

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kattayam): We are all agitated over this issue. All the Members have raised this issue. We are all directly concerned with this. Unfortunately, the Government has not taken any decision. The Environment Minister is here. he must say some thing (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If all of you are speaking, it is not being recorded.

[*Interruptions*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Their demands should be taken note of by the Government. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Kerala is facing a very acute power shortage.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Yesterday I was requesting the friends from this side to speak one after the other. Today, I am requesting you to speak one after the other. Please take your seats.

[*Interruptions*]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: We are agitated over this because of the urgency of the situation.

MR. SPEAKER: It has now become amply clear that all of you are concerned and that has been noted. We take it that all of you have done that..... including the hon. Minister.

[*Interruptions*]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: You must give some direction to the Government: (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHMED (Manjeri): Sir, I would request you to give a direction to the Government in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I cannot give direction on each and every thing. I do not have that authority. I cannot give a direction in all these things.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: You may please use kind words.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here. AT least, he must say some thing. (*Interruptions*)

I have taken note of it and the matter will be looked into. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon Minister has very chivalrously got up and said that he will see to it that the matter is looked into. Now it is more than enough.

[*Interruptions*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the US Administration is still a betting, helping and encouraging Khalistani activities. Recently one of the aides of the President Bush has written a letter to Dr. Aulakh, President of the so-called Council of Khalistan in USA where he has expressed the hope that Dr. Ahulakh will find strength and courage to continue as an advocate of International Human Rights. Another Assistant to the President Bush whose name is Mr. C. Gregg Peterstayer, has also stated that the Bush Administration will continue to be very concerned about the International Human Rights.....

MR. SPEAKER: Matter may be serious But I will caution the Members to be careful.

[*Interruptions*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Busi. Administration will continue to be concerned about the international issue of human rights and all nations should recognise the univer-

sai declaration of Human Rights. This is very serious. The Bush Administration is interfering in the internal affairs of our country. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever matter Shri Acharia raises is always serious.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEV ACHARIA: The Bush Administration is encouraging, aiding and abetting the Khalistani activities. We demand that the Foreign Affairs Minister should make a statement on this whether there is a direct intervention from the Bush Administration and whether the aides of Mr. Bush had written a letter in order to encourage the Khalistani terrorist and secessionist activities in our country. I demand that the Foreign Affairs Minister should make a statement on this. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I join with Shri Basu Deb Acharia that this is a very serious matter. When on the one hand, the Government of India is trying to have a very good relations with the Government of USA, on the other hand, one of the aids of the President Bush has written a letter to the so-called President of Khalistan in USA Dr. Garmit Singh, which is a matter of alarm.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. This will not go on record. I have already warned you on that. You are alleging certain things which cannot be replied to be the foreign dignitaries on the floor of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: We are not making allegation.....

MR. SPEAKER: This kind of presumption is more than allegation.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: We have referred to a letter that has been reported.

MR. SPEAKER: What you have said is more than allegation and please be careful. I am not allowing it on the record. You proceed now.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: The question is, when a letter has been written by one of the aides of the the President and that has been published in the newspapers.....

MR. SPEAKER: Are you authenticating that letter?

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA You have many times allowed discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing you also But you belong to the Government side, you have to be more careful;

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: You have allowed discussion many times .

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing you also. But i am cautioning You.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I am only mentioning what has been reported in the press. That is why, our request is that this is a very sensitive matter, and thereby the Government should come out whether it is true or it is untrue. And the Government should make a statement. In case, there is a letter patronising or encouraging the Khalistani activists in the USA, in that case, the Government of India should protest to the Government of USA. That is why, I request

that the Government should come and make a statement. And you, from your Chair, can ask the Government because the confusing in the minds of the people, must be cleared. The Government should come out with a statement and that is my request.

Sir, this is a very serious matter. And our Prime Minister has made it categorically clear that terrorism and such other things should be discussed in the international forum. If these things are happening, then the Government should come out with a statement and it should protest it. And that is my request.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: The question about raising such matters of sensitive nature is well taken. The point is that when we raised this issue of Pentagon paper, the same thing was said by you. Now it has been proved that there exists such an internal paper and their officials have said to our foreign Secretary "please do not take it seriously." If it is not to be taken seriously then why do they prepare this kind of a paper and get it leaked out, at a time, when our Foreign Secretary has to visit U.S.A.? These are all pressure tactics and we must be cautious about how they deal with our country? What they want from our country?

Sir, this particular letter is in response to a letter written by Dr. Aulakh to President Bush. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You yourselves are saying that this is a letter in response.

[*Interruptions*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: No, Sir, Certain things come in paper. When they are not contradicted by those people who are in authority either in U.S.A. or in our country.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Having allowed you to

speak, I am saying each word of yours. You are saying that this letter is in response.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Certainly, but how can I know that. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I am saying.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: It is for the U.S. administration to tell that no such letter has been written. That was a news item.

MR. SPEAKER. You may please go ahead in your own fashion.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: I am not concerned if somebody writes to the President and he has a right to give a reply. Now the question is this: if that refers to certain things pertaining to another country, one has to be careful in seeing what kind of a reply is going to be given. We have to see whether that is going to encourage certain things which are totally the internal affairs of another country. I have no dispute on a President writing a letter to somebody, or his aidewriting a letter to somebody. But the content of the letter is that is somebody is encouraged to take up the human rights question, it is very good. But what about the human rights of those people who are being killed in Punjab?

Yesterday, 15 labourers were killed and they are silent. But something else is happening, they are making so much huffalaboo on this. This is a double standard, which we do not accept. This is what needs to be condemned and they must be told in clear terms that this kind of dilly-dallying and secretly doing something and putting pressure on this Government, is not going to be tolerated by this country

and also this kind of arm twisting method which they are trying to undertake.

We are condemning this attitude of the U.S. Administration.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with you that the name of the President of a big nation like that of the U.S.A. should not be mentioned here. I am of the view that they should not have written such a letter. Such a letter has been written by a close associate of Mr. Bush. I believe that we have some misunderstanding about Britain and the U.S.A. The people who go from here and settle there interfere in the internal matters of our country and in these the U.S.A. administration extends them full support. But in case of England, we are satisfied that the British Government is taking some steps in this regard. Their Home Secretary has also said the same thing here. He has said that if any thing wrong like this is done there, the Government would take action against it. But we have some suspicion about the U.S.A. which is not becoming clear. In fact, Shri Basu Deb Acharia initiated the discussion. Two points have already been raised about the U.S.A. One is about supply of wheat. If we supply rice to Cuba, they won't supply wheat to us. It was so nice on your part to accord permission for it by which the Government's stand has become clear. Secondly, the point of 46 page document was also raised. It was reported in every newspaper that it was under consideration at Pentagon and it should not be taken seriously. The Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs has also made a statement in this regard. Therefore, neither I, nor this House, nor you should wish that a close associate of Mr. Bush should write such a letter to a Khalistan activist. It would be construed as interference in our internal matter. There-

fore, the Government should make it clear. The House as well as we would feel happy if a letter about Khalistan is not given any cognisance by the Government.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): I should begin by congratulating you.

MR. SPEAKER: Why should you? ?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I will explain that. Because you permit us to raise such issues

MR. SPEAKER: In a way this is a googy though this is not a cricket ground!

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: We are in the habit of uttering the truth. Why should we restrict ourselves? The point I am making is, because you allow us to raise.....

MR. SPEAKER: Because you have mentioned this I would say that we are very much interested in taking up the important matters on the floor of the House. It would be wrong to shut out any important matter from being discussed on the floor of the House. But at the same time this is the highest authority in the country. Each word you speak has a meaning. It has an impact in the country and outside the country. That is why when we speak, let us speak in such a fashion that your authority is exercised, exercised in the correct manner and it would create more problems than solve the problems.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJI: In the course of the last few days we have been able to assert the supremacy of the Parliament. Had these questions not been raised as Rabi Rayji very correctly pointed out, the Government would not have been

forthcoming with such statement as, notwithstanding whatever the US Government says, we will supply rice to Cuba. This is the kind of assertion from the Government which from our side we welcome.

Similarly, despite our differences with our BJP colleagues and perhaps with Rabi Rayji also, we demanded it even on the human rights question. We raise the question and then we welcome the assertion of the Government of India on the human rights questions which are being utilised by more developed powers to interfere in the domestic political situation of different countries. This is another question.

Once again the issue is that of human rights. With the dismantling of the Soviet Union it is being felt in certain quarters in the US that they have the world on their fingertips and they can do whatever they want to do. So it has become urgent for Indian people to stand up in such a manner that even the rest of the people in the third world countries, rest of the people in what is considered to be South feel courage that here is a country which is like a lion standing against the audacity of the US Government or whoever is there in the US. It is this that is desired from the Government.

We believe you will also direct the Government, as you have directed on previous occasions, to come out with a statement either denying whatever news we have got or saying that yes, such a report is there. And without any hesitation the Government, in unanimity with the Parliament, should condemn correspondence.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I would not have taken your time normally.

MR. SPEAKER: It is House's time.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It is an impor-

tant issue in view of the fact that the question of human rights have been raised or involved in this. On previous occasions I have mentioned here in this House that the question of human rights is not an abstract idea. If USA feels that what is happening in Punjab today by way of the killing spree by the militants is also a question which is equal to that of human rights, then it is nothing but devaluation of the function and perception of the human rights.

Sir, the United States of America has been interfering in the internal affairs of our country, by way of aiding and abetting the militants and terrorists who are operating in our country, threatening the unity, integrity and even the independence of the country. Having regard to these very facts, I want that the Government of India should make it clear to the United States of America that it is unfair for them to interfere in the internal affairs of this country. Our Foreign Secretary is in the United States of America now and he is having talks with the important officials of the US Administration. I hope you will advise the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, to advise our Foreign Secretary — now having talks in USA — to give vent to our feelings, feelings which have been expressed more or less, by all sections of the House. I think you can advise the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already showed his inclination to respond.

SHRI BHOGENDRAS JHA (Madhubani): Sir, should I take it that without howling you will not pay heed? I have been raising my hand.

MR. SPEAKER: I take it that I do not have to give chance to 542 Members. Okay, you please speak now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I seldom give trouble. As a protest, since you have not given me time, I will keep quiet. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No I am giving you time.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I am not in the habit of that. (*Interruptions*)

You may tell me. Sir. I never want to howl or do like that.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI-MATI MARGARET ALVA): Shri Jha, he is asking you to speak. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I am not begging. Please do not help. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a chain of events. Day before yesterday, yesterday and even today, we are coming to know that despite the Pressler Amendments, USA is supplying arms to Pakistan which destabilises this region. We will have to match it up which again tells upon our economy. The Finance Minister has gone to seek some help from USA, which has to be diverted towards the Defence expenditure because the Americans are sending arms to them despite the Pressler Amendments.

The other day, we had raised the issue that the Pentagon in its secret document, has talked about preparing the so-called "India's hegemonistic ambitions in South-Asia", thereby they are provoking our neighbours—friendly neighbours, fraternal neighbours — to rise against India. That is another thing. So, the whole South Asian region is being attempted to be

disturbed by USA.

This is a concerted policy. It is not only the question of one secret document, no the question of only supplying rice to Cuba, nor the question of only supplying arms to Pakistan, nor the question of support to Khalistan in the name of human rights.

So, I ask the Government through you, Sir, as to whether the Government is taking all these things coherently and coming out with a definite statement so that USA should know — despite the dismantling of the Soviet Union - India as a nation, India as a non-aligned nation and India as a part of more than 125 countries of the world, will stand up and will not compromise the sovereignty and will not be black-mailed.

Therefore, the unanimous voice of this House has to be conveyed through you, Sir. I think, even if the Government hesitates, you should convey this unanimous feeling of the House. I do not think that there can be two voices on this point because our national sovereignty, integrity and peace in the region are all inter-connected and they are being disturbed by USA. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the views of the hon. Members have definitely been taken note of by the Government. We shall ascertain the facts and come shortly back to the House with the full picture so that if it is a correct report, the Government would clarify its stand very clearly. If the report is not correct also, we would inform you. We would come back to the House.