

श्री शमशेर सिंह डुलो (पंजाब): उपसभापति जी, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन (बिहार): उपसभापति जी, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करती हूँ।

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

**Concern over the increasing incidents of attacks by *Gau Rakshaks*
in various parts of the country**

श्री सीताराम येचुरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल): उपसभापति जी, आपका बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया कि आपने मुझे बोलने की अनुमति दी है। मैं यहां पर एक बहुत ही गंभीर सवाल उठाने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। जब गौरक्षा के नाम पर इंसानों की जान ली जाती है, तब इसका तीव्र खंडन करते हैं। आखिरकार, प्रधान मंत्री जी उसके बारे में कुछ बोले। वे देर से बोले, लेकिन क्या बोले? वे बोले, "दलितों को मत मारना, मारना है तो हमें मारो" सर, यह डायलॉग हर दूसरी हिन्दी फिल्म में आता है। जब मां कहती है, "बच्चे को बख्श दो, मुझे मार दो।" वह मां कौन है, मतलब एक्टर कौन है, हम सभी लोग वह भी जानते हैं। What is the meaning of saying, "Don't attacks the *dalits*"? Is that the license to attack the non-*dalits*? Is that the license to attack our religious minorities? Remember, in the name of this *Gau Raksha* business, the first person to have died, who has been killed, was Akhlaq and, therefore, this is an issue on which we have been asking the Prime Minister repeatedly standing here. I have been requesting the Prime Minister, for once, please assure us in the House, and, through us, the people of the country, that his Government, this Government, will abide by the rule of the law. If there are people violating the law, action will be taken against them. That assurance, unfortunately, has not come till date. What we want is, what the action that is going to be taken is. Sir, this reminds us one of the Machiavellian dictums, when Machiavelli tells the Prince how to win the hearts of the people. One of the dictums is, "First show the people the worst that is possible under your rule; then proceed with restraint not to do that and people will heave a sigh of relief and say that what a great benefactor he is." What is happening and what the Prime Minister is saying are totally unrelated. We want this assurance from this Government that the law of the land will be protected and action will be taken against those violating this law of the land. That assurance, unfortunately, has not come. The reason why I am raising this issue is that in the name of cow vigilantism today, there is havoc that is being spread in the country; innocent people's lives have been taken away, and we know how the *dalits* are being attacked. So, keeping this in mind, I want, through you, to tell this Government to give that assurance. Once let the Prime Minister come and say in Parliament that those who violate law in our country will be proceeded against and action will be taken. That assurance has not come and that must come now, and that is why I have raised this issue. This cow vigilantism must be stopped now.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time over. This is the time for Question Hour.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sitaram Yechury.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sitaram Yechury.

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO (Punjab): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sitaram Yechury.

SHRI P. L. PUNIA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sitaram Yechury.

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं भी इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sitaram Yechury.

(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Use of plastic in food packaging industry

*241. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the widespread use of plastics in food packaging industry is very harmful for human health; and

(b) if so, whether any study has been done by the Ministry in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House:

Statement

(a) Plastic packaging materials that come in contact with food products can lead to migration of some chemical substances such as residual monomer, additives, plasticizers, pigments, etc., to food when exposed to different temperatures over a longer duration. Conscious of this fact, the Government encourages use of other packaging materials such as jute for packaging food items, where feasible.

All food items cannot, however, be packaged in such alternate materials. Plastic in different forms has, in view of its ability to protect products and extend shelf