Minister about the pre-planned attack on the satyagrahis throughout the State. The Home Minister should not keep silent. The Central Government should come forward to restore the democratic rights of the people in Tripura. I demand a judicial inquiry headed by a sitting High Court Judge on the police firing at various places on the 4th of May. Thank you.

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY (West Bengal): Madam, I associate with him.

Sri Lankan Government's threat to repatriate about one lakh plantation labourers of Indian origin

SHRI S. MADHAVAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam Chairperson, I would like to invite the kind attention of the Government, through you, to an important matter. The Sri Lankan Government has recently threatened to repatriate one lakh plantation labourers from Sri Lanka. It is an off-shoot of the 1964 Sirimao—Shastri Agreement. Twenty-five years have elapsed and many things have changed. Even many of the people who opted for Indian citizenship died. We cannot compel their grandsons to come to India. It is because of the failure of the Sri Lankan Government, the agreement was not implemented in 1964. The Sri Lankan Government was not able to provide assistance to the people who opted for Indian citizenship because of their own financial difficulties. Under these circumstances, now the Sri Lankan Ministers have openly threatened that they will send back one lakh plantation labourers who had

nothing to do with India for the past thirty to forty years. I would request the Government to have a fresh dialogue with the Sri Lankan Government. Before doing so, the Government must consult the plantation labour leaders of Indian origin like the present Minister Thondaman and his party. They should be consulted before arriving at any conclusion on receiving these repatriates from Sri Lanka. I am afraid the Sri Lankan Government wants to take the Indian Government for a ride, because of the change in the Central Government, they think that the present Government will go against the policies of the previous Government. That is the reason why they are trying to throw the blame upon the Indian Government. I would request that this repatriation issue must be negotiated afresh and our Government must strongly protest that they will not take back these plantation workers whom we agreed to take back thirty years back.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I would like to associate myself with the view expressed by my esteemed colleague, Mr. Madhavan, here. After that agreement, when the repatriates were taken here, an assurance was given to them and hopes were raised in Sri Lanka itself that life would become all right once they came here. But when they came here, life was hell for them. Therefore, nobody was prepared to come over here at that time. This is not their fault. For no fault of theirs, they have been victimised. In the year 1948 itself, ten lakh plantation workers were thrown out. They did lose their citizenship right also. This is the type of persecution that has been going on all these years. Now the Sri Lankan Government says this one lakh repatriates should be taken here. This Government should not agree to this point. Already more than one lakh refugees are there in Tamil Nadu. That problem should be settled. So, we should not, at any cost, accept the demand of the Sri

Lankan Government. This is what Mr. Madhavan has brought to the notice of the Government, I would urge upon the Government not to accept what the Sri Lankan Government is putting to this Government.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :

This is for the first time that we have a discussion about Sri Lanka in a peaceful atmosphere and there is no noise. With cease-fire we have discussed it.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Peace is also prevailing in the North-East because the L.T.T.E. is ruling there.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :

Shri S. P. Malaviya—not here.

Shrimati Sarala Maheshwari—not here.

Shri Ajit P. K. Jogi—not here.

Shri Kahnu Charan Lenka—not here.

Shri Shankar Dayal Singh—not here.

We had inconclusive discussion on the continuous atrocities on persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Now we shall continue it. We want to finish. Home Ministry, everything. At last we can finish all our business for today. Now Dr. Vijaya Mohan Reddy.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Continued atrocities on persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in various parts of the Country—
contd.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, the atrocities on Adivasis are going on and every year atrocities are increasing and this is provided ade-

quately in the statistics presented by the Government. We should go to the root cause. I initially stated "atrocities on Adivasis". They are the original inhabitants of our country and every system that has come in, slavery or feudalism, has tried to perpetrate this kind of a slavery and bondage. A section of our people have been kept outside our civilised functions. They were to reside outside the villages, drink from separate wells and their utility is only to work on the lands of feudals, to do all types of jobs for a pittance and absolutely there is no safety for them. This is a kind of situation which has been inherited in the very system. And to defend this kind of exploitation, religion has been bent down and this has been included in the Varanashrama Dharma and untouchability has been defended by as big a seer as Puri Shankaracharya. The gravity of the situation is such that from generation to generation, this poison is injected into the minds of people. That is why it has become a grave danger to the stability and the successful development of our country. For so many years Government has been spending money to ameliorate the conditions of these sections, but because of the exploitative system that is existing in villages, those powerful people who have cornered all these benefits have become richer and their fields have become better. But the plight of these untouchables, the Harijans, is becoming every day more and more deplorable. Their existence has itself become a question now because the landlord's land surrounds their settlement. They cannot go out even for purposes of ablution except to the landlord's land. That is why at every stage, even to collect wood for cooking they will have to depend on the landlord's land. That is why at every stage, there is an opportunity for these aggressive elements to interfere with the living of these communities. Unfortunately, Madam

3.00 P.M. elements to interfere with the living of these communities. Unfortunately, Madam