

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: All right. Investigation is going on. I cannot and shall not interfere in that. It is the duty of the C.B.I. and not mine. Incidentally, I would also like to remind you that the C.B.I. does not come under Home Ministry. You are aware of it. If you are interested to know the routine day to day functioning of the agency, you should contact someone else since the C.B.I. is not working under my Ministry...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

12.19 hrs.

RE: Question of Privilege Against Attorney General For Allegedly Giving Wrong Information Before Supreme Court.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (MUMBAI NORTH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given notice for a motion of breach of Privilege against Attorney General of India, Shri Ashok Desai. You know that the Supreme Court had passed an order according to which the aquaculture form had to be demolished by 31st March has brought about a proposal of introducing a new Bill in the House. The notice for introduction of a Bill is given two days in advance which was sought to be waived, we got it waived. The Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March and the same had to be passed by the Lok Sabha on 21st of March which was the last day of the Session. The Government later on stated in the House that it did not want the Bill to be passed. I would like to quote two small paragraphs from the proceeding of that time.

[English]

Shri P.C. Chacko was in the Chair at that time. He says:

"Shri Satya Pal Jain, please talk for one minute. We have to discuss a very important Bill. Shri Ram Naik has raised the matter of this Aquaculture Bill. The Minister of Agriculture will make an announcement. It is some court judgement about which he wants to make a statement."

[Translation]

Later on the hon. Minister of Agriculture made a statement which I quote.

"Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had given notice for introduction of Aquaculture Bill in the House but the Supreme Court has given a stay order in that case and the demolition has been stopped."

Keeping that in view I shall not introduce that Bill in the House. Following the judgement of the Supreme Court, the Bill would now be introduced in the House some other day. I have to inform the House in this regard." The hon. Minister of Agriculture has told that the Government does not want to introduce the Bill today in order to get it passed.

The same day the Supreme Court extended the stay order upto 30th April and that is why the hon. Minister made this statement here. Now 30th April is approaching, the Supreme Court took up this case again on 25th April. When the case was taken up in the Court on the second occasion, the Court inquired as to why the Bill was not passed. At this, the statement given by Attorney General causes great concern.

[English]

I am quoting it from **The Times of India** of 26th April.

[Translation]

This news has appeared in all the newspapers.

[English]

I am quoting it.

The Attorney General told the court that the Aquaculture Authority Bill, 1997 had already been passed by the Rajya Sabha and it would have been passed by the Lok Sabha too but for the political crisis."

[Translation]

My objection is regarding the political crisis as also regarding difficulties expressed for passing of the Bill. Madam, Chairperson, you know that there was no political crisis on 21st March. The political crisis was actually created on 30th March by our colleagues of the Congress Party on the behest of Keshari Ji. And when the Political crisis was created on the 30th March, after that it was not proper to say in the Court that Lok Sabha did not Pass the Bill whereas they wanted to get it passed. The fate of lakhs of fishermen living along the coastal belt of the country is linked with this issue. In a way, the Attorney General is a constitutional Authority. He has ridiculed us in the Court on behalf of the Government. He has lowered the image of the House and has tried to ridicule us. That is why I have given a notice of the motion of Breach of Privilege. What I want to say is that making of such a statement in the Supreme Court by the officer of that status is unjustified. As such, I request that my motion should be accepted and there should be an investigation as to why the Attorney General made such a statement. I again request that the notice of the motion of breach of privilege given by me be referred to the Committee of Privileges:

Lakhs of fishermen of 9 states are today worried about the fate of the Aquaculture Bill. There should be some assurance for them. The Government has not introduced the Bill in this session and tomorrow is the last day of the session. The Government should clear its stand in this regard. I once again request that my notice regarding Breach of Privilege may please be referred to the Committee of Privileges.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIYA: Jainaji is present here. He should tell if the Bill will be introduced tomorrow or not.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Naik's Privilege notice being processed by the Speaker and in due course, and as quickly as possible, he will come back and let us know whether he will send it to the Privileges Committee or not. So, ultimately, the hon. Speaker will take a decision of this.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Madam, let the Minister make some statement whether he is going to bring the Aquaculture Authority Bill or not.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Today, there was an all-Party meeting. The issue of Aquaculture Authority Bill was also discussed. In the meeting, the hon. Minister in-charge, Shri Chaturanan Mishra told the Leaders that since there was a demand in the last Session and also from Shri Ram Naik that while passing this Bill, the hon. Minister should consult the members concerned. It is because there is also some kind of resistance against passing of this Bill. He assured that he will consult the hon. Members and Leaders of different parties. Since the Supreme Court had already stayed it up to 30th July, the consultation process will be over before that date, and whatever is possible after the consultation, the Government will certainly act on that.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (BUXAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given notice of Breach of Privilege what is being done from that. I have given a notice...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: For Zero Hour, 49 Members have already given notice on different subjects. You can very well imagine that it is physically impossible to call everybody. You have to please have patience.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (BARH): The notice is regarding Breach of Privilege, but you are referring it to zero Hour.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY: Sir, I have given a notice of Breach of Privilege. The Zero Hour will follow after it...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is only one notice regarding Breach of Privilege.

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: He has given a separate privilege notice...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has he given any privilege notice?

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also want to raise a major issue. At present we are discussing on only major issues. The issues which are as many as 10 years old are being raised in the House. ...(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you shout?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us start the Zero Hour. If you have given the privilege notice, your notice is also with the speaker for processing.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: He is not shouting. he is requesting.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is natural, I am not shouting, it may please be treated as natural...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nitish Ji what happened? He is saying no and they say yes, tell me what I have to do.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY: This is a matter of Breach of Privilege, I have given a notice for it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us begin with the Zero Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY: No, I want that before giving decision on the notice as the Members have been provided an opportunity...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That cannot be done now. It is being processed and matter will be taken up after that.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY: At least, my notice of Breach of Privilege should be taken into consideration...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your notice is being processed by the Speaker.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY: No, Sir, please do not do that. I have given a notice against the Prime Minister for misleading the House. I should be heard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your notice is with the hon. Speaker.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY: The incident took place in the House. I am referring to the incident of the House that during the gulf war...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will please refer it later on.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY: That was not for all? Yesterday Das Munshiji had given a notice. He was heard. Even today it has been heard and in the past also it was heard.. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: That was with the consent of the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY: Let me finish. My notice...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody requests.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY: I say that every Member has a right. I was telling that whatever happened in the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am on my legs. You please sit down.

[Translation]

You please take your seat. I am on my legs.

SHRIMATI RITA VERMA:

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Please sit down.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY: Are you agitated by my loud voice?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please sit down. You can seek information later on. Now please take your seat.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY: You may be in the habit of getting agitated at someone's dress or at someone's speech. This amounts to the breach of my privileges.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am requesting you to please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I hope, by now, you know that it is very difficult to intimidate the Chair.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY: I am saying this whether you are agitated due to my loud voice. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to say that Bihar Government is violating the

*Not Recorded.

constitutional system and rule of law...(Interruptions) the Income tax officer was harassed and was threatened ...(Interruptions) He was compelled to write that he will not investigate this matter...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat, I shall call one by one.

[English]

Please do not do like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What are you doing?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please excuse me, you belong to the Ruling Party and you are behaving like this. Please do not do like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why all of you are you shouting at the same time?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 2 p.m.

12.33 hrs.

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

14.12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twelve minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA in the Chair)

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH): What about Zero Hour today?

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no Zero Hour today.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, would you allow us tomorrow? We are giving notice everyday. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. There is no problem. You will be allowed tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA): Sir, at least allow the time for Zero Hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow, sufficient time will be given for zero hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (MONGHYR): Sir, Zero hour should have been given at least one an hour's time:

MR. CHAIRMAN: There shall be a Zero Hour tomorrow. Mandalji, you speak everyday.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bihar will not get chance to speak just now. Discussion is going on under rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

14.14 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we shall take up Matters Under Rule 377. Shri Hansraj Ahir.

(i) Need to Open G.P.O. in Gadachiroli District, Maharashtra for better Postal Services

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Chairman Sir, Garhchiroli district in Maharashtra is a backward and tribal dominated area. Chandrapur was divided in 1982 and a separate district was created to accelerate the developmental works. But the new district has not been provided with a Head Post-Office till date. Postal services of this district is being carried out by the Head-Post Office, Chandrapur. There is totally mismanagement due to this in the Postal Services here, and people are facing difficulties due to lack of Postal services. The delivery of letters in inaccessible areas is a general problem here. As a result many unemployed and other people do not get important informations on time. It is urgently required to provide postal services properly in this naxalite affected area in order to bring it in the main stream of development.

Hence, I request the Government of India to open post offices in the inaccessible areas and a Head Post Office at the district level.

(ii) Need to Set up Mineral orebased Industries in Balaghat District, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI VISHVESHVAR BHAGAT (BALAGHAT): Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh is a no-industry district. Mangnese and Copper is abundently available in the district. Besides, good quality of minerals like Granite, lime stone, Donamite and Teak wood as well as Bamboo is also available in abundance. Even then there is no industry here, resulting in unemployment and people's large scale migration in search of employment to other areas which creates an imbalance in the development in the country. Due to availability of raw materials, Paper mills and Sugar mills and other mineral based industries can be established here.

I request Central Government to conduct a survey in this area and by establishing industries with the assistance of Centre and State Governments industries should be set up help in the development of this backward area.

(iii) Need to Review Ban Imposed on Export and Free Movement of Potatoes Within the Country

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (CONTAI): Sir, the potato production this year in West Bengal has been of record high touching the quantity of about seventy million tonnes. The existing cold storage capacity in the State is not in a position to accommodate even half of the total production. Being unable to preserve their produce, the farmers are being compelled to sell potatoes at sixty to sixty-five paise per kilogram in the market which is far less than the actual production cost. The State Government has been put to a very hard situation. It cannot also resort to purchase by paying remunerative price for distress sales of potatoes due to lack of storage capacity. Further, the Central Government has put ban on the export and movement of potatoes from West Bengal to other States. The neighbouring country, Bangladesh is willing to purchase potatoes from our country. so, the lifting of the ban on export to other countries and movement to other States of our country, of potatoes grown in West Bengal will immensely facilitate the producers to get some relief.

I urge upon the Central Government to review urgently all the aspects of export and free movement of potatoes within the country and lift the ban on export of potatoes to protect the interests of potato-growers of West Bengal.

(iv) Need to Clear Backlog of Telephone Connections in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu

SHRI N. DENNIS (NAGERCOIL): Sir, the telephone exchanges of Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu, namely Nagercoil, Paikulam, Karungal, Neyyoor, Kollencode, Arumanai, Kulashekaram and Thuckalay have long-pending waiting lists. A ten-thousand line new technology system is sanctioned by the Department of Telecommunications for Nagercoil, the headquarters of Kanyakumari district. But, so far, the work has not started. Thus, naturally the waiting list has largely increased. Though it was reported by the telecom authorities that new technology equipments and Remote Switching Unit (RSU) would be provided, they are not implemented because of the absence of optic fibre and microwave medium linkage between the exchanges. It is due to the delay in allocation of funds and materials. The Department of Telecommunications has also announced to make arrangements for the expansion of Paikulam and Neyyoor exchanges. But, so far, no follow-up action has been taken.

So, I urge upon the Government to pass immediate orders for the expansion of the Nagercoil, Paikulam, Karungal, Neyyoor, Kollencode, Arumanai, Kulashekaram and Thuckalay exchanges in Kanyakumari district to clear up the long waiting lists by allocating funds to provide new technology and other equipments.

(v) Need for Immediate Gauge Conversion Work of Makum-Dangori Section in Assam

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): The