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IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY SUCH A MINISTER WOULD HAVE BEEN DISMISSED

To the Editor,

The Times Of India

Sir,

Following close upon the action of the Home Minister of Bombay in suspending the sentences passed upon two gamblers by the High Court; there comes the news of the action taken by the Home Minister of the C.P. in remitting the Sentences passed by the Court of the Judicial Commissioners upon a person by name Jaffer Hasan who was condemned to three years, rigorous imprisonment on a charge of rape upon a girl of 14 years. The conviction took place in 1936. The accused had only undergone one year's imprisonment so that he has been given a remission of two years.

I think that this act of the Congress Minister in the C. P. is a most shameless act, for which I can find no parallel. What does the Hindu public which is so blindly supporting the Congress, think of these acts ?

I would not have troubled you with this letter if the matter concerned the Caste Hindus—not that it would not have been a grave thing if the girl was a Caste Hindu girl, but because the Hindus have cultivated a religious faith that no party other than the Congress and no man other than the Mahatma can bring them salvation ! They have placed their destiny in the hands of one party and have refused to examine the acts of those in whom they trust. If they come to grief, it is their fault. But the girl belongs to the Depressed Classes. She is *Chambhar* by caste. It is because of that I feel deeply concerned. We are destined to be in a minority. We can only criticise. We can never hope to control.

What hope have the Depressed Classes of fair play and justice if such acts as those of the Home Minister in the C. P. are tolerated by the Hindu public, are endorsed by the Prime Minister and

overlooked by the Mahatma ? I am sure in any other country such a Minister would have been dismissed. But, is this not to be expected in India? The Mahatma owes the Depressed Classes an explanation as to how he and his Prime Minister can justify this reprehensible act of their Minister.

B.R. Ambedkar."[1]

Bombay

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[1] : The Times of India : Dated 19th March 1938.