

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding hosting of Indian flag by any Indian anywhere in India without any fear.

**SHRIMATI SUMALATHA AMBAREESH (MANDYA):** Thank you, hon. Chairperson, Sir.

I do believe that what I want to convey today is of national interest and I beg you to allow me a little time.

On a recent visit to Kashmir after a gap of many years, what took my breath away was not just the breathtaking beauty of Kashmir but the sight of our beautiful National Flag, flying high and proud for the first time ever in Kashmir.

Sir, I cannot express what kind of joy and pride I felt at seeing that. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Jawed Ji, please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRIMATI SUMALATHA AMBAREESH :** Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I do believe that every Indian feels that our National Flag is not just a symbol of peace and strength but also a representation of all our religions, ethnic culture, and languages spoken in our great country.

Today, I want to draw the kind attention of this august House and the Government of India to a recent incident which happened in the district of Guntur in Andhra Pradesh. Some youth -- belonging to a certain group -- were trying to unfurl our National Flag on a monument

called Jinnah Tower in the town circle. They were prevented from doing so. They were lathi charged and were duly arrested by the police. I suppose the police were doing their duty. Similar incidents have occurred in the past in my State of Karnataka and after years of communal tensions and violence, disputes were settled amicably by the hon. Supreme Court of India.

I would like to come to the point which I want to make now. This does raise several questions in my mind. I just want to know whether there are any places in our Nation -- still designated places -- where we are not supposed to unfurl or hoist our National Flag. Are there any places where people are prevented from unfurling or hoisting our National Flag? Why are we okay with this? Why are we protecting the wrong against the right here? This is the question I want to raise.

I will just finish in two minutes.

Sir, in any other country, this would be considered as a high treason. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

**SHRIMATI SUMALATHA AMBAREESH :** Should not we take necessary steps to make clear mandates on whether this is allowed? The prevention of hoisting our Flag is allowed in our country. It should be a matter of shame for all of us. ... (*Interruptions*)

I would urge the Government to take a serious view of this and ensure that any Indian, anywhere in our country, can hoist the Flag without fear and with pride in the great country of India. Jai Hind. Jai Karnataka.