

12 NOON

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**ALLEGED TORTURE OF SEVEN WORKERS AND MURDER OF ONE WORKER AT A COLLIERY IN BIHAR AND THE TENSION RESULTING THEREFROM**

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal) : Madam, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the alleged torture of seven workers and murder of one worker at the residence of the Assistant Manager of a colliery belonging to the Raniganj Coal Association in Jharia (Bihar) and the tension resulting therefrom.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : Madam Deputy Chairman, according to information obtained from the Government of Bihar, investigations of offences under sections 302, 323, 324 and 342, IPC, read with section 30 of the IPC are under progress in respect of death of one person and injuries to four others on 2nd August, near Burradih Colliery in the jurisdiction of Police Station Jharia, District Dhanbad. Nine persons including the Assistant Manager of the Burradih Colliery have surrendered in courts concerned and it is also learnt that their requests for bail have been rejected. Since investigations are in progress and allegations relate to serious offences it may not be appropriate in the interest of efficient investigation as well as subsequent fair trial, that further details should be disclosed at this stage. The district authorities are fully seized of the matter and it is also reported that the situation in the area is peaceful.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Madam, would the hon. Minister be kind enough to inform the House whether it is not a fact that 12 trade union leaders of the Jharia Coal belt have submitted a memorandum to the Governor saying that the life and security of the mine workers have been greatly endangered because of the open collusion between the police and the mine-owners particularly because of the fact that the present Deputy Commissioner of the Jharia belt has in an open statement, which appeared in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of August 6, asked the mine owners to stand on their own legs and develop their own security forces ? On the very day he issued this statement, this particular management which gave contracts in violation I

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of the recommendations of the court of enquiry, murdered a worker in the dining room in the apprehension that he might commit theft in the evening, and the police colluded with them at that time so that they could escape. This is what is happening in a majority of the mines and life has become insecure for the mine workers. We want a judicial enquiry and the removal of this Deputy Commissioner who is asking the mine-owners indirectly to develop security forces to kill the workers.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) :

Madam, personally I have no confirmation from the State Government about this because I have not asked for this particular thing. As far as press reports are concerned, I am aware of them because I have seen some of the press reports.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM (Andhra Pradesh) : In view of this press report, will the Government send an officer from here to find out the facts and, if there is any truth in that report, will he take steps to remedy the situation ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Madam, as far as the facts mentioned in the Calling Attention Notice are concerned, it is a matter which is already under investigation and there is no question of sending anybody from here. As for the other matters, certainly it will be for the Bihar administration to find out and, if necessary, they will send an officer from there. There is no question of sending any officer from here.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Madam Deputy Chairman, the hon. Minister should make the position clear now that Bihar is under the Central Government. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of August 6, to which reference has been made, says in its report :

"The Deputy Commissioner of Dhanbad, Mr. R. R. Menon, told pressmen that he had advised colliery owners of Dhanbad area to employ their own security forces and to stand on their own legs to protect their life and property. 'The police at the disposal of the district authorities were too inadequate to cope with the sporadic outbreak of violence in different collieries', he said."

There are about 400 collieries in the area. It is quite clear that the security forces of the coal mine-owners were being used as a kind of police force, a

parallel force functioning without any legal authority and assuming what they regarded as functions of the police. May I know, in view of this development which is taking place not only in the Bihar collieries but also in West Bengal collieries, what steps the Government is going to take to stop the violence and atrocities committed freely by the coal mine-owners with the help of hooligans and their security officers ? May I know whether the Union Minister will try to find out, through proper agencies, and also in consultation with the Government of the States concerned, so that concrete measures can be taken to apprehend these criminal coal mine-owners who not only keep the workers under the most awful conditions of life and work, but at the same time carry on depredations and violence, including murders against them all the time ? This is a very serious matter. Coal is a very vital industry and so many workers are employed there. I think the Central Government should pay adequate attention to this matter and call these •criminal coal mine owners to order.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Madam, I quite concede that this is a very serious matter and it requires very careful attention. As far as the matters which he has mentioned are concerned, I cannot either confirm or contradict them. As I have said, and as I will repeat again, this Calling Attention Notice was about one particular matter and I have tried to get the facts about it. About the press report, I have seen it, but I do not have the facts about it. But I do not agree with the use of some such forces for violent activities against the labour, etc. If it is true, it is a very serious matter and I will take up the matter with the Bihar Government. I am sure the West Bengal Government also must be looking into it.

SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA (West Bengal): May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that in the coal belts of Bihar, the management maintains goondas on a permanent basis and the police officers are on the monthly pay of the management, besides the Government's pay, and since the introduction of President's rule, this corruption among the police has very much increased and consequently, the cases of violence have also increased?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: The hon. Member is in the habit of making very

exaggerated statements. I do not know whether the managements keep goondas, etc. I have no information about it. President's rule was introduced only a few weeks ago and it cannot be that things have become so bad as that only because there is President's rule. As far as the facts are concerned, I have given an assurance to the hon. House that I will ask the Bihar administration to take serious notice of this matter.

**श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) :** माननीय मंत्री जी की बात सुनकर थोड़ा सा हमको आश्चर्य हुआ है। ये इतने सीधे नहीं है कि ये जानते नहीं हैं कि कोई भी कारखाना हो या कोई भी खान हो, हर जगह जो मालिकान हैं वे गुंडों को पालते हैं। उन्हीं गुंडों से मजदूरों के नेताओं पर लाठी चार्ज भी करवाते हैं और कभी कभी कत्ल भी हो जाता है। खुद मेरे ऊपर गुंडों से लाठी चार्ज कराई गई 1965 की 25 दिसम्बर को हिंडल को० में। वह मुकदमा सरकार आज तक नहीं चला पाई। तो हमेशा के लिये, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि यहां पर घर मंत्री भी हैं...

**श्री लोकनाथ मिश्र (उड़ीसा) :** आसनसोल में भी हुआ था।

**श्री राजनारायण :** अब आसनसोल में मत जाइये। हम तो सब कह जाते हैं, हम छुपाते नहीं हैं। यहां पर घर मंत्री भी हैं, श्रम मंत्री भी हैं। मैं श्री भूपेश गुप्त की इस बात से सहमत हूँ कि कोई न कोई अब ऐसी व्यवस्था की जाये कि जिससे जहां पर ये खदानें हैं वहां पर इस तरह के कांड न होने दें जैसा यह झरिया में हो गया। यहां के हमारे हिन्दू मजदूर सभा के नेता हित-नारायण जी आये, उन्होंने सारी घटना के बारे में जानकारी कराई। मैडम, आप देखेंगी आसनसोल में भी हो गया, यानी चौरा एक कोखिरी है वहां दूसरी जगह से करीब तीन, चार सौ आदमी लाठी, भाला, डंडा, लेकर आए, वहां कत्ल हो गया और जिसका कत्ल हो गया वह डिस्पूटेड है। कुछ कहते हैं एस० एस० पी० का कार्यकर्ता है, कुछ कहते हैं लेफ्ट कम्युनिस्ट का कार्यकर्ता है। मगर एक बात अनडिस्पूटेड है कि लेफ्ट कम्युनिस्ट्स ने सैकड़ों की तादाद

[श्री राजनारायण]

में बाहर के लोगों को लाकर के चोरा कोलियरी जो एस०एस०पी० कंट्रोल्ड है वहां पर हमला बोल दिया और जगड़ा हुआ ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : मगर वे मालिक के गुण्डे नहीं थे ।

श्री राजनारायण : मालिक के गुण्डे हो सकते हैं और दूसरे मालिक के गुण्डे हो सकते हैं । लेकिन हम इस चीज से ऊब गये हैं । इसलिए मैं आपके द्वारा सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इस परिस्थिति की गम्भीरता को देखते हुए क्या घर मंत्री और श्रम मंत्री यह आवश्यक समझते हैं कि कोई न कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था हो जिससे एक पार्टी दूसरी पार्टी से संबंधित यूनियन पर कब्जा न करने पाये, न कत्ल हों और न डण्डे चलाये जायें ।

श्री लोकनाथ मिश्र : ये बंगाल के नये मालिक के गुण्डे थे ।

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I agree with the honourable Member that this whole atmosphere of violence, whether that violence is from the management or it is because of rivalries among different trade unions of different political parties, is a very sad affair and naturally the administration will have to take note of it. I am sure the Labour Minister himself takes note of this matter and introduces measures to see that this is minimised. But the use of goondas is not a monopoly of the management alone. Sometimes the trade unions also resort to it.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana): What the honourable Home Minister has said is correct. The whole thing has not happened in Bihar only after the President's rule. It is taking place in the whole coal belt. Not only that. A few days back in the Moira Coal Fields which are under the Birlas a five-year old child of a trade union leader was murdered. So, the question of insecurity is there. The honourable Home Minister should take immediate steps in this regard and also request the Labour Minister to get in touch with the Governments of Bihar and West Bengal so that the whole question of security of the labour and

other people in that area can be discussed at an early date to see that the life of the people there is safe.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I think your question has been properly and attentively heard by the Labour Minister himself.

SHRI P. C. MITRA (Bihar): In view of the admission by the Deputy Commissioner of the inadequacy of the police force there, is there any proposal to increase the police force in Jharia and Dhanbad?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I think I will have to get the facts and the report.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, Mr. Rajnarain, you have taken my permission for raising certain matters. You may do so.

#### REFERENCE TO SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRIME MINISTER

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मुझे बहुत ही अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ रहा है कि जब मैं कल सदन से 9 बजे रात घर पहुंचा तो मुझे साढ़े 10 बजे रेडियो पर प्रधान मंत्री के भाषण के संबंध में खबर सुनने का मौका मिला । दिल्ली के अध्यापक जो प्रधान मंत्री के वहां गये थे उनके सामने प्रधान मंत्री ने जो भाषण दिया उसकी खबर साढ़े 10 बजे के रेडियो में इस तरह से बतलाई गई । "हमको प्रधान मंत्री के पद से हटाने का षड्यंत्र चल रहा है और मुझे जान से मारने की भी धमकी दी जा रही है " । इसी बात को आज समाचारपत्रों में पढ़ने को मिला और तब से मैं बहुत चिन्तित हूं । मैं आपके द्वारा घर मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि जब प्रधान मंत्री के जीवन पर खतरा हो और जब प्रधान मंत्री को पद से हटाने का षड्यंत्र हो, तो इसके संबंध में घर मंत्री को जानकारी है या नहीं, क्या स्थिति है ? प्रधान मंत्री के जीवन की सुरक्षा हेतु घर मंत्री ने अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की है ? क्या प्रधान मंत्री ने घर मंत्री को कि उनके जीवन पर खतरा है, इस तरह की कोई खबर दी है ? क्या प्रधान मंत्री ने घर मंत्री या होम डिपार्टमेंट