

be examined and preferred even if this involves some extra expenditure or lesser automation and sophistication.

Sir, I am not reading the report now. Now, Sir, if this is the policy of the Central Government which has been so clearly enunciated by the Prime Minister, then how is it that six turbines which can be manufactured by the BHEL have been ordered to be imported each of which, it is said, involves an amount of Rs. 1 crore as pay off? Sir, as a result of this import, there is going to be an irreparable loss so far as the BHEL is concerned, and the BHEL will be starved of orders. Sir, the BHEL is a first rate organisation manufacturing turbines and other equipments which are being exported and there is an appreciation of these exports. But the Energy Minister is insisting, and I am told that he is pressuring even the Government of India, to take a decision in terms of his suicidal policy of importing the turbines. Not only this Sir. In many Ministries and in many Departments, there is now a tendency to put one multinational against each of the important public sector undertakings so that the public sector may be ruined and our policy of self-reliance may go down the drain. Apart from that, Sir, Ranchi Heavy Engineering, Bharat Vessel Plates, etc. are manufacturing such important things. Such important public sector organisations are working much below capacity—sometimes 35 to 40 per cent. There is no order. And if there is no order, there is strain on public finance also; employment has to be maintained and maintenance of this machinery and everything has to be done. Why are these things going on? Although it is a Special Mention, nobody will come up. But I will appeal, through you, Sir, that the Minister should announce what machineries are being imported which items are available here and which can be manufactured either by the public sector or private sector. A friend of mine was mentioning to me: All right, they can manufacture

goods, but how can they manufacture money? If this is the state of affairs and if everything is now being done according to the wishes of the Prime Minister, I do not know where we are heading to. I would like to ask the Minister concerned to make a concise statement as to which machinery is being imported and how much, although those machineries and other things can be manufactured here either by the public sector or by the private sector.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Mr. Bhupesh Gupta,

REFERENCE TO THE ALLEGED MOLESTATION OF A WOMAN IN BAGHPAT ON 18TH JUNE 1980

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I am very glad that I have got an opportunity to make a special mention. Sir, this is about the savage molestation of a woman in Baghpat on the 18th June. These incidents are growing all over the country. We are all seriously concerned.

Accompanied by one Manmohini Sehgal, Vice-President of the National Federation of Indian Women, its General Secretary, Shrimati Vimla Farooqi, Secretary, Shrimati Bani Dasgupta, Smt. Geeta Mnkherjee, another member of this organisation, who is a Member of the Lok Sabha, visited Baghpat village. Sir, the report as given by her is simply shocking. I would not like to read out the whole of it. But, with your permission, I would like to lay on the Table of the House a note by Smt. Geeta Mukherjee.

Sir, on the 18th June the woman was in a car along with some men, including her husband. There was an exchange of fire between the travelling men and the police in which none but three of these men died. No one else was injured. The police version is that they were dacoits. I am not going into it. I am not discussing the dacoit problem at the moment. What-

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

ever the case may be in that regard, after their death the accompanying woman was dragged out of the car by some policemen. Several member of the police force ripped off her garments, made her completely naked, and then, Sir did certain acts of molestation—shocking and brutal—which I will not like to repeat here. All this was done before the public gaze in broad day-light. She was then beaten and thrown on the road, when her private parts began to bleed profusely due to abortion or something. "She was taken to the police station in that condition and kept there for an hour more before being sent to the hospital. The police version is that it was not the police but the crowd who molested this woman and brought her to the Police Station. This version does not stand to reason at all. No member of the crowd was injured by any of these men. On the contrary, it is they who died as a result of police action. Some person in close collusion with the police force are also trying to spread the story. Well, we heard half a dozen people who saw the police doing this thing."

Now, Sir, the Police is powerful. They got some people to spread the story. The dignity and honour of this woman were sadistically violated by the custodians of the law and it requires a very serious inquiry and punishment. I have given you the broad and bare facts. More facts will be available, I believe, in the Lok Sabha. Now, Sir, the other day, we discussion in this House the question of honour and rights of women and their protection. It was said that the Law Commission was going into it and that the States would be consulted. May I suggest again for the consideration of all Members of the House, irrespective of political parties, that we may have a Committee of Parliament to go into the question of law and to make certain changes in the Indian Penal Code and the Evidence Act so that the cases of rape and simi-

lar other acts of molestation are promptly dealt with and a law is passed for that purpose? The Law Commission is not required for this purpose. Sir, we have had several laws passed by this Parliament on the recommendations of the Select Committees and with the help of eminent jurists and lawyers and even the ex-Chief Justices who were invited as witnesses before the Committee. I had the privilege of being a members of such Committees. Sir, there are eminent lady Members in this House who are mothers and sisters and also in the other House. Why can't we rely on them to form a Committee? If you like, you can add some others also. Then this Committee would be in a position to call witnesses such as jurists, justices and other relevant persons, hear their views and formulate a law which, by the common consent of the two Houses, in the interest of the nation and the rights and honour of our womanhood, we can pass immediately. Sir, it is not a violation of the rights of the States I think the States should simply welcome this thing. If we take this initiative, they would simply welcome it. And as we proceed with it, we can even call the Chief Ministers or the Home Ministers of the States before the Committee so that there is no difficulty at all, I am not at all for violating the rights of the States. Our Home Minister is sitting here. He can be the Chairman of that Committee. (*Time bell rings*) Or, some of the leading women Members can constitute that Committee and if they have no objection, there may be some men Members also who could be of help. We can always get the expert opinion, expert advice, expert counsel by calling witnesses. Besides, there is a Legal Department and a Legislative Department which always help us in framing the law in exact words and so on. Sir, therefore, we urge upon the Prime Minister of the country, through you and through this House, not to delay this process. I am sure, she is as much interested as any of us in getting, such a law

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passed. But, Sir, we should take immediate steps. And we can do it in this session of Parliament. I have that confidence in our women colleagues here including the one who interrupts me occasionally. I have no doubt about it. We can do it and also the other House.

Finally, Sir, before I sit down, I say the Home Minister should enquire into this matter. Our Member has visited, leaders of the National Federation of Indian Women had visited. And I am sure, some of them that side, if they had time, would have visited. But many things happened in between and it was not possible for them to do so. Some of them may have also visited. Sir, the Home Minister should personally enquire into it. When the Narainpur incident took place, even Smt. Indira Gandhi went there; others went there. Why is Mr. Zail Singh not going to Baghpat? May I ask him this? Why can he not carry with him some lady Members from this House to help him? They could talk to the ladies there and get the information. It is possible, Sir. Therefore, I would not leave it, as it was not done before, to the State Government only. Let the State Government come into the picture in its due right in a proper manner. But the Central Government must come into the picture. Sir, have the police a right to rape the wife of a dacoit even, I should like to know. They say as if they have killed three dacoits. And whether they are dacoits or not, I do not know. Sir, if such things happen in the country, I feel like becoming a dacoit because it is more honourable to be a dacoit to protect the honour of the women than to be the Home Minister who keeps quite whether in the State or at the Centre. Sir, I am not blaming Mr. Zail Singh. I am not blaming him. I know that he is an honourable man and he will certainly look into it. Sir, I appeal in the interest not only of the womanhood but of our culture and civilization. When any woman

is molested, any woman is raped or any woman is dishonoured, we feel, Sir, that our cultural heritage is under attack. And that is why I would ask Mr. Zail Singh, the Home Minister of the country, to look into this matter and take all possible steps.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (बिहार) : श्रीमन् मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर है। . . .

(Interruptions)

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन् मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि...

(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Kindly listen to me for a minute. (Interruptions). Kindly listen to me. This is a Special Mention. The procedure about the Special Mention is that only those Members are allowed to take part whose notices have been accepted by the Chair. Now, if the system is to be changed, you would appreciate that it can be changed only by the Chairman and not by me. If the Members feel that this is an important matter and if they want to take part in this, I would request them to give notices so that the Chairman may consider them and admit them for tomorrow morning.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : श्रीमन्, गाड़ी से लोग पानी पीने के लिए उतरे। वहाँ पर दो पुलिस के लोग सादे लिवास में गये। वह बीयर पी रहे थे। जब लोग पानी पी रहे थे तो पुलिस के लोगों ने उस औरत से छेड़खानी की। जब उसका हस्बैंड आया तो उसने पुलिस वालों से कहा कि आपने ऐसा क्यों किया। जब ऐसा कहा तो पुलिस के जवान उन दोनों को पकड़ कर मारने लग। वहाँ पर हाथापाई हुई। वहाँ दो सौ गज की दूरी पर पुलिस थाना है, जहाँ से पुलिस वाला बन्दूक

[श्री रामेश्वर सिंह]

लेकर आता है। ये लोग गाड़ी में चढ़ने जाते हैं तब धाय-धाय करके उसको मार दिया। उस औरत को खोंच कर उसके कपड़े उतार डाले और तंगी चौराहे से पुलिस स्टेशन ले गये और पुलिस स्टेशन ले जा कर रेप किया।

चौधरी चरण सिंह की कंस्टीट्यूएँसी का मामला है। जानबूझ कर ऐसा किया गया है। उस समय की मेरे पास फोटो है...

(Interruptions) उस आदमी ने बन्दूक उस दिन भी चलाई है जिस दिन पोलिंग हो रही थी। सारे मसले को इस रिपोर्ट में दिया है। इसमें कहा गया है कि वे लोग डकैत थे। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर यह साबित हो जाए कि वे डकैत थे तो जो भी पनिशमेंट देगे मैं उसको बर्दाश्त करने के लिये तैयार हूँ....

(Interruptions) सवाल इस बात का है कि सरकार ने जानबूझ कर चौधरी चरण सिंह की कंस्टीट्यूएँसी में गड़बड़ पैदा करने के लिये इस काम को किया है। मैं चाहूँगा कि सरकार स्टेटमेंट दे। हमारे गृह मंत्री अपना स्पष्ट बयान दें। उनको इस पर अपने आप बयान देना चाहिये। यह भूतपूर्व प्रधान मंत्री चौधरी चरण सिंह की कंस्टीट्यूएँसी का सवाल है। मैं आपको दावे के साथ कहना चाहता हूँ कि इन्दिरा गांधी की कंस्टीट्यूएँसी में तीन साल के छंदर, जनता के राज में अगर किसी कांग्रेसी के साथ हमने यह सलूक किया...

(Interruptions) तो जो पनिशमेंट आप देना चाहें दे मैं तैयार हूँ.... (Interruptions) मैं चाहूँगा कि गृह मंत्री जी यहां बयान दें। वह औरत जिसके साथ यह काम किया गया है, उस औरत का भी बयान लिया जाए। इसके लिये एक कमेटी नियुक्त की जाए। माननीय कमलापति जी विपाठी

के नेतृत्व में एक कमेटी बनाई जाए। मैं जानता हूँ वह एक ईमानदार आदमी हैं। हमेशा उन्होंने ईमानदारी से काम किया है। उनके नेतृत्व में कमेटी में मैं जाने के लिये तैयार हूँ और वह कमेटी जो भी निर्णय लेगी, मैं उसको मानने के लिये तैयार हूँ।

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, this is not a question of just one incident only. Repeatedly, again and again, almost every day such things are happening. It is not only a question of dishonour to women but also of the dishonour to the whole nation, which calls itself civilised. It is beneath the dignity of any country, any civilised country, where such things are happening every day. We are ashamed of these things. I am giving full support to what my hon. colleague, Shri Bhupesh Gupta has said. I want a categorical, definite statement by the Home Minister on this incident. I want to also know what the administration is going to do to prevent recurrence of such things. Every day we take up one by one such incidents and come to you. There is something wrong somewhere.

(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Order please. The hon. Lady Member must now sit down.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: How long is this indignity to women going to be tolerated? It is beneath the dignity of a country, a nation, which calls itself civilised. It is not only a dishonour to women but it is a dishonour to the whole nation. We want to know from the Home Minister what actually happened there and what they are going to do about it in order to prevent recurrence of such things. We want to have a categorical answer from the Home Minister.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : मेरा प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर है। मैं एक मिनट मैं खत्म कर देता हूँ। हमेशा कार्रवाई आपनियम के मुताबिक चलाते हैं। स्पेशल मेशन भी आप मंजूर करते हैं, उनको रखने के लिये आप इजाजत देते हैं। उसका समय होता है। यदि समय नहीं है पहले से निर्धारित तो आप व्यवस्था दें कि यह पांच मिनट में, सात मिनट में, दस मिनट में या पन्द्रह मिनट में इसको खत्म करें। जो स्पेशल मेशन भूपेश गुप्त जी ने उठाया वह बड़े शर्म की बात है। इसके मुत्तलिक मंत्री महोदय स्टेटमेंट दें। सारा देश इस घटना का देख रहा है। इसके मुत्तलिक सबका दुःख है और यह बड़े शर्म की बात है। दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ। . . .

चायना ने जो पैकेज डील करने की बात कही है और इस बारे में जो बातें अखबारों में आई हैं, ये बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हैं। चीन हमारे देश के बहुत बड़े हिस्से पर अपना कब्जा बनाये रखना चाहता है। इसके मुत्तलिक आपको जो कॉलिंग अटेंशन नोटिस दिया गया है उसको आप मंजूर करें और इस बात का सदन के सामने लायें।

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV (Uttar Pradesh): Tha is not a point of order.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Will the Home Minister say something?

श्री नरेन्द्र सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्, मैं एक जानकारी देना चाहता हूँ। उसके बाद गृह मंत्री जी अपना बयान दें।
. . . (Interruptions) अभी सोमवार को हम बागपत गये थे।

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, when Mr. Bhupesh Gupta rose, I raised my hand, and I should get preference...

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: Are we having a discussion?

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: There will be a discussion; there has to be a discussion . . .
(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): We can have a discussion; we can have Call Attention motions; we can have anything we like, but . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: You will have to allow us; we will not sit in this House if you do not allow a discussion . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Kindly listen. There is a certain procedure . . .

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: We know the procedure. Do you want to remind me of the procedure of this House? I have been here so long and I know the procedure. The Government must come out with a statement. I do not want to politicalise the issue but the brutal activities of the police officers should be checked. Why should the Government be shy of identifying those police officers? And you must allow us a discussion as we want to have our say on this matter. We will not allow this type of a situation to continue where women are treated everyday like this. Let the Government say something and let there be an investigation . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: But let the Minister first make a statement . . .

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, you ask the Home Minister whether he is coming before the House to make a statement . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: He was going to make a statement... (Interruptions) How can you threaten him? He must be allowed to make a statement and then you allow a discussion.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: We will not allow it like this. They should be ashamed of it . . .

(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): You are a very senior Member. Please wait for a minute. Let the Home Minister have his say. Let him make the statement and thereafter if you want any clarifications, he will give.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Have you asked him to make a statement or at least say when he is going to make a statement?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): I have not directed him; he wants to say something on his own.

श्री सुलतान सिंह (हरियाणा) : श्रीमन्, स्पेशल मेशन पर कभी स्टेटमेंट होता है क्या ?

गृह मंत्री (श्री जल सिंह) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, स्पेशल मेशन के लिए कोई स्टेटमेंट की जरूरत नहीं है और मैं इसलिए बड़ा हुआ हूँ कि आनरेबल मेम्बर, सी०पी०आई० के लीडर, श्री भूपेश गुप्त जी ने अपने भाषण में दूसरी बातों के साथ, साथ कुछ सुझाव दिये तो मैंने सोचा कि यह मामला ऐसा है जिसमें हमारी नेशनल प्रेस्टिज का सवाल भी है और यह एक ऐसी बात है जिसको सुन कर कोई भी हृदय कांप उठता है। मैं इस बारे में इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ कि श्री भूपेश गुप्त जी ने जो यह सुझाव दिया है कि इंडियन पीनल कोड में अमेंडमेंट की जाये और उसमें सुधार किया जाये ताकि जो मिसक्रिएण्ड्स हैं वे गिरफ्त में आ सकें, यह अच्छा सुझाव है। लेकिन इंडियन पीनल कोड के साथ-साथ एक दो दूसरे कानून भी हैं जिनके बारे में हमने तमाम रियासतों को लिखा है। चूंकि ये बातें कंकरेंट लिस्ट में आती हैं, इसलिए स्टेटों की राय लेकर कोई प्रोविजन हाउस में ला कर इसमें हम अमेंडमेंट करेंगे ताकि हमारे हाथ मजबूत

हो सकें और जो मिसक्रिएण्ड्स हैं उनको मुनासिब सजा मिल सके और उन लोगों को इसाफ मिल सके, जिनके साथ दुर्व्यवहार हुआ है। मैं इस सुझाव को भी मंजूर करता हूँ कि महिला सदस्यों को साथ लेकर मैं वहाँ जाऊंगा और इस घटना की पूरी जानकारी के बाद उनको सजा दी जाएगी।

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Finding of Oil/Gas in the Bay of Bengal

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEER-ENDRA PATIL): Sir, with your permission I would like to make a statement regarding promising oil and gas discoveries made by the Oil & Natural Gas Commission in the Bay of Bengal last week. I am sure Hon'ble Members will be happy to hear the news.

As Hon'ble Members may be aware, Oil & Natural Gas Commission have been drilling exploratory wells in the Krishna Godavari offshore Basin as well as in the off-shore of Andamans Island.

Seismic surveys carried out by ONGC in the last two years in the offshore Krishna-Godavari basin have identified two structures. The first well on the Godavari structure situated at about 60 kilometres North-East of Machallipatnam town and 25 kilometres away from the Andhra coast was spudded on 1-12-1979. The drilling which was suspended on 24-3-1980 due to high sea currents was resumed at this location on 13-6-1980. Bearing in mind the technical conditions the production testing was started on 20th June, 1980.

Production testing has indicated a flow rate of over 600 barrels of oil per day through half-inch bore with gas oil ratio of 110. The testing of gas zone is in hand. It is proposed to take up further drilling shortly to