

भोजपुर, जहानाबाद, गया इन एरियाज में भी एक्ट्रेस लोग हैं, क्रिमिनल लोग भी हैं, जो मेरी चुनाव कांस्टीट्यूएन्सी है, वहां पर चार लोगों की हत्या हुई है। पूरा मिडिल बिहार में ऐसा हो रहा है, इसलिये मेरा कहना है कि इन एरियाज में सरकार फेल कर गयी है। जो वहां सामंती टाइप का शासन चल रहा है, उससे लोग ऊब कर अलग होना चाहते हैं, मुक्ति पाना चाहते हैं। संघर्ष चल रहा है और उस संघर्ष के बीच क्रिमिनल लोग उसमें भी घुस गये हैं, लेकिन सरकार पूरी तरह में विफल हो गयी है। यह सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है, इसलिये मैं यह चाहता हू कि इस पर पूरे दिन डिबेट हो।

आपको पता है कि कैसे डाइलूट हो गया। पेपर में आया था कि नगरा गांव के बारे में। एटरोसिटीज ओन हरिजनस इन अजरल। इस पर पूरे देश में बहुत सी बहस हुई, लेकिन कुछ नहीं हुआ। डाइलूट हो गया। मैं यह चाहता हू कि सरकार एक सर्वदलीय पार्लियामेन्टरी कमेटी बहाल करे। वह कमेटी जाकर इस बात का पता लगावे कि कौन लोग हैं, किन का हाथ है जिले में कौन क्रिमिनल हैं? सुनने में आया है कि एक भूतपूर्व मंत्री का हाथ है जिसके रहने यह काम हुआ। धन्यवाद।

#### **Reported attempt to molest a college girl in a DTC Bus**

**SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA (Delhi):** Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice a serious matter which is about a DTC bus. It appears that to travel by a DTC bus, you have to be a Physical Training Instructor. If you are a girl, then you have to be a Physical Training Instructor.

Sir, the incident has been published in the *Hindustan Times* today about Monisha Verma. This young lady, I think, should be congratulated for her bravery and her presence of mind to be able to defend herself in a situation

in which she was put in the DTC bus. If she had not been the kind of person she was, I am sure there would have been serious consequences for the young lady. The question arises as to what is the security provided by the Police or by the DTC in the DTC buses in Delhi. It is a matter of serious concern. This is the capital city. There is a university here. There are so many colleges. The girls have to come out and go back alone, sometimes in buses, from their colleges back to their homes at odd hours. If some kind of security is not provided, then it is a serious matter. If the DTC people themselves become culprits in trying to do eve-teasing with the girls, then it is a very serious matter for the Police. The question is as to what are the rules in the DTC. What is the system by which they are able to identify those people who were actually in occupation of the bus at that time? Sir, it is a matter of very serious concern that when the Nizamuddin Police Station people were asked about this matter, they said that they had no report and that they had no jurisdiction. They say that they have no jurisdiction, that they cannot find any way to locate those people. And they are not carrying out any enquiries even, now. Sir, if a story appear in Delhi in a national newspaper on the front page, you can imagine the plight of the parents who will have to send their children to schools and colleges far away, and for then there is no other alternative to this.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, what I want to know is what security measures are provided in the buses. Can there be an alarm system fitted like in the Railways so that in case a person is in difficulty, she can at least pull a chain or attract attention of outsiders or find a way of stopping the bus? Now it was a physical strength matter, for this young lady who had to jump out and jump out with a culprit. The culprit disappeared and there is no trace of that person. Then she had managed

[Shri Vishwa Bandhu Gupta]

to catch a three-wheeler and she tried to get into it and tried to reach the college. Now, the other matter is as to what action would be taken by the DTC, whether they will be able to find these people, whether they will be able to take action, whether there are rules or standing orders in the DTC system in this regard in Delhi.

Sir, the incidents of eve-teasing are increasing in Delhi. It is a very serious subject. Sir, on behalf of the whole House, this young lady should be congratulated. Sir, you may also kindly request the Home Minister, who has been saying so many things about how the crime has declined in Delhi to make a statement on this matter as to what steps are being taken to protect people travelling in the DTC.

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with the observations made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I have also given notice.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I will allow you.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Assam): We want to know the result early.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Your name will be associated. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, like me, some other Members have also given notice and you have been kind enough to assure them that they will also be able to express their views on this.

Sir, Mr. Vishwa Bandhu Gupta has, of course, highlighted what has happened. But I am sure many hon. Members want to know the details of the incident. Sir, on 11th of August, a student of Indraprastha College, Monisha Verma, had gone to deliver a letter to prominent sportsman,

Mr. Bishan Singh Bedi, who works with the Steel Authority of India, and at Alipur Road, she wanted to board a bus to go back to her college. It was 11 in the morning, it was broad daylight. She stopped a DTC bus with the engine running. She asked the driver and the conductor whether she can board the bus, whether the bus will take her to the college. They replied in affirmative, assured her that the bus will go to the college. It is the intention here. And she boarded the bus. The moment she boarded the bus, they started making lecherous, lurid advances towards the girl. When she cried for help, there were no other passengers but the DTC personnel in uniform because this was not a regular bus and this was a maintenance vehicle. And they pounced upon this poor, hapless girl who was all by herself. I agree, we will have to admire the courage of this young girl who fought these lecherous, despicable characters who tried to molest, who tried to outrage the modesty of this young lady in broad daylight in the DTC bus. Not only that. She fought, she jumped out of a running bus and she managed to catch a three-wheeler to take her to the college where she said she fell out of the bus. And she collapsed, she fainted afterwards. And she had to be hospitalised.

Sir, an FIR has been lodged about this incident on the 13th. And the DCP, as per the news reports today, has said that the civil lines police station where the FIR was originally lodged, has transferred the complaint to the Lodhi Road police station because of the question of jurisdiction. Sir, it does not end here. Now they say that the Lodhi Road police station has transferred the complaint to the Nizamuddin police station because of the exact spot pointed out by the girl where they were about to molest her, which is in the jurisdiction of the Nizamuddin police station. This is most shocking and shameful. We must hang our heads in shame. This has happened in the capital city of Delhi in broad daylight and they have the

audacity to make this statement. They are wrestling over jurisdiction. DTC plies all over Delhi and it is the responsibility of the Delhi Police and the DTC authorities to provide security to the commuters and passengers. Sir, we have in this very House discussed in the past on several occasions how the DTC employees by their most vulgar, rude and uncivilised behaviour have been harassing the commuters and on top of that the DTC has now taken some private buses on its routes. There is no guarantee about the antecedents of their conductors and drivers and what is the training they have been provided. But, Sir, without going into that question I would like to make two specific points and seek clarification from the Government for information. First of all, it was the responsibility of the police once this complaint was filed to take immediate action and we must express our unhappiness and shock at the callous manner in which the police authorities treated this as a regular complaint when in broad daylight this happened to a young girl. Secondly, Sir, what about the DTC? Can they escape responsibility? The DTC people have a regular register where they keep track about the movement of maintenance vehicles. They have their log books and from that they can easily make out which vehicle, which maintenance staff was on Alipore Road at 11 a.m. on the 11th of August. Those DTC officials who have not provided this information to the police should be suspended. They are also culprits because this is connivance and they are shielding the culprits. And these particular employees should not only be arrested forthwith but should be dismissed from service. They should be given exemplary punishment and in future both the DTC and the police should provide ample security to passengers and they must ensure that there is a regular supervisory staff in the maintenance vehicles and their movements are tracked on a regular basis.

One more thing, Sir, I demand immediate seizure of the log books of

the maintenance vehicle, immediate seizure, today itself. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): We shall skip the lunch hour.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the views expressed by my predecessor on this particular issue. Sir, this is not a solitary instance which has taken place. We have been seeing such instances during the past. The DTC buses have become vehicles of shame and torture and harassment, particularly for young women. And those who are indulging in such crimes are DTC men mostly. There may be others also but in this particular case, Sir, it is the DTC staff which is involved in this crime. I admire the bravery and the courage of Monisha Verma who is a student of M.A. in Indraprastha College. If she had not been an athlete, if she had not possessed the courage, the valour, perhaps she would not have been safe in the hands of these hooligans. I don't blame the entire staff in the DTC; but it is very obvious that some of them are criminals, or criminal-minded. They are like vultures who prey on young girls who enter the buses. In this case, there have been two omissions unfortunately, omission on the part of the DTC staff and the establishment, and the failure of the police. This has been pointed out by my friend, Mr. Anand Sharma. Jurisdiction should not come in the way of taking action. This is my point. We have been coming across such cases of jurisdiction being raised by the police. To my mind, when such crimes are committed, jurisdiction should not come in the way of taking action. It should not bar anybody in any police station contacting another police station under when such cases come up. Phones are provided for this purpose and they can immediately contact the other police station. The police officer can request his counterpart to take up the case immediately. It does not require more than five minutes. This is

[Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy].

my point, Jurisdiction should not be quoted as an excuse for escaping responsibility. Secondly, the DTC union has also got a responsibility. They fight for the rights of the workers but when such things happen, I expect the union also to take up the responsibility. In this particular case also, I do not think the union office-bearers or the functionaries have moved in the matter. What prevents them from taking action, from identifying the culprits? It is the responsibility of the union to see that such things do not happen. Therefore, the union also should play a role and take up the responsibility.

Lastly, I would like that this young lady should be compensated. She has broken her leg, as we have seen in the photograph. I think she should be adequately compensated and those in charge in the establishment should go to her and console her and give her the courage for having done this act of bravery.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the views expressed by my friends on this special mention. Actually, I had also given notice of a special mention on this issue. Today's newspaper, *The Hindustan Times* gave us the shocking news: "College girl kicks off pawing DTC men". We have so many laws and rules on crimes against women and we have pending before us a Bill but in spite of all this, it is most shocking to see such incidents taking place in a civilised country like ours, especially in the capital city of Delhi. I have no words to condemn those culprits. I do not know how the police administration can be so callous. My friends have already mentioned how callous the behaviour of the police was. I am afraid, the honour and dignity of women are not safe in the hands of such an administration. I am proud of this bold girl who had shown valour and courage in saving her honour and dignity. She should be congratulated on behalf of

the Government and on behalf of all of us. The hon. Minister should make a statement on this in the House. I would also urge upon the Government to order a judicial inquiry into this matter and to see that exemplary punishment is meted out to the culprits.

**Government's Failure to Repatriate the Money Received as Commission by Shri L. M. Thapar**

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I hope you have not forgotten Mr. L. M. Thapar. I raise this question regarding Mr. L. M. Thapar. I would like to be told by the Government whether the case pending against Mr. L. M. Thapar has been withdrawn and he has been exonerated of the charges which have been brought against him.

Why I raise this? I raise this because you remember, Sir, he was arrested in September, 1986, for violating foreign exchange regulations. He was bailed out after a midnight drama. He was bailed out specifically on the condition that he will be bringing back the money he had confessed to have secreted away in a foreign bank, outside this country. This man, who has violated the law, who confessed to his crime, was bailed out on the condition that he will bring back the money. What is this money? He received Rs. 2.5 crores of foreign exchange as commission from M/s Louis Dreyfus against supply of edible oil worth Rs. 100 crore to the State Trading Corporation of India.

The Government of India stated categorically in this House that charges relating to Rs. 11 crores worth of foreign exchange violation were pending against him. This happened two years ago. But even after these two years, he has neither brought back the money nor Government has moved the court to cancel his bail nor any punishment been inflicted on him. No. The Enforcement Department has fixed