

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Special Mention.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I want to draw the attention of the Health Minister to one thing. The point is that the pharmacists went on strike and then they called off the strike. Their pay was not given. That is all right. But you are being vindictive and stopping their promotion. Your officers in the Health Department are doing that. Please give them at least the promotion due to them.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The hon. Member has not understood the problem.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: On my request, the pharmacists withdrew their strike. If you don't want to pay don't pay them. But why stop their promotions? It is being vindictive.

### RE. BANNING OF THE FILM 'LOK PARLOK'

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR (Madhya Pradesh): I am on the question of privilege of this House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): You can raise it after the Special Mentions.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Kindly permit me to make a submission. I will not take more than half a minute. It has been raised in this House on many occasions that when the House is in session and the Government takes a policy decision then it would be a matter of courtesy that the announcement is made here. Yesterday, the Government decided to ban the film 'Lok Parlok' on the ground that it hurts the religious sentiments of a section of the people. I had raised this question here on the floor of the House with the permission of the Chairman. I am happy that the Government woke up though rather late, to the need for banning this film. But is it necessary for the Government to show discourtesy to the House at every stage? Why could they not

have announced it in the House first? After all, the Members have a duty to perform and they are entitled to some consideration.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): It is not a policy decision. You will agree.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: It is a matter of satisfaction that they have responded to the feelings of the people. It is all right. But they could have done it in a more courteous way.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): I do not want to talk about the striking doctors because Shrimati Purabi Mukhopadhyay and others have said many things.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Please go on to Special Mention.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Therefore, before I go to the Special Mention, I say "Talk to the doctors".

### REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED MOLESTATION OF A HARIJAN WOMAN AT A POLICE STATION IN DURG DISTRICT, MADHYA PRADESH

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: (West Bengal): I am very glad that I have got the permission to make a Special Mention about what has happened in Madhya Pradesh. Sir, here I have before me the *Indian Express*. Other newspapers have also carried this news. It is again molestation of women by policemen. Sir, I would not read very much. Here it is 1 p.m. written. "30-year old Rukmini, a Harijan woman was stripped naked beaten up at the Nandini police station last month. When she went to describe her plight, she was stopped."

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Bhupesh Babu, your Special Mention concerns the

[Shri R. R. Morarka]

Gillette blades. The permission given to you for making a Special Mention relates to the Gillette blades. Kindly mention that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What is that? Sir, if you write on my wrong notice, what can I do? You forget the Gillette blades now, Sir. Let me make on this. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Order, please.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I had sent a slip for that also. I do not blame the office because they get so many things.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Sir, I am on a point of order. I want to know one thing from Mr. Bhupesh Gupta. He is mentioning about the molestation of women. But has he read the brave statement, the speech from the Treasury Benches, accusing him and others as spineless human beings? What are you going to do about that? Why are you mentioning this?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: With your permission, Sir, I mention about this and not about the Gillette blades. There is no problem. I wanted this but by mistake, permission had been given for that.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I had asked for a Special Mention on that and I was denied permission because Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has been given permission. So, if he does not avail of that permission, let it be transferred to me. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What about that lady's statement?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Order, please.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You come to that later.

Sir, Rukmini, a Harijan woman was stripped naked and beaten up at the Nandini police station last month.

That is in Durg, Madhya Pradesh. Sir, what is described here is shocking. She was taken into the custody of the police along with her son and daughter in order to oblige some employer who had made a complaint against them and all that. Then, Sir, what had happened? Sir, I cannot even read what has been published. In fact, the police made her naked, made her stand before the police and others and her son, and asked her son to have a look at his naked mother and even suggested that there should be an incest. Sir, this is happening now.

SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, there is no Minister on the Treasury Benches. The House is discussing this thing. And somebody should take note of these things. Either the Parliamentary Affairs Minister or somebody else should take note of these things. (*Interruptions*)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: The Minister is here.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): I am here.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): But the Minister must be on the Treasury Bench. (*Interruptions*) Order, please.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, it is shocking and even the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has called it barbaric. Now, Sir, are we to live in this situation? And, the woman said, my only crime is that I am a poor Harijan woman. It seems that the Harijan women and poor women have become the targets of this kind of a thing. Now, Sir, it is not even denied by the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister admits that it is barbaric. I cannot even read it. I have only summarised it. The son was asked to commit incest, apart from looking at the naked mother. I think we must have some human feelings left in us.

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS:  
Shame, shame.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I feel like getting hold of that man by the scruff of his neck and kicking him out of public life. It is not a question of the Chief Minister making a statement. Now, Sir, this is what is happening. (*Interruptions*)

Today, Sir, in the Hindustan Times, we have read another report, a woman raped and burnt, that is in Bulandshahar. Then there is another report, police men's rape of a girl in Unnao. Every day when we open the morning papers, we read the news of our sisters being raped, molested and stripped naked in the most barbaric manner, as in this case of Durg, where the police men asked the son to commit incest and see the naked mother. Sir, it has come up before the Assembly. I am told the Chief Minister has not disputed it. I would like to know what action is being taken. We know that our people are being arrested, MPs are being arrested in Baghpat. What happened in Baghpat, its reproduction is here. Here I have got with me a list of a number of cases of molestation and rapes of Harijans and poor women, I will say only one more thing and then sit down because there are others also who want to speak. I have not taken more than three minutes. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, it is pathetic to read what the woman has said, namely, that I have been subjected to this treatment because we are poor and we come from poverty.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Have you referred to the Unnao report of police men raping another woman?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes, yes, I have got the list of many such cases.

Now, Sir, I would ask nobody else but the Prime Minister of this country, who is a woman, what action she is taking. That is what I am addressing, through you, to the Prime Minister of the country. Sir, you can understand

how they must also be feeling everywhere. I am not making it a party issue. I suggest, Sir, that the Prime Minister call immediately a meeting of the leaders of the opposition and the leaders of the Congress Party, sit and discuss, and evolve some concrete suggestions for immediate action. Sir, we should pass a law. We shall pass other measures and we shall provide for a very deterrent punishment. (*Time bell rings*).

Sir, If I had my way, I would like the rapists to be shot. Well, you shoot other people, you hang other people. but what are their crimes? The policemen are doing it, but nobody seems to be bothered about it except describing it, as in the case of Madhya Pradesh incident, that it is barbaric. What about the Government? If the Government presides over barbarism, if the Chief Minister is the president of a barbaric system, when the honour of our sisters cannot be preserved and protected, such Chief Ministers should tender resignation and leave office, such a Government should quit office. (*Time bell rings*).

Sir, I have lived in England and if such a thing happened there and if the Minister there had said that it is barbaric and admitted the kind of thing as happened in Durg, that Minister would have tendered his resignation in the House of Commons then and there. But, here Sir, they look for promotion. Can't Shrimati Indira Gandhi find a better set of Ministers, who would, at least, see that women's honour is protected, poor women are not raped and sons are not asked to commit incest? This is all that I would ask.

Sir, I express the indignation not only of this House not only of women but of the whole nation in this matter and I demand drastic action at the highest level, collectively by all of us, but the responsibility will be of the Central Government to ensure that this does not happen hereafter.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Mr. Barman.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: So many incidents of this type are being mentioned... (*Interruptions*). They should be ashamed of it. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY (West Bengal): I will just hand over this letter to you, Sir, which has been written by a woman about rape and molestation. I could give it to you because I would not have the time to read it... (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): I have called Mr. Barman.

#### REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT IN NORTH BENGAL

SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I rise to mention a matter of urgent public importance to draw the attention of this august House as well as of the Central Government to a very serious situation now prevailing in North Bengal. Everyday, alarming reports are coming in the press that a separatist movement in the name of Utrakhand Movement is going on in North Bengal. These reports have gained much importance as some of the Ministers of the Left Front Government in West Bengal, including the Chief Minister, and the Left Front Party leaders including Shri Promod Das Gupta, the Chairman of the Left Front Committee have issued statements and made observations on this so-called Utrakhand Movement. Not only this, Sir, Shri Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, along with some of his Cabinet colleagues and Left Front leaders and the West Bengal Government's top officials, like the Home Secretary and the I.G.P., have rushed to North Bengal, particularly, to Cooch Bihar to make an on-the-spot study of the situation. A public meeting was called at Cooch Behar on the 6th of July 1980, which was addressed by the Chief Minister, some of his Cabinet colleagues and some Left Front leaders to decry this movement. It is

true that there is a political party, named, Utrakhand Party which demands a separate State consisting of North Bengal districts, that is, Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, West Dinajpore and Malda. Sir, this party with this particular demand is not of recent origin. It has been there for quite a long time. At least since 1962, this party has been contesting elections, though unsuccessfully. Elements like Amra Bengali are also there. But, Sir, the Utrakhand Party and the Amra Bengali have very few supporters but still propaganda is being made by the Left Front Ministers in the Government and the party leaders in such a dimension that the people are getting panicky. The most unfortunate part of it is that they are accusing many political and social organisations and individuals, particularly belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who are of local origin. They are accusing one organisation, called, North Bengal Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Association. Their fault is... (*Time bell rings*). Sir, I shall require some more time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Three minutes are permitted for a special mention.

SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: You please grant me two minutes more. So, Sir, their fault is that they are demanding judicial inquiry into the incidents of Toofanganj in which a group of 300 or more of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe persons were lathi-charged and fired upon by the police. Some of them were beaten by the CPM party people. One of the seriously injured persons has died as a result of this. They are demanding a judicial inquiry into these incidents. But they are not conceding, the Left Front Government is not conceding this demand. They are also accusing the Congress(I). The fault of the Congress(I) is this. They are supporting the demand of the North Bengal Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes