

**SHRI KAMAL MORARKA :** Sir, the Government has changed. The system of briefing party Members separately has also changed. The Government functions in its own way. Members of the House are all equal. I have my own views. ....(Interruptions).... If the Government has decided to lease this aircraft... I wish to place on record my heartiest congratulations to the Minister for taking a very prudent, sensible and economically sound step. Mr. Suresh Kalmadi has made two points. One is, the Indian Airlines Board has been bamboozled ....(Interruptions)....

**SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI (Madhya Pradesh) :** He is not associating.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY) :** He has taken permission from the Chair. That is why he is speaking. Please carry on. (Interruptions)

**SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Karnataka) :** It is a sub-debate of the debate on Indian Airlines. (Interruptions).

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY) :** Please be brief.

**SHRI KAMAL MORARKA :** Sir, I would be briefer than Mr. Kalmadi was. I am not extending the scope beyond what Mr. Kalmadi said. I do not know what is the objection. My views may be different from him but I thought dissent is the essence of this House. (Interruptions). My views are in conformity with what Mr. Kalmadi used to say. I do not want to take much time of the House. The earlier the Indian Airlines Board is superseded, so much better for the country. It is high time the Indian Airlines Board is sacked lock, stock and barrel. Number two, Mr. Kalmadi has said, the attempt is to hang the Airbus. Sir, I submit it is better to hang the Airbus than to hang the passengers. Thank you.

**SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra) :** Sir, I remember that when Mr. Morarka took part in this discussion, he had suggested this and next day, I read it in the newspapers that the Government had already decided this and that had appeared in the press. I am saying either the news was leaked or it may be his personal view. Is it a coincidence or was the news leaked ? As I understand the four new Airbuses which are still to be delivered, you are going to sell them at a premium. That is what. I have read in the newspapers. It shows that no other airline will take it unless it is a very good aircraft. I would like to know, if the aircraft was not good, the price will be less. But what I have read in the newspapers is that it is going to be sold at a premium. If so, when the report has not been received as yet, why the Government is in a hurry in selling the aircraft which they are going to receive ?

**SHRI KAMAL MORARKA :** Sir, he has referred to my name. I may tell him that in my speech on the discussion of the Civil Aviation Ministry, I never talked of leasing. I talked of selling and I am very happy that in leasing, the option of retaining or selling is kept with the Government and it is a very brilliant idea. (Interruptions).

**SHRI SURESH KALMADI :** They are selling for aircrafts also.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY) :** Prof. Sourendra Bhattacharjee—absent. Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

#### Gang-rape of Bodo women

**SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan) :** Sir, I was told my turn will come later. .

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY) :** I called your name earlier.

**SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :**

Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-Chairman. This is a real privilege of getting a chance earlier than my schedule. Sir, on 10th of May, 1990, Mr. Brahma, the leader of Bodo, whose *Shradha* ceremony was going on in Assam, who was the President of the Bodo movement—I will request Mathur Sahib, once you hear it, you will be concerned about it. It is not a matter of joke. It is a very serious matter. On the mid-night of 10th May, 1990 at least hundred people of the armed forces of Assam Rifles, Madhya Pradesh Rifles and Assam Police Task Force and Madhya Pradesh Special Armed Force, surrounded five villages namely: Baghmara, Agramuri, Bodo Bazar, Rabanguri, Akhra villages and eight other villages of Barpeta District. All the menfolk had gone for *Shradha* ceremony. They were not in the villages. They had asked the women not to get out of their houses. After surrounding the villages, two or three policemen went inside each house. After some time, people heard the cries of the women who were being molested in each house. In each house they were being molested and there was no help obviously. The security forces who are actually supposed to look after the property and the security of the people of this country, were the people who were raping. Fourteen girls were gang-raped. Those who were courageous enough to release themselves from them, 26 of them, came running out of the houses, in the fields. Some were injured. Like this, 26 plus 14, 40 girls were directly either molested or raped in that area. I would like to mention here that it is a shame not only for Assam, not only for the security forces, but for the entire country where we honour the womenfolk, where we look after them, where we look at them with great honour. These security forces from the Centre are not sent for this kind of work. I consider all the girls of Assam, whether

Bodo or non-Bodo, to be sisters of every other citizen in the country. Security forces are sent from the Centre to help the State Administration to maintain law and order in the State and, under no circumstances, to unleash terror among the ordinary, peace-loving, citizens of the country, far from raping innocent and poor girls. Such activities of the security forces must be taken very seriously. All efforts should be made to book the culprits and they must be punished with the maximum penalty at the earliest possible time. Otherwise, delayed justice may prove to be no justice.

At this juncture, I would like to add that even the ULFA activists are our own brothers and sisters. They are moving in a wrong direction under the misguidance of the enemies of the country who are trying to disintegrate the country. I like to warn the Central Government. As per the request of the State Government you may send Central forces to Assam to control the activities of the ULFA. But, under no circumstances, such forces should be allowed to take advantage of their position and try to rape or torture the ULFA activists who are otherwise as much our brothers and sisters as other citizens. Such culprits should be punished immediately so that our trust in such security personnel is not lost. Instead of feeling secure, we will feel more insecure if these kinds of activities continue to happen. I understand that the All-Assam Tribal Women's Welfare Federation has vowed to bring the culprits to book. The victims must be rehabilitated by the Government which, I understand, has now ordered for a CBI probe after about ten days.

I would like to mention that medical test has been done on these girls and they have received medical reports. The Assam Government has already announced Rs. 25,000/- each to these Bodo girls.

I request that at least Rs. 50,000/- should be given to 14 Bodo girls and Rs. 25,000/- to the other 26 Bodo girls who have been molested otherwise. The Assam police have said that if they have the proof, they will take action. When there is medical report, where is the question of proof? I do not know what kind of proof they want. This is only trying to avoid the responsibility.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY) :** Please concluded.

**SHRI SATNOSH BAGRODIA :** Even the High Court of Assam has accepted and has already given orders to the Assam Government to give Rs. 25,000/- to each victim.

Sir, this has happened for the second time. It did happen in 1988 under the same Government to Bodo girls. This is happening continuously. The Assam Government should also be taken to task on this matter. Thank you.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY) :** Mr. Kalita.

**SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Assam) :** Sir, I would like to speak first.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY) :** No. Some names are here already.

**SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY :** On the same subject?

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY) :** Yes. It would be better if you raise your points after Mr. Kalita. Mr. Kalita.

**SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam) :** Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with Mr. Bagrodia on the issue of gang-rape of 40 Bodo women by the security personnel. Sir, this is not happening

for the first time, but in 1988 also it has happened. It is a very serious matter. The women's organisations in Assam had observed 12-hour hunger-strike on 31st of the last month and they had said that they had lost faith in the State administration and there were reasons for it. Sir, it is a very serious matter. We want that there should be a special discussion on it as most of the Members feel and only a few minutes before, we were worried about the safety and security and arrest of one of our lady Members and the Members on the other side also expressed their worry. I hope, everyone will agree to have a special discussion on this. Thank you.

**SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY :** Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the gang-rape in Assam by the Assam Rifles, by the CRPF men and by the army personnel is not new. During the 1980 Assam Movement, the army personnel and the CRPF men gang-raped women in village after village in Nalbari district and in Nowgong district and in some parts of upper Assam. The same story has again been repeated in some of the remote villages. The CRPF personnel belonging to Madhya Pradesh and some Assam Rifles men—though the name is Assam Rifles, the persons belong to north Assam and this should not be confused—surrounded the village on 10th May and gang-raped again 14 young Bodo girls. Sir, I think, this is a calculated move on the part of the CRPF people or the Assam Rifles people because they want to smear the name of the Assam Government. The Assam Government has taken timely action and has granted some amount to each of the victims, that is, the ladies, and also it has sent a detailed report to the Home Minister so that the guilty persons can be brought to book. I also here express my deep concern at this ugly incident and I hope here also, the Home Minister will take

[Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty]

urgent steps so that they are punished.

### Need to reopen Closed Units of Metal Box (India) Ltd.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I want to raise a very important issue. ... (Interruptions)...

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) :  
मैंने एसोशिएट करने की अनुमति मांगी थी

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY) : No, we have many names here. If everybody tries to associate himself with every Special Mention, it becomes very difficult. Anyhow, your name is there ... (Interruptions)...

श्री राम नरेश यादव : मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिस तरह से मामला घटा है, बहुत गम्भीर है। इस पर पूरे सदन को चिन्ता होनी चाहिए। मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि जल्दी में जल्दी इस पर कार्रवाई हो और कार्रवाई होने के पश्चात् सरकार सदन को भी बताये कि इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्रवाई हुई। जब तक यह नहीं होगा तब तक महिलाओं पर अत्याचार बढ़ता जायेगा। सरकार अपनी जिम्मेदारी निभाये।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY) : In this House, we already had a discussion on atrocities on women and all that; and if necessary, and if the Chair permit, we may have another discussion.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI : Sir, 16 units of M/s. Metal Box India Ltd. are closed and about 6,500 employees are jobless. They took up the matter with the then Minister of Petroleum, Shri Brahm Dutt, the then Industry Minister, Shri Vengal Rao and the then Finance Minister, Shri Shankerrao Chavan. As far as I understand, all of them

were very sympathetic and wanted to do something so that all the units of M/s. Metal Box India Ltd. could again function and those employees could get back their jobs. As I understand, Sir, Mr. Montek Ahluwalia knew this matter very well and it was more or less thought that these jobless persons should be given jobs and these units should be revived.

So, in April 1989, Balmer-Lawrie, which is under the control of the Petroleum Ministry, wanted to have metal packaging to pack their products and they wanted to establish some such industry and this was taken up with them. They decided that new companies should not be formed, but they should take over this unit so that the infrastructural facilities which are already there can be made use of and these jobless persons could be given jobs. After that—I do not know what happened in between—this Company is saying that it is not interested in this. I fail to understand as to how at one stage they wanted to take it over and how they say now that they are not interested. I want to know this from the honourable Minister. The previous Government was keen to give jobs and the new Government wants to make the right to work as a Fundamental Right. But I do not know what has happened and why they are not doing anything in this direction.

The All-India Metal Box Employees' Federation has given a memorandum to our Prime Minister, Shri V. P. Singh and I am now given to understand that the Reliance Industries want to have this kind of an industry for their products and for this purpose they want to have one such industry. Now, I am not against the Reliance Industries or Mr. Nuzli Wadia and I am not against any industrial house, but I do want—and I am firm in my opinion—that there should not be so powerful as to