

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I want to....*(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I told you that I will call you. *...(Interruptions)...* I told you that I will call you. *...(Interruptions)...* What is this? *...(Interruptions)...* I told you that after the Zero Hour, I will call you. *...(Interruptions)...* I am sorry. *...(Interruptions)...* I told you after the Zero Hour, I will call you. *...(Interruptions)...* Only two minutes are left. *...(Interruptions)...* It is not going on record. *...(Interruptions)...* No. *...(Interruptions)...* I told you that I will call you. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In any case, I told you that I will call you. *...(Interruptions)...* Be patient. *...(Interruptions)...* If she speaks now, can I call her again? *...(Interruptions)...* She is unnecessarily losing her chance. *...(Interruptions)...* That is what I am saying. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, she wants to react to what the Minister has told. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Even if it is a reaction to what the Minister said, she can do that when I call her. She will get time. That is what I am saying. *...(Interruptions)...* You are my sister. *...(Interruptions)...* I will call you. I will give you time today. *...(Interruptions)...* Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar. *...(Interruptions)...*

Practice of untouchability in distribution of Mid-day-Meal

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR (Nominated): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to a very serious issue. *...(Interruptions)...* Please let me continue. *...(Interruptions)...* It is regarding the practice of untouchability in the country. I need not narrate the havoc that the caste system and untouchability have played in this country for centuries and destroyed the lives of millions in one way or the other. Despite the abolition of untouchability by the Constitution under Article 17, its practice is rampant in socio-economic life of our country.

*Not recorded.

Sir, it is shameful for the country that recently the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Welfare Committee has distressfully observed the practice of untouchability in the Midday Meal Scheme which is the novel scheme for the country, particularly in the coastal areas of Odisha. Sir, besides providing nutritious cooked meals to the children, social integration of the children belonging to different castes, communities and religions is also one of the important objectives of the Midday Meal Scheme. Fortunately, younger generation is not as infected as the senior people like us by the caste system and untouchability. But, it is observed that some of the teachers in the schools are sowing the seeds of untouchability and discrimination in the minds of the younger generation and that is why, the Committee has suggested that such teachers should be punished.

Lastly, I suggest that the Government should conduct a national sample survey regarding the practice of untouchability in the Midday Meal Scheme and take the remedial measures. Sir, I demand in this House that let the survey be conducted in a time-bound manner. Nearly 14 crore children are getting midday meals. If such a practice is rampant, rather than creating, we shall be destroying young minds. That is why, I demand that the Government should conduct a time-bound national survey and find out the extent of untouchability and place the report before this House. Thank you very much

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, मैं इनके उल्लेख का समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्री राम कृपाल यादव (बिहार): सर, हम इनके उल्लेख का समर्थन करते हैं।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी: सर, हिमाचल प्रदेश में भी बच्चों को ...(व्यवधान) सर, इसको भी रिकॉर्ड पर लाइए ...(व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Kindly note all the names.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate.

DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I also associate.

SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM (Meghalaya): Sir, I also associate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we also associate.

Brutal gang-rape of a Jharkhand Police woman

SHRI ANIL DESAI (Maharashtra): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that yesterday the Home Minister gave clarifications as far as gangrapes are concerned, the machinery which is being evolved and the security measures which are being taken all over the States and the country as well. But, I would like to cite an incident which has taken place after the bizarre incidents in Delhi regarding Nirbhaya and then the photo-journalist in Mumbai. A similar incident has taken place in Jharkhand where a tribal police woman was gangraped. While she was carrying the dead body of her younger sister, who was shot dead, to the funeral pyre, the robbers emerged on Highway No.75 near Ranchi, Jharkhand and they robbed the entire family. After doing that, they pulled the woman constable and raped her. Three of them were there. Though five of them have been arrested by the State police, things are going very slow. This is another incident which is bringing shame to the nation. In fact, the State Government of Jharkhand is to be blamed. Yesterday, a similar incident took place involving a mentally-challenged, differently-abled, young woman in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra. While she was sitting all alone and was just waiting for a relative to come and pick her up at the bus stand, she was taken away from the place and youngsters aging between 20-25 years – five of them – gangraped the mentally-challenged woman. This shows the apathy of how we are looking at this grave problem. The setting up of fast track courts and other measures, as far as security is concerned, are falling short. In all, this is bringing shame to our country. The way things are happening, women are absolutely not safe. Jayaji just mentioned that sisters are not safe in the country. I do agree. Unless capital punishment is given or very strict measures are taken immediately, things will not improve. On paper fast track courts are set up, but it should appear that justice is delivered in time. Unless culprits are taken to task and capital punishment is inflicted on them, this kind of terror, which is in front of women of India, is not going to come down. The standards are going down. We have to make efforts with the State Government collectively. Responsibility also falls on the Central Government which needs to look into this matter and act accordingly.