

[Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta]

gress what was their total strength. You can imagine from this that the person who has public support, majority is in his favour, I consider the institution levelling charges against him that these are some people of vested interest who have contacts with outsiders and they are working with their connivance. The Director of CBI is a person who used to work under the influence of former Prime Minister, there is one additional Director, who is looking after this investigation who have worked under a Chief Minister of West Bengal in such a situation shall I reach to this conclusion ...*(Interruptions)* When I am speaking, you please sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mehtaji, you were concluding. Now please conclude.....

(Interruptions)

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: I am of the view that connivance between them cannot take place. If due to this the functioning of constitutionally elected government become impossible, if any such institution started making allegations against it then, whether it stops functioning? ...*(Interruptions)* Whether you want to let me speak or not? Let me conclude ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: I want to say that if such tradition continues in this country then democracy will come to an end. If some bureaucratic institution or Government agency levels such serious charges on some constitutionally elected person or institutions, till that has not been substantiated by the court, the functioning of the constitutional institution or person cannot be questioned, it should be stopped.

With these words, Mr. Chairman, Sir, while thanking you I conclude.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by the leader of opposition Hon'ble Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The CBI has chargesheeted the Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav in Fodder scam. The Governor of Bihar has also given his consent to initiate legal action against him. Then this matter went to court. When this matter went to court, then the Chief Minister of Bihar went to court for anticipatory bail, the Patna High Court has also refused to give anticipatory bail. When such a situation has risen and the Chief of the Bihar state administration, who has the reins of entire state in the hands if allegations are levelled against him and Governor permits to file case against him and High court refuse to grant bail and when at this juncture the problem arises that if the discussion on this matter cannot take place in this House then where will it be held?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the speakers who have spoken prior to me on this issue have said that Laloo Prasadji must quit his post, no one has supported him and when Shri Mehta was speaking here, then I surprised to know that he has levelled charges on CBI itself. He levelled charges against the Director of CBI and he is the Member of

Treasury benches then how could they level such a charge. Yesterday when Prime Minister was speaking he himself made it clear that the Prime Minister in the administrative head of the CBI which has levelled charges on Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav and today when Mr. Mehta is levelling charges on CBI as such he is making allegations on Prime Minister because the CBI is under him. Its Head is Prime Minister. As such Mehtaji you are putting allegations on your Prime Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday when the leader of opposition, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was speaking on adjournment Motion, then it surprised me that during his speech hon'ble Members of treasury benches continued to interrupt him. Efforts were made to prevent him from speaking and he was not being allowed to speak. Whenever the leader of opposition is not allowed to speak in the House, you can yourself imagine what could have been happened in Bihar ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATNA): What happens in Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGA RAM GEETE: I would like to tell you as to what happens in Maharashtra. Maharashtra is an ideal for the country. We would tell you as to what happens in Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Geeteji, please deliver your remaining speech on Monday. Now please take your seat.

[English]

As this debate would continue on Monday as well, if the House agrees, could we now break for lunch?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.20 PM.

13.19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Twenty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.24 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-Four Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *In the Chair*)

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification under Sub Section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944 etc.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy* each of the following notification (Hindi and English versions)

* With an explanatory memorandum.

under sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:-

- (i) Notification No. 22/97-CE (N.T.) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding collection of excise duty on these ingots and billets on the basis of the annual capacity of the factory manufacturing such ingots and billets.
- (ii) Notification No. 23/97-CE (N.T.) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding collection of excise duty on specified products on the basis of the annual capacity of production of the factory manufacturing such products.
- (iii) The Induction Furnace Annual Capacity Determination Rules, 1997, published in Notification No. 24/97-CE (N.T.) in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iv) The Hot Re-rolling Steel Mills Annual Capacity Determination Rules, 1997, published in Notification No. 25/97-CE (N.T.) in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1997 together.
- (v) Notification No. 26/97-CE (N.T.) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 5/94-C.E. (N.T.) dated the 1st March, 1994, with the aim of not allowing the credit of duty paid on.
- (vi) The Central Excise (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. 27/97-C.E. (N.T.) in Gazette of India dated 25th July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vii) Notification No. 42/97-C.E. published in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe a rate of Rs. 750 per metric tonne of the annual capacity of production as the duty of excise chargeable on specified ingots and billets of non-alloy steel.
- (viii) Notification No. 43/97-C.E. published in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe a rate of Rs. 400 per metric tonne of the annual capacity of production as the duty of excise chargeable on specified hot re-rolled products of non-alloy steel.
- (ix) Notification No. 41/97-C.E. published in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 16/97-C.E. dated the 1st April, 1997.
- (x) Notification No. 45/97-C.E. published in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 38/97-C.E. dated 27 June, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2185-A/97]

14.25 hrs.

Serious Situation Arising out of the Recent Developments in Bihar Contd.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGA RAM GEETE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday when the Leader of Opposition was speaking on the adjournment motion, he was interrupted every time. He was interrupted time and again. He expressed his views for one hour but he could speak properly for ten minutes out of that one hour. When the Leader of Opposition is interrupted in this House then you can imagine the situation in Bihar. We have read in the newspapers that the train in which hon. Railway Minister was travelling along with Shri Sharad Yadav and Pappu Yadav was attacked. This condition prevails in the entire State. There is nothing like law and order in the entire Bihar. A strange situation has come up in the entire State.

A few days back I had been to Calcutta on a committee tour. I had been to Assam and Himachal Pradesh also. When I went to Calcutta I came to know that all the labourers are Biharis. The same was heard in Himachal Pradesh. The labourers working in the coal mines in the Vidharbha region of Maharashtra are also Biharis. Today, the labourer in each big city and State are Biharis. It means that the people of Bihar do not want to live in Bihar. They are going everywhere for labour. When the people of a State do labour work in lakhs then it is not a matter of pride for the State. Today, the condition is far worse. The Chief of the State against whom the charges of corruption stand would put the entire Government force to save himself. How development work can be executed there? Who would listen the problems of people there. Such sort of strange situation is prevailing there. When the discussion on this topic was going on then each leader said that the hon. Chief Minister should step down.

We were surprised to listen the speech of our colleague from Congress, Shri Tariq Anwar. He strongly said that they were against corruption and Congress have neither compromised with corruption nor it intends to do so. But if you go through the history of our country for the last 5-7 years, you would come to know that all the scams took place during the Congress regime and today they are speaking against corruption. We heard the speech of Shri Somnath Chatterjee here. He is praying along with the entire House. We talk here about the democracy. This is the apex House of this country. This opinion of this House would be the opinion of the democracy. If the House wants that anyone occupying high post be the Chief Minister or any are else and there are any charges against him, then he should step down immediately. If this is the opinion of the House then it is the opinion of the House then it is the opinion of the democracy. What else can be the opinion of the democracy than this one. But even that is not honoured. When such a strange situation has developed then the question arises as to what the hon. Prime Minister wants to do further. He has said that he has carried out his responsibility. CBI is under him and the charge sheet was given by the CBI. We