

fastened on to me. So far as I know, the correspondent of the 'Patriot' was not present at the meeting nor did he contact me and verify from me about the alleged statement attributed to me. It is an elementary norm for a correspondent to verify the report before rushing it to the press."

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Sir, the Minister's denial does not appear to be worth the paper on which is written because that Minister has a reputation of making irresponsible statements. It is correct that the correspondent of 'Patriot' was not there. He has not said that he was there but there were 4 or 5 other journalists who have said that Patriot's report is correct. In view of this, it is an oath against oath and a Minister's oath or a Minister's statement does not become more important than the statement made by 4 or 5 journalists. May I know why the Government did not ask the Chief Minister to go back to Hyderabad immediately this report came and why on such a simple matter the Chief Minister wants 12 days to submit a report to the Government? Today is 1st of May and it is already more than one week that this thing appeared in the press and the Minister says that the report of the Chief Minister is expected after 4 or 5 days. That is not at all satisfactory. May I know why the Chief Minister was not asked to hurry back to this capital, make enquiries in the matter and immediately send a report to the Government? May I also know if the Central Government has through its own sources and its own agencies tried to verify correctness of the report appearing in 'Patriot', because the press reports are that the Government through its own sources tried to verify the correctness of the report of 'Patriot' and came to the conclusion that the report was correct? Thirdly, in view of the serious nature of the thing, has the Government considered the advisability of issuing a directive to the State Government's Chief Minister under article 355 of the Constitution to dismiss Mr. Thimma Reddy forthwith?

STATEMENT ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN MADE
BY THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER OF ANDHRA
PRADESH AGAINST HARIJANS

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the reported disparaging remarks against Harijans by Shri P. Thimma Reddy, Minister of Agriculture in Andhra Pradesh, and the action by the Union Government in relation thereto.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government's attention was drawn to the news-item appearing in 'Patriot' of April 24, 1968, in which the Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister's informal talk with pressmen has been reported. The Home Minister discussed the matter with the Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh, who was in Delhi on 25th April, 1968. He assured the Home Minister that he would personally look into the matter and thereafter send us a report. We are awaiting his report which is expected on 4th or 5th of this month.

However, the Agriculture Minister for Andhra Pradesh, Shri P. Thimma Reddy, has sent a communication to the Home Ministry which reads as follows:—

"The report attributed to me that Harjians should be kicked is a fantastic lie, baseless, malicious and mischievous. No person in any walk of life would have made such a statement much less a responsible Minister. There was no reference whatsoever of the alleged statement

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): Sir, this incident is very important. As you are aware, in this House we have had the occasion of listening to certain gruesome incidents which led to the killing of some Harijan young man in Uttar Pradesh some time back only because of the fact that he belonged to the Harijan community and was elected as monitor of the class. Again we have had the occasion to hear in this House . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not make a speech.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I want to develop my point. Again we have had the occasion to hear in this House that some young man of Andhra Pradesh belonging to the Harijan community was burnt alive. Again we have had the occasion to hear in this House that the Harijan womenfolk were made to undress themselves and made to parade in the open streets . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chitta Basu, concentrate on the question that is before us.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I am coming to my point. Again I have got the statement made by a responsible Member of the Andhra Assembly. Her name is Shrimati Eshwari Bai. She has given some more instances of this nature, in relation to the burning of Harijans in Warangal and Anantpur.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are missing the main point.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Then if you insist, I will come to the main point. Sir, I can cite so many instances and all these instances show that the Harijan communities are subjected to serious social inequalities, although they constitute about 30 per cent. of the population of the country as a whole. Even one responsible Minister has made such a remark which cannot but make me hang my head in shame. In the light of these things, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government considers it necessary to

appoint a Committee of Members of Parliament to go into all those incidents or any other incidents that might be brought to the notice of that Committee and take certain remedial measures so that all such things are put an end to? This is my first question. My second question is this: Why did not the Governor of Andhra Pradesh dismiss that particular Minister under article 164(1) of the Constitution by virtue of which the Governor can withdraw his pleasure for the continuance of a Minister because of certain things? According to the interpretation given by the Law Ministry and a host of the so-called Pandits of our country, Governors have been given the power to dismiss a Minister. Why is it that that particular power of dismissing a Minister was not invoked by the Andhra Pradesh Governor? Why did he not dismiss that particular Minister who had done damage to the image of this country as a whole?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are making a speech. Please put questions.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: How can we lodge our protest, Sir? How do we take these things when such atrocities are practised in foreign countries, in South Africa and Rhodesia, under their law of apartheid or colour bar? Therefore, all these things have got to be answered so that the Harijan communities of our country may feel that their life and property and their honour and dignity are safe in this country, and the Government of India has got a constitutional obligation to do that.

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR (Rajasthan): Sir, have you adopted this new procedure for all times that all the questions should be put together?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: With due respect, I will request you to ask the Minister to reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will certainly reply to every point, I can assure you.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: If he does not, we will repeat our questions.

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR: This is a matter of procedure.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): It will be better if the Minister replies immediately after the question is put. I do not think the Minister can remember all that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: My difficulty is this. Once a question is put and answered, a number of Members get up. If you agree that the moment half an hour is reached, I must bag and say that the thing is over, I am agreeable.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We will not ask for that. This is an ultimatum. This is a serious matter.

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR: We will certainly submit to your ruling but you are making a departure from the procedure followed in this House as well as in the other House and it does impinge on the rights of the Members. It is a very serious matter. I can share your anxiety that this Calling Attention matter should not proliferate and should not take the time of the House beyond half an hour. That can be managed but if you change the procedure, it will be a very serious matter. You should take the Members into confidence before you change the procedure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree.

SHRI A. P. JAIN (Uttar Pradesh): With great respect to your tentative proposal, I do not think it is your final ruling.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I submit that one of the main subjects of the proceedings is that the Members should be able to following them clearly and intelligently. If a large number of ques-

tions are huddled together and all of them are answered together, then the difficulty would be that the answers may not be quite intelligible. So with great respect I request you to follow the old procedure. As regards the timing, you are perfectly correct when you say that after half an hour or a certain fixed hour, you will close the questions on the Calling Attention notice. That you may fix as half an hour or so but again I request that the questions may be asked one by one and answered one by one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I quite agree. I am prepared to be convinced that that point of view is correct but you must also try to agree to the spirit of the thing, namely, that two people should take part in the proceedings. Half an hour is the time given. In a matter like this I am prepared to give even up to one hour. That I use my discretion but if it is agreed generally that after half an hour the discussions should cease, certainly I would make the Home Minister answer each question by itself. That certainly is the most satisfactory way of doing the thing.

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR: Let him answer. I am prepared even to forego putting the question and cooperate with you. Let the procedure be followed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let Mr. Arora's question be answered.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Shri Arora asked why the Chief Minister was not directed to go back quickly to the State capital and submit a report. I have already stated that this is a very serious matter and we attach the greatest importance to a satisfactory solution of this. We ourselves feel very perturbed whenever such things happen. So when the Chief Minister met the Home Minister, the Home Minister did tell him that he should make immediate enquiries and send us a report immediately. The Chief Minister said that he had already fixed up certain programmes in the

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla.]
villages nearing the Madras border and they were fixed a long time back and so he would not be in a position to cancel that programme.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Why not?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:
I am giving the factual position. I should be allowed to complete my answer. When this reply was given, we again impressed on him and he also agreed with us that this is a serious matter and he agreed to send the report as quickly as possible. We again checked up when the report was delayed and he has indicated that as soon as he reaches the State capital he would send the report and we are waiting for it.

The second point raised by Mr. Arora was whether we are collecting the report from our own sources. We are. His third question was, why did we not dismiss the Minister? The constitutional position is well known. The Central Government has no power to dismiss a Minister.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: You could issue a directive under article 355 to the Chief Minister.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:
All these questions will arise after we have received the Chief Minister's report and we come to certain conclusions. Before that this question would not arise.

Mr. Basu said something about social inequality with which we do agree. He made a demand that a Committee of M.Ps. should be formed to look into this. As I said earlier, after we receive the report and come to a conclusion, then various matters can be considered. We can consider how serious the matter is and how to take action in the matter.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: My point is not answered. I also demanded that the particular Minister should be dismissed under article 164.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:
I have already said that all those....

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Why was not that particular Minister dismissed by the Governor?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Both are agreed that the Minister should be dismissed.

AN HON. MEMBER: You do not agree?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am only a regulator of debates.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:
I have already said that all those questions will arise only after a certain conclusion is reached. I am sorry the Member does not listen to the reply. All these could arise only after that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I was in Hyderabad. May I ask?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Later.

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR: In view of the fact that this alleged statement is from a serving Minister in Andhra and recently, as it happens unfortunately—I do not know how whether by accident or otherwise—that various other ugly incidents have been reported from that very State, in the light of all that, may I know whether the Minister has considered taking certain steps in that particular State to restore the confidence of the people and to create a climate which will mean not only a sense of security for the Harijans but a sense of dignity is given to them? May I know whether he contemplates taking any such step to find out whether these incidents are particularly directed against the Harijans or they are a legacy of feudalism in that State where the lower people are treated in a beastly manner? It is not only that this happens there but the labour class and others are being treated like that. If because of the legacy they are being treated in a beastly manner, then it becomes a much larger question. May I know whether the Minister has given consideration to this aspect of the matter and whether he proposes to do anything?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:
This is a very important aspect of the question that the Member has raised and I believe this was one of the things which was discussed between the Home Minister and the Chief Minister.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS (Orissa): I am constrained to say that Shri Thimma Reddy is a shameless gentleman; otherwise, he would have resigned long ago even if he had not said what is reported to have been said, because after all this furore in Parliament and the feeling that has spread everywhere in the country, it would have been proper for him to show that he is not the guilty person by resigning and tell the world 'I am suffering this only because the entire country does not want to believe me whereas I am prepared to say that I have never made such a statement'. Under these circumstances, the only alternative for the Congress Party and its High Command is to ask him to resign or for the Government to see about other legal and constitutional methods by which he can be sacked from the Cabinet. I was very much astonished to hear from the Minister the lighthearted remarks that the Chief Minister of Andhra has made. It is said that he had so many programmes and he could not cancel them to look into this affair. When the entire Parliament is agitated over this matter, either he could have cancelled his tour programme and rushed back to the capital, or he could have asked Shri Thimma Reddy to meet him at a place specified by him, where he was on tour, and explain his conduct. These two alternatives were before him. But when none of these two alternatives was availed of by him, it clearly showed that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh was not prepared or was not in a mood to give as much serious thought as the matter deserved. He ought to have taken into consideration the feelings of the entire countrymen over this matter.

Mr. Chairman, I want to draw your attention to a publication in the 'Statesman' a few days back that in Andhra alone,—I am not blaming Andhra because every other State also suffers from this malady—every day, three persons are being murdered—they are persons of untouchable community. I do not know; it might be an incorrect statement, and that is why, from the start, I am saying that Andhra alone is not suffering from this malady. My State of Orissa is also suffering from this; I mean, we might not be murdering our Scheduled Caste people, but up till now we have not given them even the minimum status they deserve according to the Constitution. So when I quote the report in the 'Statesman' I am not going to say anything against Andhra as such. I only want to draw your attention that the malady is so very deep that in Andhra, every day, three Scheduled Caste people are either being lynched, or are being murdered. And even in the case of that boy, the case which was discussed here, the 'Statesman' had published this report in its columns after its correspondent had visited the village, that when the boy was burning, he tried to go to the nearest hospital or to a doctor for his treatment so that his life could be saved. He caught hold of a rickshaw and went to the nearest private medical practitioner. But the private medical practitioner did not attend to the boy and he sent him back without giving him any treatment, and in course of time the boy died, and it was because of negligence. Even a private medical practitioner was not prepared to treat him, because of his fear of the caste Hindus, particularly the propertied class among them. So this is a serious malady. I am not saying here that the Andhra Minister, who is a Congressman, is merely to be blamed. He must be sacked; there is no doubt about it. And all of us here, whether one is a Member of the Congress, or a member of the P.S.P., or a member of any other party, all of

[Shri Banka Behary Das.]
us here must be ashamed of the way we behave towards our Scheduled Caste people, even after twenty years of independence and even after establishing special departments to look after the welfare of Adivasis and Harijans, and I think this incident at least should enable us to resolve that from this moment we should try to put an end to all the wrongs, all the blunders and also all the inequalities that we in general are party to, and from which they have been suffering, at least within the coming year, before Gandhiji's birth centenary is over.

Now, I will draw your attention to a very serious fact—because Shri Sanjivayya, and others also are here—that even after this period, even after the reservation for them for so many years, they have not been able to show their strength against the caste Hindus, whether they are politicians or anybody else—up till now it is the politicians who have been manning the society, who have been in the hierarchy of society—when they have been treating them like this. In such a situation I am sure that, if the reservation made for them according to the Constitution is removed, except one or two gentlemen who are sitting here, the others will never be elected to Parliament, either to the Rajya Sabha or to the Lok Sabha. This is the state of affairs, we will have to admit, after twenty years and more of independence.

SHRI ABID ALI (Maharashtra): What is the point for clarification?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: That is why I am saying that not only Shri Thimma Reddy should be punished but also all of us in Parliament, here in the Rajya Sabha, and in the Lok Sabha, who are responsible for proper treatment and protection of the Scheduled Caste people

throughout India, should try to see that within the coming year at least when we shall be celebrating the birth centenary of Gandhiji, we people, irrespective of party affiliations, should have the tenacity to see that this century-old injustice that has been done to our Scheduled Caste people is removed and they have equal status in the political and social fields, and also in the economic field.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: He has put no questions, Sir, for me to reply.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA (Gujarat): My name is there, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, but may I explain the position? I have already asked some Congressmen to speak and I am going on a round to give a chance to all the parties to have their say. I shall come to you.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: My name is also there, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, your name is there and you will be called if there is time. Mr. Gaikwad.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD (Maharashtra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, if Shri Thimma Reddy, Minister for Agriculture in the Andhra Pradesh Government, has actually made such disparaging remarks against the Scheduled Castes community in the country, they are highly objectionable. It shows the mentality he has. He must have a crooked and wicked mentality to say all these things in public. Now the hon. Minister of State has said that an enquiry will be made and a report will be submitted. I just want to know from him as to how many days it will take for this report to be submitted and when the Chief Minister will be returning from his tour. Now I just want to

ask whether this Government and the hon. Minister for Home Affairs in this Congress Government think it more important for the Chief Minister of Andhra to be going on tour at this time, than for him to submit a report in this behalf so that the Government could come to some conclusion on that report and take action thereon.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL (Andhra Pradesh): He is touring the drought-stricken areas where thousands of people are dying.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: Then I hear that an officer has been appointed to investigate into this matter. I just want to know whether any such officer has been appointed and, if he has been appointed, whether he has submitted his report. Then, Sir, when Shri Thimma Reddy says that the Harijans should be kicked, I must want to ask whether it is not outright violation of the Constitution. If it is, he should not be deemed to have acted in his capacity as a Minister and he should not be allowed to continue as Minister even for a minute more. Now, on the principle of joint responsibility the entire Cabinet of Andhra Pradesh becomes responsible for this act of the said Minister. Therefore, it does not look proper in making the inquiry to ask the accused only to submit his statement and be done with it, no further. It is said that the Chief Minister is going to ask the Minister concerned to explain his case. In this connection, Sir, as I said, the accused should not be given the opportunity; of course he should be given the opportunity, but merely his statement should not be relied on. There should be some other inquiry because it is said that so many other persons, the press correspondents, were there. And if they were there and if they have said that this is what Shri Thimma Reddy said, I just want to ask whether the Government has taken care to go and obtain their statements in this

behalf. If not what is the use of coming forward and saying, "Oh, we asked the concerned Minister and he said that he had not done so." The hon. Minister of State said that the Chief Minister would be sending his report to the Government very soon. Here I want to say that whatever they say should not alone be relied upon. Other people, the other party also should be given an opportunity to say what they have to say. As I said, Sir, it is joint responsibility of the whole Cabinet. If constitutionally Minister Thimma Reddy cannot be removed, then it is the responsibility of the whole Cabinet and the whole Cabinet should be asked to resign, and that can be done very conveniently. It is said that there is no constitutional provision to ask the Minister to resign. But I am glad that here, fortunately or unfortunately, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is a Congress Government, and here the Central Government is also of the Congress. So, very conveniently the Central Government can ask the Congress Government of Andhra to press that Minister Thimma Reddy should himself resign from the Ministry.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Why not dismiss him?

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: No, the whole Cabinet. It is joint responsibility and the whole Cabinet should be asked to resign—there are so many provisions also. Now the hon. Minister comes forward and says that there is no provision. Even then they can make the Minister resign—he belongs to the same Congress Party; where there is a will, there is a way. They can do it conveniently if they intend to do so.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: As I said earlier, this is a very serious matter and actually we have been insisting on the Chief Minister that we should have a quick report from him. But he had probably his own compulsions and I cannot com-

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla.]

ment on why he has taken all this time. And actually, Sir, we presume that when the Chief Minister looks into this matter he will get in touch with the correspondents who were there in the news conference, and others who may have any knowledge of this matter, and also will get in touch with all those who wish to say anything about this matter, and then give us his considered views on this subject. Sir, the other question that was asked was whether we have asked an officer to look into the matter and whether he has submitted his report. I have already replied to it in the affirmative, Sir.

The other question was again about the Chief Minister contacting the various parties and all that. As I have already said the Chief Minister, we presume, will definitely get in touch with everybody who has to be contacted. We are ourselves sorry that the whole matter has got delayed so much and we wish that it is expedited.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Sir,

MR. CHAIRMAN: I tell you Mr. Chavda that I will call you. I guarantee it. Now, Mr. Kumbha Ram Arya is not here. Then Shri Pitamber Das.

श्री पीताम्बर दास (उत्तर प्रदेश) :

श्रीमान्, मैं पहले तो यह जानना चाहूंगा कि 'पेट्रियट' में जो यह बयान छपा था, जिसको छपे इतने दिन हो गये, तो क्या जो सरकार को लिख कर भेजा गया है कि हमने यह बात नहीं कही इसके बारे में किसी अखबार में भी यह कांटेडिक्शन छपा गया या नहीं ?

श्री अर्जुन अरोड़ा : नहीं छपा। वह छापने के काबिल नहीं है, बिल्कुल गलत है। उसका कांटेडिक्शन कोई अखबार छापने के काबिल नहीं समझता।

श्री पीताम्बर दास : उनका कांटेडिक्शन न छपने से क्या यह प्रिश्यूम नहीं किया जा

सकता कि उन्होंने वास्तव में यह बात कही है ? दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि यह मामला हरिजनों के साथ सामाजिक न्याय यानी सोशल जस्टिस का है और 'जस्टिस डिलेड इज जस्टिस डिनाइड'। उनको सोशल जस्टिस मिलने में इतनी देर हो रही है। हमें अभी तक यह भी ठीक से पता नहीं चला है कि उन्होंने यह बात कही भी है कि नहीं ? और कही है तो उनको इसके लिये क्या दंड दिया गया ? इस देरी से क्या हरिजनों के अन्दर यह भावना नहीं पैदा हो रही है कि हरिजनों को इस देश के अन्दर अब भी सामाजिक न्याय नहीं मिलेगा ? और क्या मंत्री महोदय यह नहीं समझते अगर एक बार यह निराशा की भावना पैदा हो गई तो इस देश की शांति के लिये एक भयंकर खतरा पैदा हो जायेगा ? मैं इन दो तीन बातों का जवाब चाहता हूं।

श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल : जहां तक मुझे मालूम है सभापति महोदय, कुछ अखबारों में मंत्री श्री धि. मा. रेड्डी द्वारा दिया हुआ खंडन छपा है और मैं इसके बारे में फिर और जांच पड़ताल कर लूंगा कि किन अखबारों में उनका दिया हुआ खंडन छपा है और जहां तक कि इसमें जल्दी करने का सवाल है मैं पहले ही कह चुका हूं कि हम लोगों की सबकी इच्छा है कि बहुत जल्दी हो। आंध्र के मंत्री महोदय की भी इच्छा है कि बहुत जल्द इसको किया जाय पर इसमें बहुत ही गंभीरता और बारीकी से छानबीन करने की आवश्यकता होने के कारण इसमें समय लग रहा है। यह बात नहीं है कि आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री इसमें देर करना चाहते हैं या उनकी देर करने में रुचि है। यह हम सब चाहते हैं कि इसमें जल्दी हो और जल्दी से जल्दी सभी तथ्य माननीय सदस्यों के सामने आएं और उन तथ्यों के आने पर हम लोगों को जो भी उचित निर्णय लेना है वह हम लेंगे।

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Sir, we the Indian people are the masters of our destiny, but unfortunately a trend has developed to jeopardise our na

tional integration. In the last session of our House there was a Short Notice Question regarding the burning of a Scheduled Caste boy in Andhra Pradesh and now there is a reported statement of Shri Thimma Reddy, the Agricultural Minister in Andhra Pradesh, that Harijans deserve to be kicked. I would like to know from the Minister what steps he proposes to take for setting an example which will serve as a deterrent for the future.

(Several hon. Members stood up)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have got your names here and I would request you to help me to do what is absolutely just. Certainly I shall give consideration to all the people who would like to seek clarification.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, I have already indicated that after the report of the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has been received we shall consider what steps we have to take in this matter.

श्री वयाल दास कुरें (मध्य प्रदेश) :
आंध्र प्रदेश में एक हरिजन बालक के साथ ऐसी अप्रिय घटना घटी, एक इतनी बड़ी अमानवीय बात हुई, कि उसे जिंदा जलाया गया। दूसरी बात, जैसा कि अभी माननीय सदस्य श्री बांका बिहारी जी ने बताया कि प्रति दिन आंध्र प्रदेश में 3 घटनाएं मौत की होती हैं और उनमें से किन्हीं खास वर्ग की होती है। इस प्रकार ये घटनाएं वहां प्रति दिन घटती जा रही हैं और हरिजनों के साथ इस प्रकार के जो दुर्व्यवहार हो रहे हैं, उसमें सबसे दुख की बात यह है कि आंध्र प्रदेश के एक जवाबदार मंत्री ने बड़ी जवाबदारी से कहा कि हरिजनों के साथ मैं सवमुच मैं ऐसा ही व्यवहार होना चाहिए; वे चोर हैं और लतियाने लायक हैं। जब एक जवाबदार आदमी यह कहता है तो ऐसा लगता है सचमुच में आंध्र प्रदेश में हरिजनों के साथ दुर्व्यवहार हो रहा है इसलिये केन्द्र के शासन की इसमें

एक जवाबदारी होती है कि क्या केन्द्र की सरकार उन सब चीजों को देखते हुए, अपनी जवाबदारी को समझती हुए, कोई एक जांच कमीशन नियुक्त करेगी? यदि जांच कमीशन की नियुक्ति होगी तो उसकी रूपरेखा क्या होगी? मैं मंत्री महोदय से इस बात की अपेक्षा करूंगा कि वे इस पर प्रकाश डालें।

श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल : सभापति महोदय, मैं पहले ही कह चुका हूं कि जैसे ही हम लोगों के पास सब तथ्य इस बारे में आ जायेंगे हम इस बात का निर्णय करेंगे कि क्या आगे का कदम उठाया जाय। माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि एक अप्रिय घटना हरिजन बालक के साथ घटी। वह अप्रिय घटना नहीं थी, वह बड़ी अमानुषिक घटना थी।

SHRI SRIMAN PRAFULLA GO-SWAMI (Assam): Sir, this is a very serious matter because the Minister's alleged statement which was published in the papers has agitated the mind of a particular community and also we are concerned over such a matter. In such an affair when a communal question is concerned, top priority should be given to it by the Chief Minister of the State. I cannot understand why the Chief Minister is taking so much time. This is a very delicate question and it is a national question and on this communal problem the people are agitated. When misunderstanding is spreading, we believe in the version that appeared in the paper. We have not got from the Chief Minister or the Minister concerned any contradiction.

AN HON. MEMBER: It has come. That is why an investigation is going on.

SHRI SRIMAN PRAFULLA GO-SWAMI: Why then has the Chief Minister taken so much time? May I know whether it is a fact that after the publication of the news by the UNI the Government had discontinued to subscribe their teleprinter?

[Shri Sriman Prafulla Goswami.]

Another thing is, why is the Chief Minister delaying the sending in of his report to the Central Government? Is it not an essential, important public matter which he should have attended to immediately? Why is he not giving due attention to such a national question even when Parliament is anxious to know the real facts? His delay has spread suspicion over the matter.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, I have already answered that question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I was in Hyderabad fortunately on the 26th, 27th and 28th and there I read about it in the newspapers that Parliament had debated it in the Lok Sabha. I also made certain enquiries. Nobody in Hyderabad believes that Mr. Thimma Reddy did not make that statement. I cannot say that I met everybody. But it is believed that he did make that statement. I could not meet all the pressmen who were there but I tried to find out, despite my preoccupations as best as I could, what the pressmen who were present there had to say and I came with the impression that all of them felt and thought and, in fact, admitted, that the *Patriot's* report was correct. Therefore, Sir, it is significant that not a single press man who was present at that informal talk had come out directly or indirectly with a statement that Mr. Thimma Reddy did not say what has been alleged by the *Patriot*. In fact, by their silence at least they have confirmed the *Patriot's* report. Please note this thing. I do not think the Government is taking due note of all these things.

Secondly another thing I found out. They told me: 'why are you asking this thing about Mr. Thimma Reddy? Everybody in Andhra Pradesh knows that Mr. Thimma Reddy is prone to make such statements. He is temperamentally, psychologically,

mentally made up for making this kind of atrocious statements.' This thing has been told to me in Hyderabad even by some Congressmen whose names, for public reasons, I do not wish to mention. Now I am not going into the larger question. I am concerned here only with Mr. Thimma Reddy. We must get at him. He is our target. The general issue of untouchability and all that, we shall discuss it but the background is important.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: You have never raised the question of untouchability.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Here I know it is an atrocious thing that is happening in Andhra and other parts of the country. It is a shame that after twenty years of independence we still have to put up with this kind of thing. We can discuss it later but here is a man who has been caught red-handed. These are the people who are responsible for the continuance of this abomination that is called untouchability in our country. Now the Government have again and again said that they are very serious but have they indicated any sign of seriousness either at the Centre or at the State level? First of all, up to now more than a week has passed but yet the Chief Minister has not even written them a letter. What comes in the way of the Chief Minister to contact Mr. Thimma Reddy and send his version or of the pressmen all of whom live in Hyderabad and who can be easily called to meet him? He is touring the districts while millions of Harijans are agitated, angered and full of indignation. Parliament has discussed this matter at length and the newspapers have given a wide coverage, some leading newspapers devoting a page to it. Yet, Mr. Brahmananda Reddy, the great Chief Minister, goes about sight-seeing in the Andhra Villages. Certainly that does not indicate, to put it mildly, any sense of responsibility. (*Inter-*

ruptions). I would ask the Andhra friends of the Congress party not to bring in their factional politics into this matter.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: I would ask the hon. Member to speak with some sense of responsibility himself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, you must give others also an opportunity. Therefore, put your question. It is only a concession that I am showing.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, all these things are getting mixed up. You cannot unravel this mystery unless you go into the factional politics of the Andhra Congress but I am not going into that now. Now it is quite clear on his own admission and I would like to know what has prevented Mr. Shukla from flying to Hyderabad on behalf of the Central Government because this is a matter in respect of which the Central Government owes a constitutional—I repeat constitutional—responsibility. He could have gone there, talked to Mr. Thimma Reddy if he liked and the Pressmen and others, and tried to find out for himself in order to be able to tell Parliament what he had come to know there. They have not done that. Mr. Brahmananda Reddy now is on tour; when he will end his tour, I do not know but some day a report will come. Therefore I submit that the Government is not showing the awareness—leave alone responsibility—in this matter. I should have thought that Mr. Chavan himself would go because it is a serious matter, but nothing of the kind has been done.

With regard to the other matter, I as a lay Member of Parliament could contact the Pressmen in a matter of few minutes, at least some of them, to understand what they had to say but Mr. Brahmananda Reddy does not have either the inclination or the time to do so and to indicate to the Centre what those other Pressmen

present there had to say on this matter. That shows there is an attempt to cover up the issue for partisan reasons. That is what I say. Therefore, we cannot take the Government on its words. As far as the Governor is concerned, don't ask this Governor anything because Mr. Khandubhai Desai when he was not a Governor one day was addressing a labour union. He is very anti-Communist as you all know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All that has nothing to do with this.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is very important because we are asking the Governor to do certain things, but I say, no, we should not ask the Governor to do anything. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Khandubhai Desai told the workers at that meeting: 'you avoid the Communists just as you avoid the "achhuts".'

SHRI ABID ALI: Very rightly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, kindly come to the point because you are doing injustice to many others.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, they were doing injustice to me also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly put the question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: So the Governor will not do.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right next point.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I demand that the Congress Party since it is in power in Andhra Pradesh also should convey through the Prime Minister to Mr. Brahmananda Reddy that Mr. Thimma Reddy should be dropped out of the Cabinet here and now. It is very very urgent. Secondly if Mr. Brahmananda Reddy does not do so the constitutional power should be invoked in this matter because the

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta.]

Central Government has certain specific responsibilities in this matter. That power should be utilised to get rid of Mr. Thimma Reddy. As for Mr. Thimma Reddy himself, if Mr. Thimma Reddy has any sense of shame, and decency, he should himself offer his resignation and disappear from public life for a while in order to give some confidence to the people that something will be done. Mr. Thimma Reddy, Sir, I submit, is the guilty man. He has made this statement and except his own denial there is no single proof all these days to the fact that Mr. Thimma Reddy is not guilty. Therefore Mr. Thimma Reddy stands condemned before the bar of Indian public opinion as having made such an atrocious, constitutionally violative and also provocative statement. Such a man has no place in any Cabinet or any high office. Therefore, I demand that this House should express itself in favour of removal, in an appropriate manner, of Mr. Thimma Reddy from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and this should be the beginning of the measures to deal with this situation, which is developing there as a result of the existence of such people, such bigoted people as Mr. Thimma Reddy in high places.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, there is unanimity in this House about the seriousness of this matter and it is very unfortunate that the hon. Member has tried to bring in party politics and personal insinuations in such a matter. I, of course, deny all those personal insinuations he has made against various persons. As far as Mr. Thimma Reddy is concerned, I have already made the position of the Government clear that we are awaiting the report of the Chief Minister before we take any view on this question and I am sure the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister attaches the same seriousness.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Not at all.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SUKHLA:if not more.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, not at all.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Of course he does.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: How can you . . .

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I should not be interrupted, I am giving the reply.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: How can you say that? You cannot say. . . .

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Let me have my say. You better keep quite.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, it is a matter of opinion.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, I want your protection because this gentleman is in the habit of always . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, this gentleman is also . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a matter of opinion. You hold one view; he holds another view.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I seek your opinion. Do you think it is reasonable?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us not quarrel about it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, more than a week has passed. Eight days in fact.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I repeat that the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister attaches a great deal of seriousness . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Bun-kum.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:and importance to this matter

and that is why we would like to depend on his views before we take any decision about this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Panda.

SHRI M. AJMAL KHAN (Nominated): On a point of order, Sir. Two hon. Members of the House alleged that three Harijans are killed daily and the Home Minister did not give any reply.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Because it is not a fact.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: In essence it is correct.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Orissa): Sir, in modern society, when it is expected that one should be more good-looking than good and when it is expected that we should not speak out what we feel, I shall be striking a different note. I am sorry. This is a serious situation and nobody will dispute it. But I feel we are not judging the issue dispassionately. If it is said that all the blame is on the caste Hindus and nothing happens on the other side, I think we would be involving ourselves in things which would create more complications. Sir, Harijan members are here in Parliament, in this House, that House and also in Assemblies. Reservations and other privileges have been offered to them. Instead of blaming other members of the community, I want to ask what they have done for their own people during these twenty years. I would invite your attention to my home town where a member belonging to this class has amassed lakhs. His people are still in hovels and they are still sweepers, but only this man has amassed wealth. This is a social problem . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Come to the question. Make your suggestion to the Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: I am not condemning anybody. There are some people who enjoy privileges, but most people suffer. I am sympathetic towards them.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Panda, if you would like to make a suggestion, make a suggestion.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: I want to make a suggestion in this way. Mr. Das has referred to some difficulties. It will not be decent to narrate some incidents here. I know of a particular incident at Bhubaneswar. Mr. Das can go and find it out. A sweeper youth misbehaved with a Brahmin girl, and she belonged to a respectable family.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: That is an old story.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: It is not an old story. It is a new story.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Panda, please put a question.

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA (Andhra Pradesh): If anybody misbehaves, the matter can be reported to the police. The person concerned can be arrested by the police and a case filed in the court.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Are we to hear all this?

(Interruptions)

SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON (Kerala): Sir, on a point of order. He has referred to things which are not under discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree with you. Therefore, I pulled him up. Mr. Murahari.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: I have not yet finished.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Mr. Murahari.

श्री गोड भराहरि (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, मैं सरकार से सिर्फ एक विनती करना चाहूंगा कि एक तरफ तो वे यह कह रहे हैं कि श्री ब्रह्मानन्द रेड्डी को उतना ही इस चीज का महत्व है जितना इस सदन को है और दूसरी तरफ हमारे सामने यह वाक्या होता है कि आठ दिन हो गये, श्री ब्रह्मानन्द रेड्डी आंध्र का दूर कर रहे हैं और इसके बारे में अब तक कोई तहकीकात नहीं की गई है। श्री थिम्मा रेड्डी का स्टेटमेंट या डिनायल जो भी है वह हमारे सामने रखा जाता है। इससे सारा मामला साफ है कि श्री ब्रह्मानन्द रेड्डी और श्री थिम्मा रेड्डी सब एक गुट के हैं और श्री थिम्मा रेड्डी को बचाने के लिये श्री ब्रह्मानन्द रेड्डी दूर कर रहे हैं। थिम्मा रेड्डी साहब वहां पर जो कुछ वाक्या हुआ है उसकी लीपापोती कर रहे हैं और यहां पर एक उनका डिनायल हमारे सामने रखा जा रहा है। आप अगर अब भी इसके बारे में उतना ही चिंतित हैं जितना कि सदन है तो इस वाक्या को होने ही नहीं देना चाहिये था। सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट को चाहिये था कि वह किसी सीनियर मिनिस्टर को भेज कर के अपनी ओर से सारी चीज की तहकीकात कराती।

साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहूंगा कि 20 साल होने के बाद भी इस तरह की घटना होना और एक मंत्री जो गांधी जी की पार्टी का अपने को सदस्य बताता है उस मंत्री के मुंह से इस तरह का वाक्य निकलना, इस से ज्यादा शर्मनाक चीज कोई हो ही नहीं सकती है। फिर भी कांग्रेस सरकार की तरफ से यह कहा जाता है कि हम को इस पर बहुत रंज है, हम इस बारे में कुछ करने वाले हैं। अगर कुछ करना था तो सात आठ दिन बीत गये फिर भी कुछ क्यों नहीं किया गया? यह इस चीज का प्रतीक है कि आपके दिमाग में चोर है। जो मंत्री यह कहता है कि हरिजन चोर हैं, उनको लात मारनी चाहिये, ऐसे मंत्री को लेकर के जो सरकार चलेगी वह सरकार चोरों की सरकार होगी। बीस साल से ऐसी

चोरी इस देश में हो रही है। सिर्फ हरिजन ही नहीं जो भी दबी हुई जातियां इस देश के अन्दर हैं और उनके ऊपर जो ज्यादाती हो रही है उस सब की ज़िम्मेदारी मैं इस कांग्रेस सरकार पर डालना चाहूंगा। बीस साल के बाद अगर इस तरह की घटना हो और आप हमारे सामने आ कर के कहें कि हम इसके बारे में बड़े चिंतित हैं तो आप को शर्म आनी चाहिये कि बीस साल के बाद भी आज ऐसा हो सकता है।

आपने एक संविधान लिख रखा है जिसमें सब को बराबरी का हक दिया गया है, लेकिन बीस साल के बाद भी कहीं ऐसी घटना होती है कि हरिजन बालक को जला दिया गया, कहीं ऐसी घटना होती है कि हरिजनों का गांव जला दिया गया, कहीं ऐसी घटना होती है कि हरिजनों को पीटा गया। अगर कहीं कोई हरिजन लड़का किसी हिन्दू लड़की से शादी करता है तो उसको पीटा जाता है। हमें याद है कि महाराष्ट्र में एक ऐसा ही केस हुआ था। पर वहां एक ब्राह्मण लड़की से एक हरिजन लड़के ने मुहब्बत की थी। लेकिन हमारे यहां जातिवाद इतना फैल गया है कि उस केस में जज ने जजमेंट देते हुए यह कहा था कि इस लड़के को कोई अधिकार नहीं है कि यह ब्राह्मण लड़की से मुहब्बत करे। इस ढंग से इस देश में जब जातिवाद फैला है तो बीस साल तक सोशल वेलफेयर बोर्ड, ट्राइबल वेलफेयर बोर्ड, हरिजन वेलफेयर बोर्ड आदि पर करोड़ों रुपया खर्च करके इस सरकार ने क्या किया है? मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि यह सरकार की भयानक फेल्योर है।

इसलिये मैं चाहूंगा कि न सिर्फ आंध्र प्रदेश की सरकार बल्कि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट को भी इस्तीफा देना चाहिये क्योंकि बीस साल के बाद भी इस तरह के हालात इस देश में पैदा हुए हैं। मंत्री महोदय यहां पर आ कर के थम्मा रेड्डी साहब के बारे में भाषण दे देते हैं कि हम लोग भी इस मामले को उतनी ही गंभीरता से देखते हैं जितना सदन देखता है।

मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि ब्रह्मानन्द रेडडी, थिम्मा रेडडी या जो भी रेडडी हों जो इस तरह का मनोभाव रखते हैं उनको एक मिनट सरकार में बैठे रहने देना क्या उचित होगा ? आठ दिन तक वह बैठे रह गये और आठ दिन आप तहकीकात करते रह गये, यह ताज्जुब की बात है। मैं चाहूंगा कि उनको इस्तीफा देना चाहिये था और उसके बाद तहकीकात होती जब इस तरह का आरोप लगाया गया था उसी दिन उनको शर्म होती तो इस्तीफा दे देना चाहिये था और उसके बाद तहकीकात होती और वे दोषी न पाये जाये तो फिर मिनिस्टर बन जाते। लेकिन इस तरह की बेशर्मी के बाद भी वे आज वहां मिनिस्टर हैं।

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : सभापति महोदय, यह बहुत दुख की बात है कि माननीय सदस्य ने इतने अहम मामले को इतने निम्न स्तर पर ला दिया है और इसको राजनैतिक प्रश्न बना दिया है। आपसे मैं निवेदन यह करूंगा कि इस तरह के अहम मामलों को इतने निम्न स्तर पर नहीं लाना चाहिये। हम लोग इसको बहुत ही अहम और मुख्य बात मानते हैं और इस को इस तरह की मजाक की बात नहीं बनाते हैं जिस तरह की माननीय सदस्य बना रहे हैं।

श्री गोडे मुराहरि : यह जो मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि मैं मजाक बना रहा हूं, मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि वे खुद मजाक बना रहे हैं।

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: your protection. I have been asked by you to explain this matter and I want your protection. I should be allowed to give my answer without any interruptions. I did not interrupt the hon. Member.

मैं आपसे निवेदन कर रहा था कि यह एक बहुत ही अहम मसला है और इसको इस तरह से लाइटहाउट तरीके से नहीं ट्रीट

करना चाहिये जिस तरह से ये कर रहे हैं। इस तरह से व्यक्तिगत आरोप लगाना, राजनैतिक आरोप लगाना और इस तरह से राजनैतिक फायदा उठाना, यह क्षुद्र मनोवृत्ति का परिचायक है। इस तरह की मनोवृत्ति किसी भी माननीय सदस्य को ऐसे मुख्य मसलों में नहीं दिखाना चाहिये।

1 P.M.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Mr. Chairman, one fact has really mystified us, not only mystified us but raises a serious apprehension as to the *bona fides* of the Central Ministry. Mr. Shukla arrogantly said when he was replying to Mr. Bhupesh Gupta's questions—and he used the word 'depend', you can refer to the record—that he would depend upon the report of the Chief Minister to come to a conclusion or decision about it. Mr. Chairman, my question is this. It is clear from newspaper reports again that Shri Brahmananda Reddy, the Chief Minister, has already taken sides, and he has tried to whitewash the guilt of Shri Thimma Reddy. In that view of the circumstances will the hon. Minister tell the House why he really even now wants to depend upon the report of the Chief Minister? That is one thing, Mr. Chairman.

The second thing, Mr. Chairman, is this. As far as this Shri Brahmananda Reddy is concerned, because obviously he has taken sides, why should the Central Ministry refer to him for report? Why did not an emissary of the Central Government look into the thing from the point of view of article 17 of the Constitution which says that practice of untouchability in any form is a serious offence punishable under the law? In that view of the matter when the Constitution is being violated by certain persons there in Andhra Pradesh, why did not the Central Ministry send its own emissary to Andhra to find out facts instead of depending upon Shri Brahmananda Reddy? This is my second question.

[Shri A. P. Chatterjee.]

Therefore, can we not conclude from this that Mr. Shukla looks like an injured woman who was found in a compromising position? Cannot this House take this conclusion that he answered questions with a false air of innocence? Can we not conclude from this that this Government wants to shield Shri Thimma Reddy and the Congress Ministry of Shri Brahmananda Reddy? They want to shield certain persons because the Andhra Government is a Congress Government. Therefore, the party comes in, politics come in. It is no use trying to evade this thing with all this injured innocence and with all protestations as if of a chaste lady even though found in a compromising position.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): I would just say that the whole House so far as the seriousness of the question is concerned is one on this. Now to bring in party politics is very bad.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: We are not interested in shielding anybody. This is absolutely a wrong thing to say. I also want to say that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has taken no sides. His mind is absolutely open and we believe he will give a responsible and a very very objective report about this.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: Mr. Chairman, I am aware of the fact that I am an Andhraite and a Reddy, and I hope the House will take what I have to say in the correct spirit and not with a prejudiced spirit as Mr. Chatterjee has sought to do. I am not taking the brief of either Shri Thimma Reddy or for that matter any Minister. If he has said it and if it is proved, out he goes and all of us will support it and also my Chief Minister will support it and also the Central Government. I have got to say something about Andhra because for the last two hours they have said so many things

about Andhra. Let me tell you, Mr. Chairman, if at all there is one State in India, Andhra is the most cosmopolitan of all States. There the people live without class or language distinction. I come from the villages where I know how we treat our own people. There are instances, such as everywhere in India there are, where there had been the feudalistic system. Every where there had been landlordism. Where some private offence is committed, they never go to the police, they never go to the law courts, whether they are landlords, whether they are Khamars, Bhumiards, Reddys or X or Y. They take the law into their own hands. They butcher, they murder, they mill. Then the Government comes. But for such actions to come and say that every Chief Minister, every Congress Minister, is wrong, is responsible, I say it is wrong. But later when it has been proved that the Government has not put the law into action or if the Government takes sides because of a particular community, then certainly that Ministry or that Minister or that Government out it must go. That is all I have got to say. It is a shame that today we are talking about Scheduled Castes as a different set of citizens. They are as much citizens of India as you and me. They have done more for our country than you and I. They toil in the land. We should be most grateful to them whether Khamars or Bhumiards or any others. If nobody recognises it, I think it is a shameful thing.

Mr. Bhupesh Gupta with all his intelligence has said about Shri Thimma Reddy. I hold no brief for him. I am not a very intimate friend or even a near friend of him. Let me make it very clear that every time I had to call a spade a spade, I had called him also. Is it fair for Mr. Bhupesh Gupta to come and say that everybody in Andhra said that Shri Thimma Reddy could have said it, just because somebody is a loose talker? Is that the way the Home Ministry is going to judge whether somebody could have said it . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Shri Thimma Reddy is prone. . .

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: I never interrupted you.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I did not talk to the 4 crore Andhra people. But the people I talked to including Congressmen said that Shri Thimma Reddy— it was his habit . . .

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: I want to defend myself. Even in this House, in the lobby they know that I am a good friend of Shri Bhupesh Gupta, and if they say that because Mrs. Reddy is a good friend of Shri Bhupesh Gupta she is a Communist, are you going to believe it?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: How the relevance comes in?

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: It comes in. Just somebody is a loose talker and somebody might have said that he is capable of saying this, this man who is a Minister, if he is such a shrewd politician, shall he be such a fool to say it openly in the way he did? I wish to say if he has said so, in all justice to a man who is a Congressman and holding a Minister's post, Shri Brahmananda Reddy shall not defend him, shall not keep him, Andhra will not allow it nor Parliament.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The hon. Lady may have great faith in Shri Brahmananda Reddy. Unfortunately we do not have.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: Mr Bhupesh Gupta, I never expected you to have faith either in the Andhra Chief Minister or for the matter of that any Congress Minister. But if not for anything else at least for sheer public opinion they will have to get out if they have to get out. I appeal to the Home Minister that so much has been made out of it, so much of

politics have been imported into these things, and please get at the truth. It is too serious a matter which the people will not overlook. That is all I have got to say.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA (Maharashtra): I would not take long. I am really sorry that the debate should have gone to a political level. When we look at this from the national and also the social point of view, I have heard the Minister and the statement by Shri Thimma Reddy, and in the whole statement there is not a single word regarding expressing his regrets for such news also. I feel that in this country today when the confidence of the down-trodden Harijans is shattered, if such news appears, that Minister should come forward and tender his resignation to the Chief Minister and say, "this is my resignation. Take this resignation and enquire into this aspect. So long as this suspicion is not cleared, I am not prepared to be in the Ministry." Why should we not create that sort of a norm?

SHRI ABID ALI: In that way, very Minister will go one day or the other.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Mr. Chairman, I do not take, like Shri Abid Ali, that all these papers are absolutely irresponsible papers.

SHRI ABID ALI: Communist papers only.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: I do feel that the Communist Press also has been playing a responsible role. And under the circumstances, may I request the hon. Home Minister? Till the time he makes his enquiry, why should he not request Shri Thimma Reddy to create that best norm in the country, that he should tender his resignation? And secondly, instead of depending on the report of Shri Brahmananda Reddy— with due respect to Shri Brahmananda Reddy, I do feel that we have our own responsibility as the Central Government—it is the duty of the Central Government also to see that

[Shri M. M. Dharia.]
the Constitution and the constitutional rights and privileges are properly protected. And in that direction, may I appeal to the Home Minister to have their separate enquiry also into the matter? Let us make it very clear that this country is not going to tolerate anybody, whether he belongs to this party or that party; without going to political level, we are not here to tolerate such sort of Ministers if they are going to behave in this irresponsible manner; whether they belong to the Communist Party or the Congress Party it is immaterial. And in this light, may I know from the Home Minister whether he will have his own word with the Chief Minister and shall take the resignation of Shri Thimma Reddy on this principle of creating a high standard and at the same time shall have their own enquiry into the matter?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, we respect the views that have been expressed by Shri Dharia. And about the second question, I have already said that we have made our own enquiries into this matter . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: By whom?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, how do we close it? Normally, we would not disturb you because you have passed on to the next item. But what is the conclusion? Nothing has emerged except that . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have all expressed your views.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You should say something. If you say something that will be good. I think it is a censure, and pending clearance, Shri Thimma Reddy should resign.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, I can assure you that the whole House is in complete agreement over this issue and I am absolutely certain that the Government is not

going to sleep over the matter. They will take immediate action. I can assure you that much, and you can rely on my word that the Government will take all possible steps at the earliest opportunity. After knowing a little, for the next five or six days we can keep patience and I am certain that the Government of India will take necessary action.

Papers to be laid on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING
(TRANSPORT WING) NOTIFICATIONS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (SHRI BHAKT DASHAN): Sir, on behalf of Prof. V.K. R. V. RAO, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Transport and Shipping (Transport Wing):—

(i) Notification G. S. R. No. 523, dated the 8th March, 1968, publishing the Jyanti Shipping Company (Board of Control) Amendment Rules, 1968, under sub-section (2) of section 19 of the Jayanti Shipping Company (Taking Over of Management) Act, 1966. [Placed in Library See No. LT-828/68.]

(ii) Notification G.S.R. No. 665, dated the 29th March, 1968, publishing the Shipping Development Fund (Loans) Amendment Rules, 1968, under sub-section (3) of section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958. [Placed in Library See No. LT-1046/68 for (i) and (ii)].

THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY (AMENDMENT)
ACT, 1968

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. TRIGUNA SEN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Calcutta University (Amendment) Act, 1968 (President's Act No. 5 of 1968), under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the West Bengal State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1968. [Placed in Library See No. LT-1307/68.]