

Dairy and other agencies in Delhi are reasonably adequate

**Programme to Inform People about Economic Policy**

2097 DR DEBIPROSAD PAL Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to launch a massive programme to inform the people about the economic policy, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS)

(a) and (b) The charter of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is to inform people and carry out awareness campaigns of various Government policies, programmes and activities. The various media units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are engaged in carrying out this charter in respect of economic policies of the Government.

12.00 hrs.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roserai)  
Mr Speaker, Sir, you had made an announcement in the House on that day so I would like to know about the export and import of wheat. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR SPEAKER You please take your seat, he it about to speak

[*English*]

They have given me a letter

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN Is is coming?

[*English*]

MR SPEAKER Yes

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa) Sir, we have given notice about the very alarming news-item that has appeared in the Press today in our country. It refers to classified internal policy document prepared by the US Defence Department at the behest of their Defence Secretary-in consultation with Mr Bush and his advisers. It contemplates use of force against India and Pakistan with the assumption that we are engaged in making weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons. Now this is a very serious matter.

India's position about making of nuclear bomb is very well known to the world. We have refrained from making a bomb. We have declared that we will be using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. But the kind of arrogance that has come from these internal documents, is very disturbing for our country. It also smacks of a kind of ignorance on the part of US Administration. Even in this report, it is clear that they are not willing to contemplate a nuclear-free world. They want to retain the monopoly of nuclear power within their own fraternity, within some country.

India has taken a moral position that has been endorsed by the people of our country that we are against making a nuclear bomb. We are for use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes. But, at the same time, this kind of immoral reference against India has to be condemned.

I want a clarification from the Government whether they have come to know about this paper. If they have come to know of it, what is their reaction? What action are they going to take against this kind of judgement that is being constructed in the Defence Department of USA? It is a very serious matter. The whole House is concerned about it. *(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER: Well, we do appreciate the pains the Hon. Members are taking and the vigilance they are showing. It is something which has to be appreciated. It is something to which we should attach importance. But there is one more point which has to be borne in mind while raising the matters of this nature.

When the matters relating to the foreign countries are raised on the floor at a time when we are discussing the unlisted business, naturally the Government does not have a notice. *(Interruptions)* If the matter is of sensitive nature and if it has been published in such a fashion as to create sometimes bad blood in the countries—it may be in United States of America or China or Soviet Union or Pakistan or Malaysia or any other country—we shall have to be very careful about this. On the one hand, we appreciate and congratulate those who are so vigilant but at the same time, I would like to caution the Members that in the interest of the country, at the time of transacting the unlisted business, let us be careful in raising sensitive matters which would create bad blood.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Sir, I have given due notice.

MR. SPEAKER: You should give notice to the Government and not to me.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Yes.

I have given notice to the Government. Why has it not been shown to the Minister?

*(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER: Mr. Saifuddin, please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER: I am standing and let me say something. You sit down first. Unless I raise my voice, you will not take your seat. Please appreciate that I cannot compete with you in raising my voice. I shall have to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER: I have made a statement on the Floor of the House very carefully. I have not debarred you from raising it. At the same time, I have cautioned you that there can be news item in the newspapers planted by anybody to create bad blood between China and India, Soviet Union and India, America and India, Pakistan and India or any country for that matter. That is why, you shall have to be very careful about it.

*(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Not like this. I cannot just compete with you in raising my voice. Let me complete what I have to say. I am not asking the Government not to respond to it. I am not compelling the Government to respond to it. What I am saying is let us be careful in matters which relate to foreign countries over which we have no control and you have no means of verifying the facts.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack) Is the Government aware of this particular news item or not?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) National interest requires a quick response from the Government (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER I have called Mr Chandra Jeet Yadav to speak. All of you are standing and speaking which is not good. I am calling one after the other.

(*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER Notice to the Speaker is not notice to the Government also. I have got the notice just ten minutes before the House started.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) I am in full agreement with the two points which you have made, that is, we should be careful about our relationship with other countries on sensitive issues and that you appreciate the vigilance of the Members so far as our national interest, particularly the security and sovereignty of our country are concerned. Sir, this is a very serious matter. It is well known that there are no two opinions on this issue that we have refused to sign the NPT because we feel that it is not in our national interest. Only zonal peace or zonal agreement to control the nuclear weapons activity is not enough. The world should be nuclear free. Therefore, keeping in view our national interest, we have refused to sign. This is only a pressure on our Government and pressure to the extent that they can attack our nuclear installations. This is a serious matter. It has been brought to the

notice of the Government and Government must promptly respond to this to at least allay this fear. I would like to know whether this matter has come to the notice of the Government also or not. Therefore, through you Sir, I am requesting the Defence Minister, who is present here fortunately, to at least give his reaction on this very important issue which relates to our national security and sovereignty. This is my request.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translations*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say two or three things at this juncture. I am myself opposed to nuclear power whether it is used for war or for generating electricity but I would like to say a few words regarding America's recent approach towards it. Firstly, we have been holding discussions inside and outside the House for the last many days on the issue of Sovereignty of the country. I hold this opinion that when economic sovereignty of country is lost, it is futile to hope for political sovereignty of country is lost, it is futile to hope for political sovereignty and longer. The news-item published today indicates that America wants to tell you that there can be an attack on your sovereignty.

My second question to the Government through you is that during the last six months many big officials of our army and military have gone to America and many big officers of that country have come to India. The senior most general of our country paid a visit to America, met various people and held deliberations with the State Department of that country. In this context, I would like to know, although I do not remember whether the Defence Minister had gone there or not but in the last few days he has been saying all kinds of things pertaining to Defence matters and when the officers visited America during the last six months it is obvious

that they had gone on official level. They did not go on their own and a number of officers belonging to American military, Navy and Air Force, who visited India during the last six months, perhaps never in the past forty years did so many officers ever pay a visit to India. (Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: No, no, you please see

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I would like to know from the Government whether these issues were raised in the presence of all of you and whether the report published in the today's newspaper is authentic? Mr Speaker: Sir, Moreover I do not agree with you that news is fabricated.

MR SPEAKER: No, no, I never said that. What I said was that there were possibilities that it might be a concocted story. Please do not distort the facts. If such a thing is happening in front of me, what would be outside the House?

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr Speaker, Sir, I stand corrected. I want to point out that in this case there is no scope of suspicion because I do not have the slightest doubt regarding the facts highlighted in this news. As such I would like to know whether the Government has contemplated on this issue before this news appeared. Was it in the notice of the Government and today when this news-item has come, has the Government taken the initiative of calling the American ambassador immediately for an explanation in this regard? (Interruptions)

[English]

MR SPEAKER: When I call your name, you may please speak then.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): The economic sovereignty is in great danger. The Government should immediately respond. In the background of the joint exercise by our defence forces and the American defence forces. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr Speaker, Sir, I agree to your decision but I only want to say that since Shri Pawar is present here, all of us belonging to the opposition party want the Government to respond immediately to the question relating to the security of the country. As such I am raising this issue that Pentagon which is a defence establishment of the United States was instrumental in Publishing this news-item that document. (Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: You please ask questions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr Speaker, Sir, it has been categorically stated in the news that. (Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: It is written in the newspaper or it has appeared?

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am saying this after fully agreeing with you. Sharad Pawar is present here. Let him say that it is not a document of the Pentagon. (Interruptions) It has been published at the behest of Mr Bush's Advisor and an Under Secretary. I would like to only point out that when America is frequently attacking our sovereignty. (Interruptions) It is a different kind of attack. On the one hand, it is an attack on our economy and on the other hand it is an attack on our political sovereignty. Our security is at stake and America is constantly threatening us. Pawar Sahib is present here and as such let him throw light

on the fact whether the Pentagon has not furnished it. (*Interruptions*) Our Foreign Secretary, Shri Dixit, has either gone or is about to go. After having published it, he is being pressurised to sign the NPT. It is a compulsion and pressures from various sources are being exerted on him. We want the Government to stay away from this for the sake of the sovereignty of the country. (*Interruptions*) We want to ask whether it has been said by Pentagon. Is it an opinion of the U.S. Government? If not, it is all right and if so, the Government should immediately make a statement in this regard. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh)**  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too had come across this news item. I listened with great care to the observations and the points made by various honourable colleagues.

Of course, so far as national sovereignty, to serving the nation's interest, issues relating to national security, defence, etc. are concerned, I do not think the House is divided on these at all.

But the point that I would like to make is that it is incumbent on the Government to be seized of the concern of the House.

Secondly, even before the House expresses its anxiety, the Government would be well-advised to take note of such developments and to come forward before the House and bring it to the notice of the House. I share these sentiments with my colleagues who have expressed their views. But, nevertheless, there is an altered reality and that cannot be wished away. If the Government of India has chosen not to accept US pressures for example on signing of the NPT, we stand entirely with the Government. We are not votaries of a uniform application of NPT,

unlike what my friend Shri George Fernandes has said.

In similar terms, if armed forces officers of the United States of America were to now visit India and Indian officers of counter rank or equivalent rank were to visit the United States of America, in the altered circumstances, I find it only correct. How else are you going to continue to evolve a situation of exchange, inter-change of ideas? In the very same light, I welcome the fact that what we have been advocates for a very long time. I welcome the fact, even if belatedly, finally, the Government accorded a position of full diplomatic relations with the State of Israel. We welcome it. We have long been advocating it. There is no wishing away rather you cannot wish away the change that has come about globally. And in analysing situation relating to national sovereignty, you cannot speak in yesterday's idiom and you cannot try and throw up chimaera's of problems or anxieties which were more applicable in yesterday's idiom.

I, therefore, appeal yet again to the Government that they ought to take note of such developments even, before, the House comes forward. It is matter of some anxiety to the House. The Government have taken note of it and they should have clarified it or they should take the first earliest opportunity to clarify it. Thank you.

**SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE**  
What we understand is that everybody agrees that there has been a change in the international environment. The Point is not whether we recognise it or not. The point is how do we respond to that international change. Now there are various ways of responding to it. Now there are various ways of responding to it. One is by way of surrendering apparently or perhaps falsely to this awesome power of the imperialist United States. The other is to respond in a manner whereby we come at the top of the developing countries, the so-

called Third World countries and try to resist such pressures. The question is whether as has been pointed out by all of us or each of us, that we were always behind the Government on such issues. The problem that faces us today is whether we are allowed to be behind them; whether they will take position or not, because of the condition of the economy where we have landed into, or are they not subjecting themselves to such pressures where it can only be described as lying prostrate before all the mighty powers and they are not resistant to the new imperialist offensive which has been made more plausible than before because of the ruination of the USSR. The threat has increased and not decreased. That is the perception that should prevail in the Government. We are rather apprehensive that the Government is moving away from this kind of understanding of the world situation. Therefore, there is a great danger to the country as a whole.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR** (Faridkot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government to a very important issue. After elections in Punjab..... (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** If you could keep quiet, I can talk to him as I am also referring to the same issue. Bararji I will call you later.

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR):** Regarding the news-item published in today's newspaper, the Indian Government has not received any authentic information till date. The Foreign Secretary of India has left for America today. After reading this news-item I have given this instruction in the morning that our Ambassador to that country will establish contact with him and brief me after collecting information regarding the detailed report appeared in today's newspaper. He is to confirm whether it is authentic and serious.....

[*English*]

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE** (Bolpur): Why has the U.S. Ambassador not been called?

[*Translation*]

**SHRI SARAD PAWAR:** Thereafter I shall definitely come to this august House with a detailed statement.

[*English*]

**SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:** Why has the U.S. Ambassador not been called? He is just saying that he is collecting the information.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY:** Why did the Government not call the U.S. Ambassador and ask what is the truth? What is he promising, I do not understand (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA** (Madhubani): The Ambassador may be called. You summon the Ambassador.

**SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:** At least you tell us what you are going to do. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY:** Why did he not summon the Ambassador? (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** I do not have to give my opinion all the time.

(*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Minister says that he will collect the information and if necessary come to the House. that is all.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR The C C I which was purchasing cotton from the farmers before the Punjab elections has now backed out. As a result of this the price of cotton has fallen at least by Rs 200 per quintal. I want to request the Government through you that the farmers of Punjab are under this impression that the Cotton Corporation of India has withdrawn because the big business houses, the textile owners such as Oswal and Birla, having large mills, want to make profit at the cost of the farmers.

I would also like to submit that 7 lakh tonnes of cotton exported to Pakistan by Government is of so inferior quality that it has been rejected. On the other hand, the labourious farmers of Punjab produce the superior kind of 414 No. cotton. It is a cruel joke with the farmers of Punjab. The farmers have stood by us in the trying moments and have made several sacrifices to grow crops. Despite this why has the C C I withdrawn from market and why are the prices constantly falling and have declined from Rs 1570 to Rs 1200 per quintal in the market. I and the farmers of Punjab hold this view that the Government has succumbed to the pressure exerted by big houses and subsequently brought down the prices. Such a trend should be stopped immediately lest a feeling should develop in the minds of the farmers of Punjab that the Punjab elections were a mere drama. The C C I has withdrawn the rates since Punjab elections are over.

[*English*]

MR SPEAKER The hon Members wanted a statement from the Minister. Mr Chidambaram, you are making a statement now.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHI-

DAMBARAM) On the other one! (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER This was something which was raised at this point of time. You wanted to make a statement. I am allowing you now.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE Sir, would you allow after this statement? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur) Sir, you are not allowing me. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDERJIT (Darjeeling) The hon Member Shri Sudhir Sawant wants to raise a very important point. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT Sir, you have not allowed the Congress Members to speak on matters which have been raised by other Members. I do not understand whether it is related to Sudhir Sawant as a Member of Parliament. (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER I have been seeing that every day you are standing up like this. If you are doing like this, I am not going to allow you. You are not the only Member.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT I am one of the Members of this House. You have allowed everyone to raise the matter and speak on that. You have not allowed me, a Congress Member to speak on that. This is happening time and again. (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER Now, you have to sit down. Otherwise, I will name you and ask you to withdraw. This is too much. This is not gram Panchayat.