

nient, university and college teachers will be forced to go into direct action all over India. In fact, they went on a token strike recently and it was a great success for the first time in the history of the teachers' movement. Unless the Government opens its eyes, the teachers in universities and colleges will be forced to go into direct action to remove all the disabilities they have, including the master-servant relationship and for the implementation of the revised UGC scales.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Goray.

REFERENCE TO HARDSHIPS EXPERIENCED BY PUNJAB FARMERS DUE TO DIESEL SHORTAGE

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra): Sir, I wanted to mention a very disturbing news from Punjab. As you know, Punjab has been one of our mainstays so far as food procurement is concerned. But unfortunately this year, for the last five months, there have been no rains at all and because of the oil shortage now, the Punjab farmer does not know how to work his pumps, tractors, etc. Sir, it has been pointed out by the Punjab University Agricultural Committee that diesel oil is in short supply and there is a regular competition between the Punjab farmers and the truck owners, with the result that the Punjab farmer is almost on the point of desperation. This is a very grave situation. And the Punjab Minister in charge of Agriculture has said that he has represented the matter to the Central Government, the Central Government had promised some quota of diesel oil, but so far nothing has been received. In view of the food shortage all over the country I need not tell the House how very critical the position is. There is

no food available outside the country also. And if the farmers of Punjab who have been always very skilful at the job, very forward-looking, if they are starved of diesel oil, then it will be very difficult when procurement starts so far as wheat crop is concerned. I therefore would appeal to the Minister in charge of Petroleum that something will have to be done immediately so that this diesel oil shortage is relieved and the Punjab farmer gets the assurance that is very much needed.

RE ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON HARIJANS IN WEST BENGAL

SHRI SANAI KUMAR RAHA (West Bengal) : Sir, I draw the attention of the Home Minister regarding atrocities committed on Harijans in West Bengal, both at the canning tannery area in Calcutta and at the Asansol municipal basti area, that is, the Kanjan basti in Asansol. I shall read out a telegram which I received from Shri Kalyan Roy, a Member of this House, and another telegram received from Shri Niranjan Dildar, a Member of the West Bengal Assembly. The first telegram says :—

"Mass-scale armed attack on Harijan sweepers of Asansol Municipality by Congress hoodlums in Asansol towns since 20th. Two Harijan workers, Kuchaharl and Ravihari, admitted to hospital with bullets and stab injuries. Hundreds of Harijan sweepers had left their basti quarters in view of this attack. Police totally inactive and in collusion with attackers and the situation is very serious. Law and order is always at danger." The second telegram reads :

"Asansol Communist Party office situated behind the police control room attacked and burnt down by—"

[Shri Sanat Kumar Raha.] section of Congressmen 23rd March. Local Congress leaders were with the attackers. Complete breach of law and order in Asansol and police is totally inactive. Immediate intervention is wanted." "Kalyan Roy, Member, Rajya Sabha, and Niranjana Dildar, Member, West Bengal Assembly."

Sir, this is the situation in West Bengal where atrocities on Harijans are committed in the tannery area of canning in Calcutta and in the Asansol Harijan basti by the people from the Congress side. I draw the attention of the Home Minister to these atrocities, Sir, through you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kumbhare.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, this matter should not be allowed to rest here. . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raha took permission of the Chair. You cannot speak on it. Now I am calling Mr. Kumbhare.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Perms-«don was given all right. The honourable Minister should make a statement. The Congress people there are attacking the Harijans and are killing them, almost murdering them. . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You must sit down. I have called Mr. Kumbhare..

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I should like to know whether the Minister is going to make a statement on this. I should like to know whether the Prime Minister will take steps against these Congress hoodlums who are going about this, way attacking Harijans. I do not

like West Bengal to be subjected to this kind of atrocities in the name of Congress rule through a bunch of hoodlums. That is what I should like to know. The Home Minister should make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kumbhare.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : No. You should direct the Government. It is useless to shed crocodile tears for the Harijans when a Member of your House has brought to your notice how Harijans are being attacked and yet you do not say anything. You should take serious note of it. The Home Minister should make a statement. Mr. Siddhartha Shanker Ray cannot run the country like that.

RE FAST UNDERTAKEN BY SHRI G. A. APPAN

SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE (Maharashtra) : Sir, it would be a matter of grave concern to all of us here that one of the Members of this House, Shri G. A. Appan, has undertaken a fast, today it is the sixth day of his fast. He has undertaken this fast to press his demand for a fair deal to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. He has also circulated an appeal to all the Members in both Houses of Parliament, to the President, to the Prime Minister of India, the Governor, the Chief Ministers, M.L.As. etc. He has stated in this appeal that in India the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are in a helpless minority. They are backward in the field of social, educational, economic and political levels. They form 25 per cent of the population of this country. In some States they form 35 to 40 per cent.