

Title : Regarding appointment of Dr. Vasuki, an IAS officer as Foreign Secretary

**SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI):** Madam, thank you for affording me an opportunity to speak on one of the very important Constitutional issues in the country. Recently, the Kerala Government has issued an order on 15.7.2024 whereby Dr. Vasuki, an IAS officer, has been appointed as the Foreign Secretary. She was required to perform all the matters relating to the external affairs, external cooperation, coordination and supervision, and incidental thereto. I would like to submit that on matters relating to external coordination, cooperation and supervision meant to deal with various nations, Indian Embassies and Missions abroad, the function can only be performed as per the Constitutional mandate by the Government of India as per the Business Rules through the Ministry of External Affairs. So, the action on the part of the Kerala Government issuing such type of order and appointing one of the IAS officers as Foreign Secretary to deal with the external affairs matters is nothing but unconstitutional.

It is an encroachment on the subject which has been given to the Union Government under the Union List. This is a blatant outreach. Is the Kerala Government treating itself as a separate nation? So, my submission is that it is expected from the Kerala Government at least to see List I that pertains to the Union subjects from item Nos. 10 to 14. I would like to read these subjects so that the Kerala Government can read again these subjects which are related to List I, that is the Union List. These subjects and these matters are mandated for the Government of India. These functions are to be performed by the Ministry of External Affairs, not by the Kerala Government. The Kerala Government is not competent to issue such types of orders. I would like to read List I? Union List from item Nos. 10 to 14:

?10. Foreign affairs; all matters which bring the Union into relation with any foreign country. 11. Diplomatic, consular and trade representation. 12. United Nations Organisation. 13. Participation in international conferences, associations and other bodies and implementing of decisions made thereat. 14. Entering into treaties and agreements with foreign countries and implementing of treaties, agreements and conventions with foreign countries.?

So, the order issued by the Kerala Government appointing one of the IAS officers as Foreign Secretary is unconstitutional.