

[Shri Niren Ghosh]

cavalier fashion and we cannot go in for a long discussion on it. That is what it has come to.

Now, it is not the lack of powers that has prevented the Government from coming down on the hoarders, profiteers, blackmarketeers and all that but the fact is that the governmental machinery and the bureaucracy is so thoroughly corrupt that even a good measure cannot be implemented through this machinery. I do not say that all the officers are corrupt. There might be exceptions but they are very few. But I speak from my personal experience.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): You will definitely admit that controls have made them more corrupt.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: They are in league with the vested interested who protect them.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Personal experience?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: It is the experience that we have of these officers that inevitably whenever they do anything they pick on the small fry—everywhere we have seen that—and let off the big sharks who actually count. That is the experience generally.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: How many big sharks did you net in West Bengal?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: We netted at least the President of the All India Foodgrain Dealers Federation and put him behind the prison bars. And the stooge of the illegal Ghosh Ministry set him free and he was present at the swearing in ceremony of Dr. P. C. Ghosh.

AN HON. MEMBER: He was set free before.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: So, I would make a suggestion that some sort of a non-official Committee at each level should be associated. They should have wide powers to check the officers

concerned as well as check the malpractices. Although we cannot root this out completely, that way we can do something.

As regards the penal provision I should say that if a sugar factory has been caught in indulging in malpractices as a measure of punishment that factory should be nationalised without any compensation.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think, Mr. Niren Ghosh, you better stop now. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed has to make a statement. I have also permitted Mr. Khobaragade to say what he wanted to say in the morning, though he had not taken my permission. You have to make it in three or four minutes.

ENQUIRY RE CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE

ALLEGED ATROCITIES ON SCHEDULED CASTE PEOPLE

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: (Maharashtra): Madam, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to raise this question. As a matter of fact about eight days back I had given a Calling Attention Notice regarding the murder of one student before the office of the Principal in Aligarh. On Wednesday last I had seen the Chairman in his Chamber also and on his suggestion I had given a Short Notice Question. Today being the last day of the Session I wanted to raise the question in this House. Madam, it is the most tragic and dastardly incident that had occurred in the precincts of the Aligarh University. One Scheduled Caste student was nominated by the Principal to be the monitor of a class and just because he belonged to the Scheduled Caste, the caste Hindus could not tolerate such an event. They could not tolerate that a Scheduled Caste should be nominated as the monitor and, therefore, in front of the Principal's office—not in any jungle or wayside lane—that helpless student was brutally murdered. Such events are happening today in

this country. Three days back an ex-Member of Parliament, Mr. Elaya-Perumal, issued a statement in the press and it has appeared in a number of papers. Three persons in Rewa, in Madhya Pradesh, were brutally killed. What is the reason? What is the offence they committed? The only offence they committed was that they had grown their moustache upwards and not downwards. Such serious atrocities are being perpetrated in this country. Scheduled Caste people are being murdered because they are growing moustaches upwards. They are being killed because of their intelligence and calibre. I had given a Calling Attention Notice. I had expected that after seven days' time the hon. Home Minister would give to this House all the information and facts about what had happened so far as that incident is concerned. The most shameful thing is that even though one and a half months have passed, no person has been apprehended, no person has been arrested so far, even though the murder was committed in broad daylight, in front of the Principal's office. It clearly indicates the callous attitude of the Government and the administration. I just want to ask one question. It is the responsibility of the Union Government to safeguard the interests of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people in this country. I would like to know whether the life and property of the Scheduled Caste people and of the minority people would be protected in this country or not. Are we always supposed to live in a tyrannical state of affairs? Are we to suffer always indignity, humiliation and such atrocities as are being perpetrated against us. We always claim that we are citizens of this country and we want to live in this country as respectable citizens. We want to be good citizens of this country. I must tell you that we are also citizens enjoying equal rights and equal opportunities, as any other citizen. We do not want to lead the life of second-class citizens. But unfortunately we are being treated in this country as second-class citizens. We cannot tolerate such a state of affairs. I would like to urge upon the Home Minister that he should look in-

to this matter and he should assure the House and through this House the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people in this country and other backward communities that their life and property will always be protected by the Government.

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR (Rajasthan) : This is a very important question, which he has raised. Serious allegations have been made and the Home Minister should be called upon by you to make a statement.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN . I think the Leader of the House should be here to listen to this.

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR : We are raising this because it is a very serious matter. The Home Minister should make a statement.

(Hon. Members stood up)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN . Everyone need not get up.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) The only thing I would like to say at this stage is that we are really feeling concerned at whatever we have been told. I will convey it to the Government and ask them to make a statement.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Today the statement should be made.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Today, if possible, but since we are sitting on the 26th, on that day it could be done.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I am asking you whether it is possible to do it today. I think it should be made today.

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR : Let it be a considered statement.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed to make a statement.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA (Maharashtra) : Madam Deputy Chairman. . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : After that statement. I had agreed and even said that it was left to the Minister I had settled all that with you. (*Inter-ruption.*) Why should anyone misunderstand the Chair? They want more questions to be asked about CACO and I had said that if the Minister was so inclined, I would permit you all, but now I have called the Minister to make the other statement.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मेरा एक प्वाइन्ट आफ आर्डर है और वह यह है कि जब एक सदस्य ने अपना भाषण शुरू किया तो उनके भाषण समाप्त होने के बाद ही मंत्री जी को बोलना चाहिये। भाषण के बीच में ही रकवाकर मंत्री जी से बोलने के लिए कहना यह कहा की ससदीय प्रथा है, यह बतलाया जाना चाहिये।

(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : This has all been agreed to.

श्री राजनारायण : मैं आपका ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता हूँ और यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब कोई माननीय सदस्य बोलता है तो वह अपने प्वाइन्टो को ध्यान में रखकर बोलता है और इस तरह से बीच में रोककर आप उसके बोलने के प्रोसेस को खत्म कर देते हैं यह कहकर कि पहले मंत्री जी का बयान सुना जाय।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It has happened because I had given Mr Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed time at 3.30 and after I had rejected that Mr. Khobaragade had said in the morning, because he had not consulted me, he came to me and said that it was a serious matter. I permitted him to say it in five or six minutes and he has said it. Now, I am keeping 3.30 as the time for the Minister to make his statement. I am sure Mr. Niren Ghosh has no objection.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal) : No, but I only want to make the first supplementary in clarification.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER CERTAIN ALLEGATIONS OF MALPRACTICES COMMITTED BY BIRLA GROUP OF COM- PANIES

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : Madam, hon. Shri Chandra Shekhar, Member, Rajya Sabha submitted two memoranda to the Prime Minister containing certain allegations of malpractices committed by Birla Group of companies. The memoranda were referred to me by the Prime Minister. The said allegations have been carefully examined by the concerned Departments. Though I do not wish to take up the time of the House in dealing with every allegation, I shall briefly indicate some cases which would enable the Hon'ble Members to appreciate the action taken so far by various Departments in this regard.

2. I shall first take up the allegations where action to deal with them has been set in motion under the appropriate laws or regulations applicable

(a) For instance,

(i) In respect of the allegations about salaries that are being paid to certain persons in India Linoleums Ltd, and Birla Jute Manufacturing Co., the Company Law Board has ordered an investigation under Section 235(c) of the Companies Act, consequent on the Inspection Report received.

(ii) Similarly, in the case of purchase of preference shares by Jiyajee Rao Cotton Mills in another Birla company at 1/4 per cent interest, the Company Law Board have, after examining the report of the Inspectors under section 209(4) of the Act, ordered an investigation under Section 237(b) of the Companies Act.

(b) In respect of some cases where there has been a violation of