

(iii) Notification S.O. No. 1935 dated the 3rd August, 1974, publishing the Export of Rubber Ice Bags (Inspection) Amendment Rules, 1974.

(iv) Notification S.O. No. 1936, dated the 3rd August, 1974, publishing the Export of Rubber Beltings (Inspection) Amendment Rules, 1974.

(v) Notification S.O. No. 1937, dated the 3rd August, 1974, publishing the Export of Rubber Gloves (Inspection) Amendment Rules, 1974.

(vi) Notification S.O. No. 1938, dated the 3rd August, 1974, publishing the Export of Rubber Belts (Inspection) Amendment Rules, 1974.

(vii) Notification S.O. No. 1939, dated the 3rd August, 1974, publishing the Export of Rubber Hot Water Bottles (Inspection) Amendment Rules, 1974.

(viii) Notifications S.O. No. 1940, dated the 3rd August, 1974, publishing the Export of Coir Mattings (Inspection) Amendment Rules, 1974.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-8229/74 for (i) to (viii)].

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

SHRI N.H. KUMBHARE (Maharashtra) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Twenty-seventh Report of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Finance (Department of Banking)—Reservations for and Employment of, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Reserve Bank of India and its Associate Institutions.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—BRUTAL ATTACKS ON HARIJANS IN THE VILLAGES OF GUJARAT

SHRI ROSHAN LAL (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the reported brutal attacks and killing of Harijans recently in the villages of Gujarat.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, Government have information of two serious incidents which have occurred recently in Gujarat villages. Facts in regard to the Ranmalpur incident have already been furnished to the House *vide* reply to the Unstarred Question No. 318 on 25-7-1974. A criminal case has been started against 123 persons and is *sub judice*. The other incident took place in village Mithaguda in Surendranagar district on 22-7-74 when a group of people of the Koli community attacked the Harijans causing injury to eight of them. One of them unfortunately succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment in the hospital. The District Magistrate, District Development Officer and the Supdt. of Police visited the village and assured the Harijans necessary protection. Fifteen Police personnel one Inspector and a Sub-Inspector have been posted in the area to maintain peace and order. A case has been registered and Fifteen accused persons have already been arrested.

2. Government deplore all incidents of assault on and harassment of the Harijans whenever and wherever they occur. We have advised the State Governments in clear and categorical terms to take effective preventive action and also deterrent action against those who are guilty of perpetrating or allowing such incidents to occur.

3. The State Government have generally taken prompt action but the House will appreciate that Govt. measures can ensure that such incidents do not occur only if the people develop a sensitive social conscience. Government will certainly do all that lies within its power to prevent such incidents and when, unfortunately, they do occur, to take prompt and effective action to punish the guilty and provide relief to the oppressed.

श्री रोशन लाल : डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब, सुरेन्द्र नगर में जो 22 जुलाई का वाक्या हुआ वह इतना शर्मनाक, इतना दिल खराश था, जिस को सुन

[श्री रोशन लाल]

कर न सिर्फ इंसान का सिर नीचा हो जाता है, बल्कि मैं समझता हूँ कि इस सेकुलर और जमहूरी रियासत हिन्दुस्तान के लिए भी वह एक बदनुमा धब्बा है। जब हरिजनों को पानी पीने के लिए मयस्सर नहीं था उन्होंने सवर्ण जातियों के कुवें से पानी भरा। इस पर दो हरिजनों को कत्ल कर दिया गया। एक ने एक मंदिर में जा कर अपनी जान छिपायी। दूसरे ने किसी एक ड्रम के अंदर या अनाज का जखीरा करने का जो वर्तन था उस में छिप कर अपनी जान बचाने की कोशिश की, लेकिन उन दोनों को कत्ल कर दिया गया। इस में कोई शक नहीं कि गवर्नमेंट ने फौरी इंतजामात उन के प्रोटेक्शन के लिए किये और गवर्नर साहब इस के लिए मुबारकबाद के मुस्तहक हैं कि वह वहां गये, लेकिन देखने वाली बात यह है कि अनट चेबिलिटी ऐक्ट के मातहत उन के खिलाफ मुकदमे चलाये गये। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन लोगों के खिलाफ मर्डर के लिए 302 के तहत मुकदमे क्यों नहीं दर्ज किये गये। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आप ने किन-किन सेक्शनस में, किन-किन दफात में उन के खिलाफ मुकदमे दर्ज किये, जब कि उन्होंने एक इतना बड़ा क्राइम किया है। अगर इस के लिए भी कोई पर्दापोशी की जाती है तो उस से उन की हौसला अफजाई होती है और इस समय यह क्राइम का सब से बड़ा जरिया है। जब लोगों के दिलों में इस तरह की हरकत पैदा होती है तो समाज में आईन के बंधन टूट जाते हैं और इन्सान खूंखार बन कर इस तरह की हरकतें करने लगता है।

दूसरे, मुझे यह देख कर शर्म आती है कि सूबा गुजरात जहां स्वामी महर्षि दयानन्द जैसे पैदा हुए, जहां महात्मा गांधी पैदा हुए जिन्होंने अपना सारा जीवन छु आछूत को दूर करने में और कम्युनलिज्म, फिरकापरस्ती को मिटाने में लगा दिया और समाज में एक इक्वैलिटी लाने और उस में डिगिनटी बनाये रखने के लिए आखिर में जिन्होंने अपना जीवन तक दे दिया, वहां भी अगर इस तरह की शर्मनाक बातें होती हैं तो यह बड़े अफसोस की बात है, इस से ज्यादा और मैं क्या कह सकता हूँ।

श्री रामनिवास मिर्धा : श्रीमन्, मैं माननीय सदस्य से सहमत हूँ कि यह जो वाक्या हुआ यह सब वाकई बहुत ही शर्मनाक है और इस तरह के वाक्ये आज कल भी हो रहे हैं यह हमारे सब के लिए बहुत ही शर्म की बात है। उन्होंने इस के बारे में जो प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों ने कार्यवाही की उस के संबंध में भी कहा, गवर्नर खुद मौके पर गये उस का भी आप ने जिक्र किया। शर्मनाक वाक्ये तो है, लेकिन श्रीमन्, हमें यह स्वीकार करना पड़ेगा कि वहा के प्रशासन ने इस में बहुत ही मुस्तैदी में काम किया। पहला वाक्या 28 मई, 1974 को हुआ रनमलपुर गांव में और फौरन जैसे ही पुलिस स्टेशन में रिपोर्ट पहुंची तो एक केस 426/504/506 आई० पी० सी० और सेकशनस 7 और 10 अनटचेबिलिटी आफसेज एक्ट में रजिस्टर हुआ। 107 जाबना फौजदारी की कार्यवाही शुरू की गयी और एकजी-क्यूटिव मैजिस्ट्रेट जो वहां के है उन्होंने फौरन सात लोगों के ऊपर बंदिश लगायी और उन से इंटरिम बाड्स ले

लिये और उस वाक्य के बाद कुछ पुलिस वहा तैनात की गयी। लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से 22 जून, 1974 को और झगडा बढ गया और उस की वजह से दो हरिजनों की जान गयी और कुछ लोग उस में घायल हुए। माननीय सदस्य ने जानना चाहा है कि केवल अनटचेबिलिटी ऐक्ट में ही केस क्यों दर्ज किया गया। जैसा मैं ने कहा, यह सही नहीं है और वाक्य के वाद जो केस दर्ज हुआ, वह 147/148/149/302/307/397/129/324/325/328/382/338/337/452/426/341 और 342 आई० पी० सी० में दर्ज किया गया है और 123 लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया गया और गिरफ्तार ही नहीं, लेकिन 29 जुलाई को केस अदालत में भेज दिया गया। 22 जून को यह वाक्या हुआ, सैकड़ों लोग उसमें पकड़े गये, उसकी जांच की गई, तफ्तीस हुई और 29 जून को केस अदालत में भेज दिया गया। वार्जशॉट अदालत में है।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (गज मदन) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, गुजरात में जो घटनाये हुई है, मुझे लगता है कि ये घटनाये केवल गुजरात में ही अकेली नहीं हुई। इस मदन में पिछली बार महाराष्ट्र के बारे में भी चर्चा हुई थी, उत्तर प्रदेश की घटनाओं के बारे में भी चर्चा हुई, बिहार की घटनाओं के बारे में भी चर्चा हुई और ऐसा लगता है कि पिछले कुछ वर्षों के अंदर इस प्रकार की घटनाओं में वृद्धि हुई है। यह वास्तव में सारे देश के लिए और संसद के लिए बड़ी चिंता का विषय होना चाहिए कि हरिजनों पर अत्याचारों की घटनाये

क्यों बढ़ती जा रही हैं। मंत्री महोदय ने बाद में जो कदम उठाये है वह तो ठीक हैं, लेकिन मैं उनसे यह जानना चाहूंगा कि अगर इस प्रकार की घटनाये बढ रही हैं तो इनके मूल कारणों की जांच के सम्बंध में क्या सरकार ने कोई योजना बनाई है या सरकार कोई ऐसा प्रयत्न कर रही है कि आखिर ये घटनाये आजादी के बाद घटने के बजाय बढती जा रही हैं। चाहे महात्मा गांधी के प्रदेश में हो, चाहे इंदिरा गांधी के प्रदेश में हो, सब प्रकार की घटनाये बढ रही हैं, यह वास्तव में गम्भीर चिंता का विषय है।

एक जो बड़ा झगड़े का मूल कारण होता है उसकी अगर आप सर्वे कराये और पता लगाये कि ऐसी घटनाये जहां होती हैं जिनमें ऐसे हुए हैं जिनसे संयुक्त रूप से पानी पीने की व्यवस्था है। मैं इस बात के बिल्कुल पक्ष में नहीं हूं कि उनके कुएं अलग करवा दीजिए। वह कुएं संयुक्त रहेंगे तभी एक मिलन की भावना रहेगी। पिछले दिनों मैंने एक टैबेसी देवी कि सरकार की ओर से पैसा इसलिए मिलता है कि हरिजनों के मुहले में कुएं बनने चाहिए। उनके पानी पीने की व्यवस्था तो करें, लेकिन संयुक्त व्यवस्था के तौर पर कोई चोख नहीं बन रही है, जिसमें आपस में मिलने का स्थान समाप्त हो जाए। इसका सर्वे कराये, तभी इसका पता चलेगा और लोगों को इसका लाभ होगा।

दूसरा झगडा होना है जमीन की क्राप शेयरिंग का। आज भी हरिजन लोग अधिकांश रूप से जमीन के बंटाईदार के रूप में काम करते हैं।

[श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर]

इसलिए इसकी मालियत के बंटवागे को लेकर कई प्रकार के झगड़े हुए हैं। उस चीज का सर्वे कराये तो मैं समझता हूँ कि सदन को भी और देश को भी लाभ होगा।

जहाँ तक इन घटनाओं के सम्बन्ध में चर्चा हुई, आपने कहा कि गवर्नर भी गये। यह तो बहुत अच्छी बात है, लेकिन सरकार की ओर से कितना इस समस्या की ओर ध्यान दिया गया, वह एक ही बात से पता लगता है। अभी पिछले दिनों दो घटनायें हुईं। इनमें एक हरिजन मरा और उसके मरने पर आपने उसके परिवार को एक हजार रुपया दिया और एक रेल यात्री जो गुड़ा था, बदमाश था वह मरा गुजरात में, बुलसार में, उसके परिवार वालों को 5 हजार रुपया मिला। आखिर इस प्रकार एक हरिजन और एक यात्री जिसके बारे में सब प्रकार की चर्चायें हुईं, उनमें यह अन्तर क्यों है? आपने कहा कि वहाँ पर उस गांव पर पंचायत टैक्स लगा दिया, उन लोगों से वसूल किया जा रहा है, यह बात तो सही है, लेकिन जहाँ देने का सवाल आया वहाँ हरिजन को ज्यादा देते तो बता दिया कि सरकार का उसको पूरा संरक्षण है। उसी प्रान्त में आपने एक कांग्रेस कार्यकर्ता और एक हरिजन कार्यकर्ता के बीच में भेद किया। मगर मुझे लगता है कि सरकार का मापदण्ड बिलकुल गलत है। इसीलिए असामाजिक तत्व इस स्थिति का फायदा उठा रहे हैं। सरकार को उसके ऊपर सचेत होना चाहिए। अहमदाबाद में दलित पेंथर नाम से एक संस्था बनी है वह जिस प्रकार से लोगों को उभाड़ रही है उस पर भी सरकार को विचार करना चाहिए। पिछले

दिनों वहाँ भगवान कृष्ण की जो मूर्ति तोड़ी गई इस सदन का कोई भी सदस्य उसका समर्थन नहीं करेगा, लेकिन दलित पेंथर समाज में इस प्रकार के विघटन की बात करे तो मैं समझता हूँ कि सदन का प्रत्येक सदस्य इस बात का समर्थन करेगा कि इस प्रकार के तत्वों के विरुद्ध सरकार को कदम उठाना चाहिए। एक बात और मैं कहना चाहूँगा खास तौर से सरकार से कि सरकार ने इन वर्गों के मुद्धार की दृष्टि से कमीशनर शैड्यूल कास्ट और शैड्यूल ट्राइब बना रखा है और उसकी रिपोर्ट भी सदन में आती है, लेकिन वह बिलकुल निरर्थक और निकम्मी सिद्ध हुई है। कोई प्रभावी कदम उठाए हों या कोई अच्छे सुझाव दिए हों ऐसी बात उस रिपोर्ट में नहीं कर रही। इसलिए मैं समझता हूँ कि इस आर्गेनाइजेशन को मजबूत बनाने के लिए सरकार को प्रयत्न करने चाहिए।

राम निवास मिर्धा जी या उनके सहयोगी गृह मंत्री श्री दीक्षित जी, दोनों से मैं निवेदन करना चाहूँगा कि अभी कल के अखबार में मैंने पढ़ा कि स्मर्गलिंग की देश में बड़ी भयानक बीमारी हो गई है। उस स्मर्गलिंग को रोकने के लिए हमारे जो गणेश सहाब है उन्होंने घोषणा की है कि मैं सत्याग्रह करूँगा। कांग्रेस के लोग सत्याग्रह करना भूल गए हैं। इस मामले में हमारी सरकार या गृह मंत्री देश का नेतृत्व करेंगे तो हम उनके साथ हैं। उनके पीछे रहेंगे इन हरिजनों की समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए। उन पर जहाँ भी अत्याचार हों उनकी समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए सत्याग्रह करने के लिए आप आगे बढ़ेंगे तो समाज के

पिछड़े लोगों में जन-चेतना जागृत करने के लिए जिनकी देश की सामाजिक संस्थाएं हैं—जैसे आर्य समाज है या दूसरी संस्थाएं हैं—केवल कमीशनर के भरोसे न रहिए, उन संस्थाओं का सहयोग आपको मिलेगा। आप उसका नेतृत्व करें। हम आपके साथ हैं। इस कार्यक्रम में हम आपका पूरा साथ देंगे। हम समस्या के निदान के लिए, इस समाज में जन-चेतना तथा सामाजिक सद्भाव पैदा करने की दृष्टि से आप अग्रसर हों, हम आपके पीछे होंगे।

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : श्रीमन्, माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि ये घटनाएं आजकल बढ़ती चली जा रही हैं और दूसरे राज्यों से भी इस प्रकार के समाचार मिलते रहे हैं। मेरे पास कुछ आंकड़े हैं लेकिन मैं उनको अभी सदन के समक्ष रखना नहीं चाहता। सिर्फ इतना कह देना चाहता हूँ कि घटनाएं बढ़ नहीं रही हैं, लेकिन एक भी घटना हमारे देश में हो यह बहुत शर्म की बात है। मिमाल के तीर पर गुजरात में '73 में पहले 6 महीनों में 158 इस प्रकार की घटनाएं घठी हैं, जिनमें हरिजनों को किसी न किसी प्रकार से तकलीफ दी गई या उनके खिलाफ आतंक रहा और सन् '74 के इन 6 महीनों में 99 घटनाएं इस प्रकार की हुई हैं। लेकिन जैसा मैंने कहा कि मैं उनके तथ्यों में जाना नहीं चाहता कि इसमें सतर्कता की कमी है या स्थिति गम्भीर नहीं है या इसमें ढील बरती नहीं गई है, परन्तु इतना निश्चित है कि जो भी केन्द्रीय सरकार ने या राज्य सरकारों ने इस तरफ कदम उठाए हैं उनके अच्छे परिणाम निकले हैं। राज्य प्रशासन, जिला प्रशासन, पुलिस अधि-

कागी और जिला अधिकारी सब इस वान के लिए पहले से ज्यादा सतर्क है कि इस प्रकार की घटनाएं न हों और जो घटनाएं हुई हैं उन पर जल्दी से जल्दी कार्रवाई की जाए।

माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा इनके मूल कारणों की जांच क्यों न की जाए। श्रीमन्, मूल कारण तो करीब-करीब सब हमारे सामने हैं और कई कारण मिल कर ये समस्याएं बनती हैं। आर्थिक शोषण का प्रश्न इससे जुड़ा होता है, जमीन के बंटवारे का प्रश्न इससे जुड़ा होता है, जो शिकमी काशतकार हैं अपने हक के लिए लड़ते हैं वह भी इस समस्या का एक कारण बन सकता है और सामाजिक दृष्टि कोण तो अपने आप में एक बहुत बड़ा कारण है। इस सारी स्थिति के बारे में कोई जांच कराई जाए आवश्यकता प्रतीत नहीं होती। हम सब को प्रत्यक्ष मालूम है हम सब को अच्छी तरह से मालूम है कि किन कारणों से सारी बातें होती हैं। अगर मैं विस्तार से बताऊँ कि सरकार ने इस को रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए तो यह अपने आप में एक बहुत बड़ी वहस हो जाएगी। प्रधान मंत्री जी ने भी इस में बड़ी दिलचस्पी दिखाई है, मुख्य मंत्रियों को हमेशा वह कहती रहीं हैं और गृह मंत्री जी के द्वारा भी समय-समय पर राज्य सरकारों को, उनके मंत्रियों को इस बात के लिए आग्रह किया जाता रहा कि इस तरफ वे ज्यादा ध्यान दें। श्रीमन्, शैड्यूल ट्राइब और शैड्यूल कास्ट कमीशनर का भी जिक्र आया। मैं समझता हूँ जो उनकी रिपोर्टें सदन के समक्ष आती हैं उनका बड़ा अच्छा असर हुआ

[श्री राम निवास मिर्धा]

है। उनके बारे में विस्तार से जानकारी सदन के समक्ष आती है और सदन को उन पर बहस करने का अवसर मिलना है और मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि उनके कार्यक्रम और उनकी रिपोर्ट की वजह से भी इस क्षेत्र में काफी प्रगति हुई है।

जहाँ तक उनके मंगठनों को ज्यादा कारगर बनाने का प्रश्न है, मैं स्वयं मानता हूँ कि उनको कारगर बनाया जाना चाहिए और उनको प्रभावशाली भी बनाया जाना चाहिए, ताकि वे इस क्षेत्र में ज्यादा कारगर ढंग से कार्य कर सकें और ज्यादा अच्छी तरह से उनके ऊपर जो नवविधानिक दायित्व है उनको निभा सकें। हमारे स्वयं के विभाग के जौनल डायरेक्टर जब ऐसी घटनाएँ होती हैं तो मौके पर पहुंचते हैं और हर महीने रिपोर्ट भेजते रहते हैं और उसको लेकर हम कार्यवाही करते रहते हैं। इसलिए यह कहना कि स्थिति विगडनी जा रही है और इसको रोका नहीं जा रहा है, मेरे खयाल से यह बात सत्य से थोड़ा परे है।

जहाँ तक हरिजनो को मदद देने का प्रश्न है, दो हजार रुपयों की हरिजनो को तात्कालिक राहत दी गई है और उसके अलावा मकान बनाने, वर्तन खरीदने के लिए, कपड़ा खरीदने के लिए और अन्य कार्यों के लिए भी राहत दी जा रही है। हम राज्य सरकार के सम्पर्क में हैं और उनको पूर्ण रूप से तब तक मदद मिलती रहती है, जब तक वे अपना मकान न बना लें और सब तरह से पुनर्स्थापित न हो सकें। हमारा यह भी कहना है कि इन कामों के

लिए उनको ज्यादा से ज्यादा मदद दी जाय। इसके अलावा जैसा मैंने कहा उनको दो हजार रुपयों की मदद मिल रही है और यह सहायता दो हजार रुपयों तक ही सीमित नहीं है, आज भी अन्य किमी न किमी रूप में उनको मदद मिलने लगी है। हमने राज्य सरकार से कहा है कि वे और ज्यादा मदद हरिजनो को दें ताकि जो हरिजन इन घटनाओं से प्रभावित हुए हैं, उनको पूर्ण रूप से राहत मिल सके।

माननीय सदस्य का यह कहना कि हमारे देश में जो इस क्षेत्र में काम करने वाली संस्थाएँ हैं, उनका भी योग लेना चाहिए। मेरे स्वयं का जो बयान है उसमें मैंने कहा है कि केवल पुलिस या प्रशासन पर छोड़ने से इतनी गहन समस्या का हल नहीं हो सकता। जब तक आप और हम, सरकार तथा सम्पूर्ण समाज इस काम के लिए एक जुट होकर आगे नहीं आता, तब तक यह पुरानी स्थिति जो बहुत ही दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण स्थिति है, उसका निवारण नहीं हो सकता है। इसके लिए भी योजनाएँ हैं कि जो स्वयंसेवी संस्थाएँ हरिजनो द्वारा में लगी हुई है उनको सहायता दी जाय। हमारी गह भी नीति है कि इन स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं को हरिजनो को मदद करने के लिए, उनकी शिक्षा के लिए, उनके लिए अस्पताल बनाने के लिए और अस्पृश्यता निवारण के प्रचार के लिए ज्यादा से ज्यादा मदद दी जाय और उनका सहयोग इस कार्य में लिया जाय।

श्री रबी राय (उड़ीसा) : उप-सभापति जी, मैं अपना सवाल पूछने से पहले यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब श्री मिर्धा अभी जवाब दे रहे थे तो ऐसा मालूम पड़ता था कि मानो He is

going to score a point. लेकिन क्या इन बातों से हमको संतोष होगा? हमको संतोष तभी होगा जब वे असलियत को सामने रख कर जवाब दे। मेरा सवाल यह है कि यह सिर्फ गुजरात का सवाल नहीं है। देश भर में इस तरह के अत्याचार हरिजनों के ऊपर होते हैं, लगातार हुए हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से इस बारे में सहमत नहीं हूँ कि हरिजनों के ऊपर जो अत्याचार होते थे वे घट गये हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह कहूँगा कि उनको इस बारे में वास्तविक जानकारी मालूम नहीं है। अभी पिछले तीन-चार साल के अन्दर हमारे देश में हरिजनों के ऊपर जो अत्याचार हुए हैं, आप देखेंगे कि मेरे हाथ में जो यह किताब है, प्रेस क्लिपिंग्स है जो मुझे पार्लियामेंट की लायब्रेरी से प्राप्त हुए हैं, इनसे यह स्पष्ट हो जाता है कि हमारे देश में हरिजनों पर अत्याचार की वारदातें बढ़ी हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या वे इस बात पर ध्यान देंगे कि पिछले पांच-छ सालों से लगातार हरिजनों के ऊपर अफसरों की तरफ से, कास्ट हिन्दुओं की तरफ से जो अत्याचार हो रहे हैं, उन पर एक हवाइट पेपर निकालने के लिए तैयार है ताकि देशवासियों को मालूम हो जाय कि हरिजनों के ऊपर किस तरीके से अत्याचार हो रहे हैं? उपसभापति जी, मिर्धा साहब ने जवाब नहीं दिया। मैं यहाँ भी पूछना चाहूँगा कि क्या इस तरह के पक्षपात या यह एक नमूना नहीं है कि गुजरात के गवर्नर ने यूथ कांग्रेस के जो लोग बुलसार में घायल हो गये थे उनको तो पांच हजार रुपये मुआवजे के तौर पर दिये गये? और एक हरिजन, जो कि मर गया

था, उसके परिवार को 1,000 रु० दिया गया। सवाल है पक्षपात का, क्या इस तरह का पक्षपात सरकार की तरफ से हो रहा है? गुजरात अभी मिर्धा साहब के आधीन है, केन्द्र सरकार के आधीन है इसलिए उनकी ज्यादा जिम्मेदारी है, दायम्ब है, यह देखने का यह सब क्यों हो रहा है

दूसरी बात मैं आपको कहना चाहता हूँ उपसभापति महोदय, कि आपको मालूम है कि 4-5 साल पहले आन्ध्र प्रदेश के एक भूतपूर्व मंत्री मिस्टर थिमा रेड्डी जो कि मंत्री थे कांग्रेस मंत्रिमंडल में, वे हरिजनों के बारे में इस तरह के अपशब्द बोले कि हरिजन ताड़ना के पात्र हैं, अत्याचार के पात्र हैं, उस वक्त मैं लोक सभा में था मैंने सवाल भी उठाया। सवाल यह है कि यह जो सामाजिक बीमारी है, सामाजिक रोग है, यह गांधी जी की मौत के बाद भयंकर रूप से हमारे अंदर भूतूद है। हम सब इसके लिए जिम्मेदार हैं, खाली इसमें मिर्धा जी ही जिम्मेदार है यह मेरा मनलव नहीं, सरकार जिम्मेदार है, हम सब जिम्मेदार हैं। लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ गैड्यूल्ड कास्ट कमिशनर जो रपट देना है उस पर कार्यान्वयन जिस तरह से होना चाहिए, वह नहीं हो रहा है। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि सारे लोगों की सामाजिक कॉन्सेन्स को जगाने के लिए सरकार की तरफ से क्या हो रहा है। श्रीमन्, मैं कहना चाहूँगा कि कांग्रेस की पार्लियामेंटरी कमेटी के सदस्य लोक सभा में 1967-68 में मांग कर रहे थे कि हरिजन पुलिस को भी इस्तेमाल करना चाहिए, हरिजन

[श्री रबी राय]

पुलिस का ज्यादा अप्रौइन्टमेन्ट होना चाहिए ताकि इस तरह के जो क्राइम्स होते हैं हरिजनो के खिलाफ उनकी रोक-थाम हो।

तीसरी बात मैं यह पूछना चाहना हूँ कि क्या मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस ओर गया है जो कि कल की खबर है कि एक भूतपूर्व कांग्रेस एम० एल० ए० मिस्टर मकवाना गुजरात के गवर्नर से मिले और मिल कर एक याचिकापत्र (मेमोरेण्डम) दिए हैं, जिसमें कहा है कि

"The Harijan cattle-owners in Gujarat are not allowed to become members of the producing society and even the milk supplied by them is not accepted by the co-operative society."

यह जो गुजरात के गवर्नर को मेमोरेण्डम दिए हैं, क्या इस की तरफ मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान गया है और यदि हाँ, तो मंत्री महोदय ने इस बारे में क्या कार्य-वाही की?

आखिरी सवाल मेरा यह है कि क्या मंत्री महोदय के सामने इस तरह की कोई योजना है कि जिस तरीके से एक जन आंदोलन देश में गांधी जी चलाते थे, पैदल घूम-घूम कर देश के हिस्सों में हरिजनो पर सदियों से हो रहे अत्याचारों की तरफ लोगों का ध्यान खींचते थे, तो क्या मंत्री महोदय के सामने ऐसी योजना है कि देश भर में हरिजनो के ऊपर जो अत्याचार हो रहा है, उसके बारे में लोगों में सामाजिक विवेक-बुद्धि को जगाने की कोई योजना है? अगर है तो सदन को बताएं।

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : श्रीमन्, जब कभी भी हरिजनों के ऊपर अत्याचारों पर बहस होती है हम कभी भी,

केवल बहस के दौरान कोई बात कह दें या उसका उत्तर देकर निकल जाए, इसकी कोशिश नहीं करते। मैंने स्वयं आकड़े बताते हुए कहा कि चाहे कितने ही कम हों हम तो उसको बहुत ही शर्मनाक और दर्दनाक चीज समझते हैं। इसलिए जो भी माननीय सदस्य ने और दूसरे सदस्यों ने समय-समय पर सदन में इस समस्या पर जो भावनाएं व्यक्त की हैं, हम उनसे पूर्ण रूप से सहमत हैं और हम तो यही मानते हैं वे और हम सब मिल कर इस समस्या को हल करने की कोशिश करें, हम कोई दूसरी तरह से इसको नहीं देखना चाहते।

श्रीमन्, जहां तक एक श्वेत-पत्र इस समस्या पर निकालने का प्रश्न है, मैं समझता हूँ श्वेत-पत्र तब निकाला जाता है जब समस्या पर कोई नया विचार हो या कोई तथ्य पहले मालूम नहीं था उसको खोज कर निकाला जाए और उसको हल करने की कोशिश की जाए। मैं समझता हूँ यह समस्या काफी व्यापक है और हम अच्छी तरह से परिचित हैं इसके कारणों से और यह कि इसका किस प्रकार में हल हो सकता है। शेडयूल्ड कास्ट और शेडयूल्ड ट्राइब्स कमिशनर की रिपोर्ट भी अपने आप में एक ऐसी रिपोर्ट है जिस पर बहस हांती है, सारी स्थिति का हर वर्ष जायजा सदन के समक्ष आता है। इसलिए मैं समझता हूँ नया श्वेत-पत्र आने की आवश्यकता नहीं है और जो भी हमारे सामने तथ्य हैं वे काफी हमारी जानकारी में हैं और उनको हम हल कर सकें, यही हमारी हमेशा कोशिश रहती है। अब हरिजनो को पुलिस में ज्यादा भर्ती किया जाय, इसकी भी कोशिश हो रही है।

कोशिश ही नहीं बल्कि उनके लिए विभिन्न स्तरों पर जो संरक्षण है पदों पर और पुलिस में तथा अन्य विभागों में, उनके बारे में पूरा पूरा ध्यान रखा जाता है। यहां तक कि जो उच्च सेवाएं हैं, जैसे आई० पी० एस० और आई० ए० एस०, इनमें कई वर्षों से सारा रिजर्वेशन है और इसमें कोई लैप्स नहीं होता है। हम यह कोशिश करते हैं कि योजना बनाकर उनको परीक्षा में बिल्कुल लाया जाय और इसके लिए कोचिंग दी जाती है और इस काम के लिए सस्मान बना दिये गये हैं। मुझे इस बात की खुशी है सदन को बतलाते हुए कि 1964 से अब तक यार्नी पिछले आठ, दस वर्षों में उच्च सेवाओं की प्लेसमेंट इन जातियों के द्वारा भरी गई है।

श्री भैरों सिंह शेखावत (मध्य प्रदेश) : आप यह चीज पब्लिक अन्डरटेकिंग के बारे में नहीं कह सकते हैं।

श्री उष-सभापति : वे आई० ए० एस० और आई० पी० एस० के बारे में कह रहे हैं।

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : यही नहीं कि इन सेवाओं में सब सीटें इनकी भर गई ह . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't divert to other things.

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : इस समय हमारे सामने जो प्रश्न है, उस पर ज्यादा विचार करे क्योंकि अगर चीजों के बारे में तो समय समय पर बहस होती जाती है। उन्होंने पुलिस में ज्यादा भर्तियों की बात कही थी, तो उन्हें

इस चीज का जवाब दिया गया है।

उन्होंने जो गवर्नर को प्रतिवेदन देने की बात कही उसके बारे में कल्पना ही हमने समाचार में पढ़ा और उसके पढ़ते ही हमने राज्य सरकार से कहा है कि वह इस बारे में हमें सूचना दे कि उन्हें क्या प्रतिवेदन दिया गया है और उस पर क्या कार्यवाही करने वाले हैं? आपने जो संकेत दिया खबर के बारे में, उस पर हमारा ध्यान गया है और इस सम्बन्ध में कल ही एक तार दे दिया गया है कि जल्दी से इस बारे में बतलाये।

आखिरी में, माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि क्या सरकार के पास इस प्रकार की कोई योजना है जिसके द्वारा हम देश में इस समस्या के प्रति जन-आन्दोलन शुरू किया जा सके? श्रीमान्, मैं यहां पर यह निवेदन कर देना चाहता हू कि इस प्रकार के जन आन्दोलन सरकारी आदेशों और कार्यक्रमों द्वारा नहीं किये जा सकते हैं और न हम चाहते हैं कि सरकारी आन्दोलन हो और न आन्दोलन सरकारी रूप ले। जैसा मैंने निवेदन किया और अपने बयान में भी कहा कि यह जो समस्या है, उसकी सामाजिक ढंग से हल करनी पड़ेगी। इसके लिए जो भी योजना और जो भी व्यवस्था इस क्षेत्र में काम करता है और इस सम्बन्ध में जो गैर-सरकारी आन्दोलन होंगे, उनमें मदद दी जा सकती है और संरक्षण दिया जा सकता है और सरकार इस संरक्षण और सहयोग को आगे बढ़ाना चाहती है और आगे बढ़ाने की कोशिश करेगी, जैसा कि अभी माननीय सदस्य ने कहा।

SHRI UMASHANKAR JOSHI (Nominated) : Sir, I would very much like that what Mirdhaji has said were right, that the incidence is less this year. If my memory is not failing me, the reports from 1967 to 1970, three reports, were placed before this House, simultaneously, and they revealed that there was one murder of a Harijan per day in this country. Does this still happen ?

When the last report was discussed, I drew the attention of the Home Minister to the fact that on the birth day of Mahatma Gandhi, a young Harijan man and his relatives were beaten to almost death in Gandhinagar, by the bureaucratic community there. So the inference is that however much we may talk of social change and all that, the Harijans do not get a fair deal. Thakkar Bapa and Pareekshit Lal are no more there in Gujarat. I wonder whether the New Congress has a strong wing of social workers who work like Pareekshit Lal in Gujarat. The bureaucracy does not bother about these cases. Whenever there are some cases, they are hushed up and there is an attempt to cover the culprits, and the politicians also do not come out any better in all this. We have in the House of the people seats for the Harijans in accordance with the strength or the number in the total Indian population. But a healthy state of affairs in India will be when every fifth person in public life, in offices, in places of privilege, is a Scheduled Caste man or a Scheduled Tribe man. What are we doing towards achieving this purpose ?

During President's rule in 1971-72 the then Governor saw to it that out of 4 lakh acres of fallow land, 2.2 lakh acres were distributed amongst the landless in the backward community including the Scheduled Castes. During the present President's rule can you do something of this sort? The problem ultimately is not merely social. It is an economic problem also. It is a problem of exploitation. The privileged classes want to keep these exploited people in surveillance and precious little is done by all of us. So can you please see that about 2 lakh acres of land which is there available for being

distributed, is distributed, to begin with amongst Harijans as well as members of Scheduled tribes.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The honourable Member feels that on many occasions Harijans do not get a fair deal from the bureaucracy and the politicians also do not come out any better. It is true that such instances do come to our notice once in a while; but the seriousness with which the Central and State Governments take this matter and one contributing to this growing awareness of the serious nature of the problem, is frequent discussions on the matter in the House and the very strong feelings expressed by honourable Members. That is a very important contributing factor. A consciousness is growing at all levels of administration that these things cannot be treated lightly. And we have evolved many administrative procedures and systems by which we seek to collect information, cross-check it and at various levels see that the police in the district administration acts promptly. But there have been instances, I can quote any number of instances, when policemen, senior police officers and district officers have been suspended and punished for being even tardy in taking action in such matters. And that is also bringing some effect. Even politicians have not been spared. If you remember what happened in the village Bavda in Maharashtra, an important politician was involved in this, his very close relation, and State administration took prompt action and arrested the person concerned. While completely agreeing that what is being done has not fully solved the problem, I would again beseech the honourable members of the House, that things are changing, maybe slowly, but changing in a very definite direction and a lot of factors have contributed to it, and not certainly the least among them being the interest shown by honourable Members in this problem whenever it comes before the House. As regards his suggestion, it is a very good suggestion, that as in the past the fallow land should be distributed to Harijans. Our general policy is to do that. I would specially bring this matter to the notice of the Governor so that he may look into it and take expeditious action.

SHRI K. N. DHULAP (Maharashtra): Sir, before putting my question to the honourable Minister, I would like to state that I do not agree with him that the number of atrocities being committed by the caste Hindus on Harijans is decreasing. That is not a fact because there is a lot of burking of cases as far as the offences against the Harijans are concerned. Sir, he has just now referred to the case of Bavda in Poona district of Maharashtra where a very responsible Congress worker was arrested by the police. But in that case too, there was a lot of pressure from the public. Then and then only he was arrested after a long time. So, there is burking and there is covering up of cases by the persons who are higher-ups in the administration. Sir, hon. Shri Rabi Roy referred to the memorandum submitted by some members of the Harijan community to the Governor of Gujarat. There is President's Rule in Gujarat for the last six months and again the period is going to be extended. Sir, the Governor of Gujarat had given an assurance to the people, particularly the backward community people. He said that welfare of the backward classes has received special attention of the State Government and a number of measures have been taken to eradicate untouchability in all forms, that the District administration has tightened up, and that the District Magistrates and the Superintendents of Police have been made personally responsible for initiating action for the implementation of the Untouchability Law. This was the assurance given by the Administration. The President's rule is there in Gujarat. In spite of all that, these atrocities are being committed. Therefore, Sir, I will suggest some ways and means to deal with this situation.

Sir, my first suggestion would be that the registration of the co-operative societies, which are not accepting Harijans as members of milk producing societies, etc. should be cancelled. Harijan students are made to sit at a certain distance from the caste Hindu students. Those teachers in those schools should be taken to task and they should be punished. Again, Sir, the barbers are not allowing Harijans to enter their shops for hair-cuts. These shops have been registered

under the Shops & Establishments Act. The registration of such shops should be cancelled by the authorities concerned. (*Time bell rings*). Lastly, Sir, I would bring to the notice of the hon. Minister a matter about which he should take immediate action. Whoever is responsible for the burking of cases registered by Harijans against caste-Hindus, those officers should be immediately suspended and immediate and stern action should be taken against those officers.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Member when he says that the policemen who do not register cases or do burking should be punished and seriously dealt with. That is exactly what our present instructions are. As regards his contention that it was the pressure of public opinion which led to the arrest of the concerned person in village Bavda, that is exactly what I want to say that unless the pressure of public opinion is built up, many things are not done. Not only public opinion but there should be active participation of the public in seeing that the backward class people get their due share of rights in the society of which they are a part.

Sir, the Governor of Gujarat is taking special interest in this case of Ranmalpur. He visited the place soon after the incident took place, and he ordered the imposition of punitive fine on that area. And he is very much conscious of that and he is doing all that need to be done in a case of this nature. Well, Sir, the hon. Member has suggested that the co-operative societies which do not enrol Scheduled Caste members, their registrations should be cancelled, the teachers who make Harijan students sit on one side of the class and discriminate against them they should be punished and barbers who refuse service to Harijans should be punished. These are exactly the demands that have been made in the memorandum that was submitted recently to the Governor. Sir, I think, we will examine what possible action can be taken. These suggestions are very good suggestions and we would examine them.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mahadeo Prasad you will not be called because one Member from your Party, Mr. Rabi Ray, has already spoken. There are so many names. Yes, Mr. Kumbhare.

SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE (Maharashtra): Sir, the problem of Scheduled Castes is that of social disability and poverty. The grievance of our people is that the Government has not taken this problem seriously. I can say from my experience that the Government have appointed a Committee, known as Ellaya Perumal Committee, and that Committee after about two and a half years investigation submitted a comprehensive report regarding educational and social problems of this class. In my anxiety to know as to what actually the Government had done with that report, I put a question in this House. Sir, you will be really surprised to know that I got a one line reply that all the recommendations made by this Committee pertain to the State sphere and, therefore, the State Government is advised to take steps in the light of the recommendations made by this Committee. Regarding the problem of untouchability they said that the Government was taking steps to make that law more comprehensive. That is the reply. Therefore, with such an attitude, we people carry the impression that Government is not really serious about our problems.

Now, I refer to the problem of poverty. In regard to this problem, you will agree with me that in the villages 80 per cent of the people are landless labourers. They have no land of their own. They are required to work in fields. Now, there has been an agitation that these poorly paid workers must be given a fair deal and all that they asked for was that this Government should notify a minimum wage, some sort of a national minimum wage, so that these poor workers get a fair deal in return. This, of course, is a very basic approach. I would like to know from our hon. Minister whether such a step has been taken. If not, what is the problem? Do you really want to give them a fair deal, what is fair to them? Then what is the problem? There are villages

where they are not paid even Rs. 2 a day. This is the problem.

Now, Sir, I come to the problem of social disability. Now, I can say from my experience that there is not a single village, there is not a single area where social disability does not operate. If there is a well in a locality of caste Hindus, Scheduled Castes or untouchables are not permitted to go there. Now, the Scheduled Caste people realise that they are in minority. They cannot muster courage with the result that public places where they have got a right to have access to, they cannot go because they cannot muster courage to go there. Although he has got a right to fetch water from there, he does not go there. Now, in such cases why should not the Government take initiative to locate all areas of untouchability. Government should take initiative, go there, get the people and ask them to go to these public places and create conditions whereby they can really assert their rights. Has this been done? No, this has not been done. What has really been done are only half-hearted measures wherever Government could give help to them.

Now, as I understand the provisions of the Constitution, the Directive Principles of the State Policy, the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and weaker sections is entirely the responsibility of the Union Government. Now, we have got Mirdhaji here, who is, according to me, a man of dedication and service. With regard to compensation you will have to build up a fund and whenever such atrocities are committed when lives are lost and people suffer due to house-burning, etc. they should be given adequate compensation out of that fund. Leaving the matter with the State Governments will not help because there is no scheme there with them to pay adequate compensation. Can't you do this? (*Time-bell rings*).

Then, after the atrocities are committed there are many other problems—the problem of investigation, etc. As soon as the atrocities are committed, there will be several sources which will bring pressure on the investigation officers and the investigation

is not properly done. I can also say that pressure is being brought even in the conduct of trial and the trial is not fairly done. Why should not the Government step in and see that it is properly done? Even in the court, in the matter of conducting the trial, let there be some good persons who will be able to conduct it properly. These are some of the problems.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, the hon. Member has highlighted some of the problems and one certainly cannot disagree with his formulations particularly when he said that it is the question of social disability and poverty which are at the root of it all.

As regards the Elayaperumal committee recommendations, the Committee made a number of recommendations regarding educational, social and economic development of the Scheduled Castes and as the House very well knows, whether it is in the sphere of education, agricultural development, irrigation or others, naturally the States have a big role to play. So, when we say that we have sent the recommendations to the State Governments it does not mean that we are not pursuing the matter. But basically it is for them to take detailed administrative action so far as these recommendations are concerned. One of the important recommendations of the Committee was that the law regarding untouchability offences should be amended. For that purpose a Bill was prepared and it was referred to a Joint Select Committee and the Joint Select Committee did an excellent job and has brought a completely new concept of the whole problem and, Sir I have no hesitation in saying—and I will take this opportunity to inform the house—that in the Joint Select Committee the hon. Member has played a very active role, a very leading role and many of his ideas we have been trying to incorporate, and I am sure when the Bill comes before the House for discussion, many of the new provisions that we seek to introduce will be appreciated. Not only the provisions but we have changed the name of the Bill itself and given a completely new orientation to tackling this problem.

As regards compensation and having a Central fund, the problem is really too vast and complicated and far-flung for the Central Government or a Central fund to take note of. One thing I have said before and I would like to mention here again is that unless we involve the State administrations in all these matters it will not be possible to implement the policies which we have initiated. So, we cannot start with the presumption that the State Governments are not serious about it or that they are half-hearted, they are not competent and they are indifferent; that is not the case. The Centre has been playing its role in a very subtle but very effective way, and as I said earlier, the results have come not to our satisfaction but things have improved considerably.

As regards a minimum national wage and removal of poverty, poverty is a vast problem in our country—there are historical reasons—and Harijans as well as non-Harijans also are involved in that problem, and this is hardly the time when we can discuss about a national minimum wage. But when occasion arises this would certainly be discussed.

As regards the Government itself taking initiative to search out areas of social discrimination, as suggested by the hon. Member, we are already doing so. It is not that our action is just punitive that the administration could step in when the crime has been committed and deal with it as a purely law and order matter or take punitive action against the persons concerned. Even our instruction to the administrators at the district level is that they should *suo motu* go out of their way, seek areas of social discrimination as he has very well put it, and see that they take an active and forward stance in matters like this. I will just quote one sentence incidentally which appears in the directions issued by the Chief Secretary to Gujarat to all Collectors and district police officials:

“It will also be their responsibility to launch prosecutions *suo motu* in case of hotels, restaurants, etc. or other public places where untouchability is still observed and take executive or legal action as is warranted in each case”

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

But again administrative action has to be supported and supplemented by massive public action and unless we did that Government action alone would not be as effective or as widespread as we wish it to be but the Government have taken various steps, improvement of investigations, treating these cases as special cases, stipulations that persons below a certain level would not investigate these cases etc. All these have been provided or in our instructions and since they are being followed we do hope that things are improving and will improve still further.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal):
Sir, I have a letter direct from the area which says that tensions are building up in every village there. The incidents took place on 22nd July this year. The district authorities were informed; the sarpanch was informed; the police authorities were informed but they sent only three police constables. They did nothing more. They knew that for four or five months tension was building up, because the wells have gone dry and Harijans rather the untouchables—I do not like the word 'Harijans'—had no other alternative but to take water from the public well. It was the sarpanch who first took the initiative in assaulting the untouchables who went there to fetch water with pails on their heads and then 500 Caste Hindus descended upon them and they did not spare even the women. They took out the two leaders of the Harijans—there are only a hundred or so Harijans or untouchables—and they killed them with spears. Eight of them were seriously injured. This is what happened. After 27 years of Congress rule the Government cannot come up with excuses and say it is a social concern and all that I accuse the Congress Government that is their policy, their attitude that is responsible for this state of affairs. I am told some years ago even Shri Jagjivan Ram got angry when another Caste Hindu Minister got into his portfolio and all his belongings were removed including even the picture. If that is the attitude of Ministers at the Central Congress Government level you can well imagine what can happen down below. It all depends upon how the country is ruled

and who rules it. On their attitude the entire thing depends. Every day in Banda, Neera, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal, where not, these things are coming up 1 P.M. They have taken certain measures after that, but they could not prevent it. That is my first charge. Tension was building up. Then, wherever throughout India untouchability is practised in any form the Government should forcibly remove that. Instead of your BSF and C.R.P. hunting down political parties and all that, they should hunt down the criminals who have committed crime against society, against six crores of the down-trodden people of India. So, whenever they are killed in such cases the killers should be sent to the firing squad, instead of going through all those legal formalities and all that. I know that in this society they will not get justice. The only course for them is to rebel unitedly, all sections of the peasantry, barring the landlords and the very big kulak section. Eighty per cent of the peasantry, including the untouchables, all sections, should combine together and bring about a revolution. That is the only alternative. Otherwise, this will not be rooted out. Even in this village of Ranmalpur, 15 bighas of fallow land were allotted to a Harijan. It was destroyed before the Jowar could bud. That person has to pay revenue, but he cannot grow any crop there. (*Time bell rings*). In this very village it is continuing for years together. So, land must be distributed. I know you will not do it, but still we have got to say it. The Republican Party's and the Peasants and Workers Party's separate movement will not do. All these down-trodden people, including the middle peasantry, a section of the upper middle peasantry, all must join together, along with the political parties, and bring about a revolution, bloody or bloodless, whatever it might be. Otherwise, there will not be any change. Still, even under the circumstances, I point my accusing finger at the ruling Congress party who are encouraging these things. Under their aegis these things are taking place. They can forcibly prevent it. They should include also the Muslims and Christians. If a Muslim touches water, that cannot be drunk. Is it secular India?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have to wind up.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: What sort of India is this? The Christians are there. These things should be done away with at one stroke. Force should be applied there. Force you are applying against those who want to remove these injustices. That is the root of the trouble and that is what has happened here. What did the Chief Secretary and the Superintendent of Police do in this case. . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you will reply now.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (उत्तर प्रदेश) .
एक हरिजन मंत्रालय अलग से बनाइए, गृह
मंत्रालय के वश की यह बात नहीं है।

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The hon. Member has said that no effort was made to prevent this happening and if preventive action had been taken this incident would not have happened because tension was building up in that village. The first incident in Ranmalpur village took place on May 28, 1974 and a complaint was received. The case was registered. Proceedings under section 107 Cr. P.C. were initiated, not only initiated but the Executive Magistrate ordered that interim bond be taken from seven persons. Two or three armed constables were also posted. So, it cannot be said that no preventive action was taken, preventive action in a legal sense was also taken. Preventive action on the administrative level was also taken. But still, in spite of this, the serious happening took place on June 22, 1974, the details of which are well known to the House.

As regards the hon. Member's contention that that we should forcibly remove untouchability and see that the distribution of surplus lands takes place, these are being done. The Untouchability Offences Act, as I said, has been completely redrafted and a lot of new provisions with a lot of teeth in those provisions have been added, and when the House discusses those new provisions, it would know what we need to do and if anything more needs

to be done, in the field of legislation, we would certainly do so.

As regards the administrative action of distributing the surplus lands, I do not have the figures with me because the Call Attention Motion was specially for certain happenings that took place in Gujarat recently. Otherwise, I would have brought those figures about lakhs and lakhs of acres of surplus lands that have been distributed in the last few years. And the hon. Member was also aware of this; on various occasions, we had informed him. So, the distribution of surplus land is one of the important planks of the Government's policy.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I am not aware. Some had been distributed in my State when aware our Government was there. But I am not about other States.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: There have been a series of land legislations regarding ceiling on holdings. Then the ceilings were also lowered simply because it was the desire of the Government that more and more surplus lands should be available for distribution. Then about the fallow lands, Government's policy is definitely that the priority in the distribution of the fallow land should go to the Harijans and other landless people in those areas.

श्री रबी राय : सिर्फ कागज पर है।

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा . कुछ कागज पर है और कुछ जमीन पर भी है। लेकिन जो कुछ कागज पर है, उसे जमीन पर लाने के लिए आप का, हमारा सहयोग चाहिए।

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: A bloody tiger a political revolution, would come.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: These things are being looked into and we will go on with the distribution of surplus lands.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Indra Deep Singh.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the hon. Minister just now said...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have called Mr. Indra Deep Singh.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN : I want one clarification from the Minister. About social legislations, he said...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Calling Attention Motion is for asking clarifications and there is some order in which Members ask clarifications...

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: From the speech he made...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Whatever it be, you take your turn and you cannot get priority over another Member.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: I have only one question to ask.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You will get your chance. The DMK can get its chance.

श्री इन्द्रदीप सिंह (बिहार): उप-सभापति जी, मैं बड़े ध्यान से मंत्री महोदय का वक्तव्य सुन रहा था। यह बात सही है कि इस समस्या के कई पहलू हैं और तमाम पहलुओं पर काम करने की आवश्यकता है। पहिले मैं कानून के पहलू को आपके समक्ष उपस्थित करना चाहता हूँ। यह बात सब को मालूम है कि अस्पृश्यता के निवारण के सम्बन्ध में सिलेक्ट कमेटी ने कुछ सुझाव प्रस्तावित किये हैं। लेकिन मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार का यह इरादा है कि इस कानून के अन्तर्गत जिनसे भी अपराध हो, उन्हें कागिजेबिल और नान-बेलिबल बनाया जाय ताकि जो लोग भी पकड़े जाय, वे जेल के अन्दर रहे और जेल से बाहर न निकलने पावे ?

दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हरिजनों पर अत्याचार करने वाले लोगों को जब एक बार सजा हो जाय, तो उन्हें डिस्फ्रेन्चाइज कर दिया जाय, वोट देने का अधिकार उनसे छीन लिया जाय। उन्हें सरकारी नौकरी करने, सरकार के किसी ठेके को लेने या सरकार से किसी तरह का लाभ उठाने के अधिकार से वंचित कर दिया जाय।

थर्डली, मैं चाहूँगा कि ऐसे लोग सरकारी पार्टी से निकाल दिए जाएँ। मैं तो यह सुझाव दूँगा सरकार को . . .

श्री कल्याण चन्द्र (उत्तर प्रदेश): विरोधी पार्टियों में हो तो ?

श्री इन्द्रदीप सिंह : विरोधी पार्टियों से भी निकाल दिए जायें।

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : मिनिस्टर हो तो वे भी निकाले जायें।

श्री इन्द्रदीप सिंह : मिनिस्टर हो तो कैबिनेट से निकाले जाय। मैं यह सुझाव दूँगा कि इस सरकार को विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों के नेताओं का एक सम्मेलन बुलाना चाहिए और एक कोड आफ कन्डक्ट बनाना चाहिए कि हरिजनों पर जुल्म करने वालों को किसी भी पार्टी में न रखा जाय। सभी दलों का कर्तव्य है कि कम से कम इस प्रश्न पर एकमत हों।

जहाँ तक अत्याचार का प्रश्न है, यह पूरे देश में है। विषय आज गुजरात का है, लेकिन पूरे देश में ऐसा अत्याचार हो रहा है। बिहार में हम लोग ऐसे अत्याचार की कई घटनाओं से परिचित हैं। मैं यहाँ उनकी चर्चा नहीं करना चाहता हूँ।

अन्त में मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान दो तीन प्रश्नों की और आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। भूमि सुधार की चर्चा की गई है। हरिजनों पर जो अन्याचार होता है वह आजकल की शोषणपूर्ण सामाजिक व्यवस्था का परिणाम है। अगर अन्याचार को बन्द करना है तो इस विषय के विषय के दाँत तोड़ देने चाहिए। आर्थिक व्यवस्था में ऐसे परिवर्तन कीजिए कि फिर वे दाँत ही न रहें जिनमें वह हरिजनों को जाकर डस सके। मैं नहीं समझता कि वर्तमान सरकार यह कर पाएगी, लेकिन कम से कम भूमि सुधार तो कीजिए। मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि सीलिंग हमने लगा दी है। मुझे जो सूचना है वह यह है कि गुजरात हाई कोर्ट ने आपके सीलिंग कानून को स्ट्रेच कर दिया है। पिछले अधिवेशन में यहाँ पर सविधान के मशोधन का एक विधेयक पेश हुआ था—कम से कम हम लोगों में सर्कुलेट किया गया था—कि तमाम हदबन्दी कानूनों को कोर्टों के हस्तक्षेप से मुक्त कर दिया जाय, लेकिन पता नहीं सरकार के ऊपर क्या दबाव पड़ा कि वह संशोधन विधेयक यहाँ पारित नहीं हुआ और मुझे नहीं मालूम कि इस बार भी वह पारित होने वाला है या नहीं।

भूमि सुधार के अलावा मैं एक-दो बातों की ओर और ध्यान आकृष्ट करूँगा। हरिजनों को जमीन पर मालिकाना हक दिया जाय। अन्याचार करने का यह एक प्रधान आधार होता है। हरिजनों के लिए पीने का पानी का अलग इन्तजाम होना चाहिए। वह अन्याचार का दूसरा आधार है। कम्पलसरी प्राइमरी एजुकेशन होनी चाहिए ताकि हरिजनों के बच्चे पढ़ सकें।

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Why not common well? Why separate well?

श्री इन्द्रदीप सिंह: सेपरेट नहीं, सबके लिए फ्री प्राइमरी एजुकेशन होनी चाहिए ताकि हरिजनों और गरीबों के बच्चे पढ़ सकें। आज अमीरों के बच्चे पढ़ते हैं, हमारे और आपके बच्चे भी पढ़ लेते हैं, लेकिन हरिजनों के बच्चे नहीं पढ़ पाते हैं क्योंकि उनके पास साधन नहीं हैं।

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: There should be common wells and common schools.

श्री इन्द्रदीप सिंह: वह हमारा और आपका राज होगा तब करेंगे। अभी हरिजनों की वस्तियों में उनके लिए पीने के पानी का आप अलग इन्तजाम कीजिए, ताकि किसी के दरवाजे पर पानी के लिए उनको न जाना पड़े।

अन्त में मेरा सुझाव यह होगा जितनी भी समितियाँ ने, सरकारी समितियों ने हरिजनों के ऊपर अन्याचारों की जाच की है, केन्द्रीय सरकार का कर्तव्य है कि उन तमाम जाच रिपोर्टों को इकट्ठा करके एक व्हाइट पेपर प्रकाशित करे। कम से कम एक रिपोर्ट को बिहार की है, अगर वह प्रकाशित हो जायगी तो केन्द्रीय मंत्रिमंडल से एक मिनिस्टर को हटाना पड़ेगा।

श्री रबी राय : नाम बता दीजिए।

श्री इन्द्रदीप सिंह : नाम सब लोग जानते हैं।

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि समस्या के कई पहलू हैं। उन्होंने कुछ सुझाव भी दिए जोकि उनके विचार में स्वीकार करने चाहिए ताकि अस्पृश्यता के कानून को ज्यादा

[श्री राम निवास मिर्धा]

कारगर बनाया जा सके। श्रीमन्, प्रवर समिति की रिपोर्ट माननीय, सदस्यों के पास पहुंच चुकी है।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Please ask the Prime Minister to call a conference of Chief Ministers, Home Ministers and Party leaders. They should discuss this matter. This kind of thing will not do. She should be here.

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा: प्रवर समिति की रिपोर्ट माननीय सदस्य देखे। सदन में जब कभी उस पर चर्चा होगी, सरकार की तरफ से कोई बाधा नहीं डाली जायगी। जो भी सदन चाहे इस दिशा में ठीक समझे निर्णय ले सकता है।

उन्होंने डिफेंचाइज करने की बात कही। जहां तक मुझे याद है, इस तरह के एक प्रावधान का मुझाव...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You are a soft man. There is no anger, there is no feeling there is no fighting spirit either in your speech. I know that the Prime Minister wants you here because you are a soft man. You are her permanent salesman. Why should she not come here over a matter of this kind to hear what the country has to say and tell us something? Her word has more impact.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him complete his answer.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, Sir Mr. Mirdha is just saying it in a manner which will demoralise everybody.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, let him complete it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has a different temperament. Have you seen Mr. Mirdha ever in a fighting mood?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That is my trouble.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has his own way.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Mr. Mirdha is a soft man, a very good man. I am not questioning it. But over this matter the whole country is agitated. I do not see why the Prime Minister of the country should not come and say what she has to say. Her word has an impact on the State Governments.

SHRI RABI RAI: She does not attach any importance to the problem of Harijans.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, no. I am not questioning anybody's *bona fides*. But the Harijan question has become a very serious issue and demands attention at the highest level. The Prime Minister should make a statement and hold a conference...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You cannot take away the rights of other Members. Let him give his answer.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I have not taken away anybody's rights. I have made a constructive suggestion that the Prime Minister should call a conference of Chief Minister and Home Ministers of the States and the Central Government, and political leaders to evolve a policy...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: The Prime Minister has lost her magic wand long ago.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No cross-talk, please.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: On many occasions, the Prime Minister herself has come to this House and intervened in the discussions and debates...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, the two Members can go out and have a talk, not in the House.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: She is really greatly concerned with what is happening. She has taken initiative on a number of occasions. She has written to the Chief Ministers. She has taken it up on various

occasions. She is really very concerned that all these things are happening and she is doing all that is possible from the Government of India to see that the State Governments are galvanised, they are activated to take more interest and take effective action in this regard. As regards the conference suggested by the hon. Member, well, on a number of occasions when the zonal conferences take place, the Home Minister has been impressing upon the Chief Ministers what needs to be done. Whether a conference of political parties is necessary and whether it would help improve the situation, I am not in a position to say. But whatever forum has been available, whether it is Zonal conference or Chief Ministers' conference...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: An all-out attack should be made.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA:...or any such occasion, the Prime Minister and the Home Minister have taken advantage of that and tried to convey the seriousness of the whole matter to the State Governments.

As regards the other suggestions of the hon. Member, I have already said what is being done for land reforms, distribution of surplus land and things of that nature and I do not think, I have anything more to add.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. G. Lakshmanan:

SHRI P. L. KUREEL URF TALIB (Uttar Pradesh): On a point of order. You have been calling opposition Members but not the members of the ruling party belonging to a Scheduled Caste. I have a right to speak on the motion

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No point of order. Please take your seat. You have been coming and disturbing the Chair. (Interruption) Whatever Mr. Kureel says will go off the record.

(Shri P. L. Kureel Urf Talib continued to speak)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. This is not the way to behave.

You have been coming to me and disturbing me for quite some time. Please take your seat.

(Shri P. L. Kureel Urf Talib continued to speak)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat or go out of the House. Otherwise I may have to name you. There is an order to be followed in the House. Your name is not in the list; you will not be called. Your name is nowhere in the list. I have to call others whose names are there in the list. Please take your seat. There is some order in the House.

(Shri P. L. Kureel Urf Talib continued to speak)

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Sir, the caste system in the country has been brought, according to our itihasas and puranas...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. Mr. Kureel, It is a serious objection what you are murmuring. There is no favouritism in this House. If you do not behave yourself, I will have to name you.

SHRI P. L. KUREEL URF TALIB: I have been listening to you with patience. I have never defied the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What you are saying now is against the wishes of the Chair.

SHRI P. L. KUREEL URF TALIB: I am the oldest Member here. And this is how you are treating me. You are not bound by the list. You must exercise your inherent right.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know you have been here one term. And that is why I expect you to behave yourself.

SHRI P. L. KUREEL URF TALIB: I have always shown the greatest respect to the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is why I expect you to behave. Now, you continue, Mr. Lakshmanan.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: According to our itihāsas and purānas the caste system was created by God: the brahmins, the kshatriyas, the vaiśyas and the sudras. Harijans are considered to be sudras. The actual meaning of that word 'sudra' is he is the son of a dancing girl, a Harijan woman, according to our itihāsas and purānas...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: 'Sudra' is a Sanskrit word. Let me ask my friends what the meaning is of the word 'Sudra' in other languages?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing the meaning of 'Sudra' here. You ask for clarifications with regard to the subject matter in the discussion.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: The caste system must be completely wiped out. No question of Harijan or vaiśya and all that. They say caste system was brought in by God. What we say is we will question that God also because God will not discriminate between people and people. Therefore, this caste system should be completely eradicated. The policy we have got with regard to religion and God is one religion and one God.

SHRI N.P. CHAUDHARI (Madhya Pradesh): Is that universal or countrywise?

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: You can have it anyway you like. In Tamil Nadu we have brought some legislation there, for the information of this House, whereby we are giving a gold medal to a Scheduled Caste woman if she marries a man of the upper caste, forward class. Likewise, if a forward class man marries a Scheduled Caste lady, we give him a gold medal. On one of the occasions the honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram himself presided and he distributed medals to 200 people. Not only that. We are also providing for the living of such couple because when such a marriage takes place, it will not be at the will of the parents. Therefore, we give them a grant of Rs. 500 to run their family. And we are also giving such couple preferential treatment in the matter of appointments.

These are the things we are doing in Tamil Nadu. Another thing is we have made priests from Harijans. But unfortunately that provision has been struck down by the Supreme Court of India. I would like to ask the Minister what action has been taken. We have said in our legislation that Harijan can be appointed as priests. But that has been struck down by the Supreme Court. I would request the honourable Minister to take it up and see that a constitutional amendment is brought. Then, we have also decided to construct one lakh houses to Harijans in the whole of Tamil Nadu and whichever land or site they are occupying that has been given to them. About five lakh pattas have been given to Harijans in Tamil Nadu. These sites may have been owned by big mirasidars and landlords. These have been purchased by the Government of Tamil Nadu and given to Harijans. All hamlets and villages where Harijans are living have been completely electrified. A scheme has been worked out and within the next two or three years all hamlets and villages where Harijans live will be provided with protected waters supply. I would like to inform...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You will have to ask clarifications with regard to what has happened in Gujarat. Now you are talking about what is happening in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: This is how you can eradicate caste system. We have done it in Tamil Nadu. One clarification I want is this. We have passed a legislation in Tamil Nadu to the effect that priests can be appointed from among Harijans. But that has been struck down by the Supreme Court. What action has the Central Government taken in this regard? Would you bring forward a Constitutional amendment?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The hon. Member has given instances of legal and administrative steps that the Tamil Nadu Government has taken for helping the Harijans. He has asked if a Constitutional amendment would be brought forward to save the Bill which the Tamil Nadu Government has passed. If the Tamil Nadu Government makes a suggestion to that effect, we will consider it.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: It has already been referred.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA (Gujarat): The hon. Minister has given only two incidents here whereas the Calling Attention is about several incidents which took place recently in the State of Gujarat. Only day before yesterday there was an attack on a marriage procession taken by Harijans. Their only fault was that they had put on new clothes. All these incidents took place in Surendranagar district. I have toured this district and from my personal knowledge I can say something. Most of the points which I wanted to touch have been touched by different Members. On some of the points which are left out, I will seek clarifications from the hon. Minister.

The most important point is about the inactiveness of the Police. They are inactive. I would like to point out to the Hon. Minister that the incident took place on 22nd May 1974. The murder was committed on the 22nd June 1974. During all these 22 days, the PSI never visited the place. The PSI is primarily responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the village. He did not visit the village till the murder was committed. Only three constables were posted. Two went for meals when the incident took place. One was there. His gun was snatched away by the lady and the murder was committed. These police officers who are primarily responsible were not punished nor even asked to explain. On the 5th of June I personally wrote a letter to the hon. Governor and to the IGP, Gujarat. I have lengthy correspondence with them. This is the concerned file from which anybody can verify. I have met the Governor several times and pointed out so many incidents where ladies were snatched away by jatkas in Hakyana and 24 villages of the same district. They go to the villages any time and snatch away any lady and enjoy with her. This is the kind of lawlessness prevailing in the State of Gujarat. It will not be out of place if I give the names of ten villages which are under police protection. It is not a solitary incident. There are ten villages which are

at present under police protection. I can give the names just now if the hon. Minister is interested, or if he wants I can give it later on. Some ten villages are under police protection. Nobody is safe in these villages. Sir, even the day before yesterday, I told this House about one thing: On the 14th August, there was an attack on the Harijans. On the Gokulashtami day, the day of birth of Lord Krishna, the people, because it was an auspicious day, were enjoying and they were dancing and some of them had put on good clothes. These people who were dancing were attacked only because they were wearing good clothes. Sir, this is only a recent incident. But the Minister has mentioned about only two incidents. One is the incident in Ranmalpur which has become a very big issue today in Gujarat. Now, Sir, some Members had mentioned about the Dalit Panthers. Sir, these Dalit Panthers are right. What do they say? What do they argue? They are arguing on the same lines as Shylock the Jew did in the play of Shakespeare, "The Merchant of Venice". He argued,

"If you prick us, shall we not bleed?
If you tickle us, shall we not laugh? If
you poison us, shall we not die? and If you
wrong us, shall we not revenge?"

Sir, this very same feeling is there amongst the Harijans of Gujarat today, and the same feeling is ventilated by the Dalit Panthers. They are not at all wrong. Their argument is: "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." Young men like me feel, when they are provoked, in this manner also feel that this is the only way to get out of the difficulty. Sir, even to the Government I said that if no policeman takes up this matter, we will have to go personally and meet force with force. This is the only alternative left for the Harijans of Gujarat. And, Sir, of all things, what is this for? It is only for the drinking water! There is no other issue. Sir, after these incidents which I mentioned, about two thousand people gathered—I am surprised that this point has not been mentioned by any of the Members in this House—and about twenty thousand Harijans gathered to

[Shri Yogendra Makwana]

voice their grievances and to point out the incidents to the people of Gujarat. But, Sir, the next day, the party of Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, the Khedut Samaj, gathered about two thousand Patils and they collected about two lakhs of rupees to defend this case. This is the mentality prevailing at present even in the State of Gujarat and talks of such attacks are going on even now. (*Time Bell rings*). Sir, I will not take more time. But I would like to say something about the compensation issue.

Sir, the honourable Minister said that more help is being given. By whom? It is only by the social institutions. But what has the Government done? In a recent case, Sir, the Government has given about five thousand rupees to the victims and to the Harijans only one thousand rupees it has given. This is a very important point which was raised by Mr. Rabi Ray and I would like to request the honourable Minister once again to look into these things. Now, in the light of all these things, I would like to put some specific questions to the honourable Minister because this matter pertains to the question of drinking water supply. First of all, I would like to put this question to the honourable Minister; Does he know about the failure of the Government, the Central Government and the State Governments, to make the drinking water wells in the villages the common property of the whole village from which all the village communities including the Harijans should be allowed to take water? Does he know that this failure of the Government has led to this harassment of the Harijans? Does he, therefore, propose to instruct and direct the State Governments and the centrally administered territories to provide drinking water wells where such wells do not exist at present? This is my first question.

Sir, my second question is this: Does the Minister propose to get such time-bound programmes implemented? Does he recall that the AICC, in its meeting in 1969, had directed that drinking water should be made available in all the villages of India within three years? Sir, I have addressed so many

meetings in these affected areas and most of the young people in these affected areas have made one suggestion. The suggestion is that the Harijans should be grouped together and put in one place. I would like to put this question to the Minister: Does the Government have any scheme such as the grouping of the small number of scattered Harijans in the neighbouring villages in the interior areas and putting them in one town? What are the steps the Government proposes to take for the economic and social upliftment of the Harijans and the total removal of this curse of untouchability? Sir, these are the few questions which I have put to the Minister. Lastly, Sir, I want to put one question about the religious leaders, especially about the Shankaracharya of Puri whose utterances have provoked so many people. I asked this question from the hon. Minister during the last session as to what action is proposed to be taken in this regard. Here is a cutting from a local newspaper..

AN HON. MEMBER: Which Shankaracharya?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Of Puri. He is a fanatic and a mad man. He is provoking people all over the country. He said that he would continue his propaganda for the caste system. Does the Government want to take any action against this religious head also?

These are my few questions. I wanted to speak more on this. I have got so many cuttings. But since I do not want to disrespect the Chair, Sir, with these words I request the Minister to clarify.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The hon. Member has given a lot of facts regarding recent incidents in Gujarat, and because he is personally aware of them, he knows them and he has been greatly involved in solving them.

I have a list of other recent incidents also. But as I said in my statement that these are the more serious ones which have come to my notice. I also gave the total number

of incidents that took place during the last six months, and if the hon. Member has any other list of villages which he thinks should be given special attention to, he can give the list and information to me, and we will take quick action in consultation with the State Government.

The hon. Member has asked a number of questions which are very basic to the problem as it exists. The question of drinking water in the villages, particularly for the Harijans, has been engaging the attention of the Government. Successive Five Year Plans have taken note of this. Increased allocations for drinking water have been made and the Government is committed that drinking water to the villages must be provided as soon as possible—pure drinking water. And in whatever assistance Government gives for setting up of village wells or pipe schemes and things like that there is no discrimination, and it is incumbent on the Panchayat or local bodies to see that everybody has the right to use these sources of water which have been created with the assistance of the Government.

As regards his suggestion that Harijans, which are scattered, should be localised and put in certain areas in villages and towns, Well, Sir, I do not think he has really seriously considered the implications of the suggestion he has made. It is true that in some places they are scattered as they are in Ranmalpur village, where the majority of the persons are Patels. Out of a population of 1466, the Harijan population was 109. It is true that they cannot protect themselves in scattered colonies. But I leave it to the House and to the hon. Members to consider whether the solution to this is getting these people into some sort of such places for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I think we should very seriously consider before this suggestion could be acted upon, and I would request the hon. Member also to examine the facts and give deep thought to this.

As regards the time bound programmes for social amelioration and economic deve-

lopment, well, Sir, all our plans actually are meant to help backward classes and poor sections of our community. I do not think the hon. Member expects me to go into details as to how these programmes have been framed or implemented, because this is a wider question and involves the general poverty and development in our country.

As regards the removal of untouchability and other things of this nature, as I said earlier, the Joint Select Committee has made a number of amendments to the present legislation, and when it comes to the House I think we will be able to consider this and if there are any suggestions that the hon. Member has in that respect, we would very seriously consider them.

One of the suggestions is also to take care of the Shankaracharya. In the Joint Select Committee it was debated for a number of days. We are also considering whether preaching as such should also be made a punishable offence. There arose a legal problem and we went into it in a great detail and we made an attempt to arrive at a formulation which would be much more stringent than the previous one. And in that respect also we are still open to see if any better formulation could come. I do not want to disclose and discuss all merits here...

SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE: Even justification of it.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Yes, as the honourable Member said, even if you justify it in a theoretical and historical and academic way, not only preach it openly, but try to give it a garb of religion, even that justification somehow is being brought within the ambit of law. I do not want to go into the details. This is not the stage for that. I would only assure the honourable Member that the Government is very keen and all possible legislative actions or administrative actions are taken so that this really pernicious evil is eradicated from our society.