

The Government has not come forward with any report.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it on the same issue?

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : It is on the same issue. An Half-an-hour Discussion is, at least, needed on this subject. Yesterday, all the Members from Tamil Nadu had gone to the Prime Minister's room. We urged upon him to release the money immediately. But till now they have not sanctioned the money. More than thousand tanks have breached. Nobody has cared about it. All are talking about Uttar Pradesh. Who is looking after Tamil Nadu? Nobody has cared about Tamil Nadu...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please take your seat. You please listen to me. I am asking the Government to reply.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Sir, it is a serious matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am also saying that this is a serious matter. What else do you want? Please sit down. You first take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Tamil Nadu issue is a serious thing.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let me say first. Now listen to the Minister. Do you not want to listen to the Minister?

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : All right. I shall urge upon the Prime Minister to convene a meeting of the local Members of Parliament to discuss the issue and I shall convey him the feelings of the House also.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, Now, Mr. Satya Deo Singh.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, you do not want to listen to the Minister.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : I have been called. You will also be called. Don't worry. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to request all the Members that the issue which I am going to raise is an important one and is above the partyline and it is linked with the prestige of the country. So, I urge upon both the Cabinet Ministers, who are present here, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Shri Indrajit Gupta...*(Interruptions)* Nobody

is ready to listen to me on an important issue which I am raising...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please continue.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Please ask them to sit.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kumari Uma Bharati, please go to your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the country had celebrated victory day on the 16th last. We celebrated the day to recollect our gallantry, to recall our gallantry. It was a historical day. On this day a new nation also came into existence in this subcontinent. Besides this, some shameful incidents took place on this occasion and we should express our concern about them. Field Marshal Manek Shaw, who was the hero of this war, who was honoured for life as field Marshal for his expertise in war, was not present on this occasion because the Government did not give him the treatment which was expected to be given to him.

Another important matter is that 54 soldiers, who were made Pows during 1971 Indo-Pak war, are still languishing in Pakistani jails. We did not utter a single word while celebrating the victory Day on 16th about the sufferings of their families. When exchange of prisoners of war took place in 1972 under Shimla Agreement, the then foreign Minister Shri Samendra Kundu told the House in reply to a question that there were 280 Indians in Pakistani jails out of which 40 were of defence personnel. But later on, The State Minister for Defence (Tenth Lok Sabha) Shri Mallikarjuniah told the House in a reply that as per the informations available with the Government, 54 soldiers were there in Pakistani Jails. The Government should furnish the information to the House about the action being taken by it for the release of those soldiers from the Pakistani jails and to bring them back. Though 25 years have been lapsed since 1971 yet we have been unable to make any efforts in this direction. Though, we are celebrating Silver Jubilee of that war yet we have forgotten those heroes of war by virtue of whose gallantry and sacrifice we come across this happy moment and history was created as more than 90,000 people had surrendered in Dhaka at a time at one place. We are ignoring their gallantry and sacrifice and are thus insulting them. Further, on December 2, 1974 Major Ashok Suri had dispatched a letter through a citizen and what he had written in his letter I would like to quote that, he wrote "Dear Daddy, please accept the regards of Ashok, I am quite well here. Please contact the Army and the Government of India and raise the

issue with them. In total we are 20 officers here but you don't worry about us. The Government of India can contact the Government of Pakistan for our release". It is a pity whether any contact has been made in this regard till date or not.

There is yet another instance. The place of Flight lieutenant Vijay Tambe, was brought down on second day of the 1971 war and the Sunday Observer, Pakistan had published his name on December, 5, 1971 in their news. Today, he is in Pakistani jail. His wife Shrimati Damyanti Tambe is Arjun award winner and she has been former national Badminton Champion. She is now 47 years old and she is now very distressed. She feels so much depressed that she has said that she is having no son but if she had a son, she would have asked him to do a job of hawker instead of joining defence for us.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please keep silence. There should be no side talk.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. This is heart rendering matter.

13.00 hrs.

Today when a period of 25 years has passed, several Governments had been in power and out of it, but the prisoners of Indo-Pak war have not to been released and it is a blow on our democratic norms. It would bring down the high morale of our defence forces as well as it would be shameful for our country. I would like to say to the leader of the House Shri Paswan ji and I also believe that the House is very well aware of the fact that 54 Indians are lying in the jail of Pakistan they have shown their courage by protecting the borders, by paying respect to our country, without bothering their family they were ready to sacrifice themselves for the prosperity of our country and also to keep the democratic traditions alive and the nation prosper. The Government should announce about the steps it is going to take for them at the earliest and how is it going to pressurise Pakistan on this issue. It is also a point of violation of international rules for human rights. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would request the Government through you to kindly speakout on this issue of national importance. This issue is above our party politics and it is related to our nation. It is regarding those dignified Indian Citizens who have been detained in the prisons of Pakistan in illegal manners. What are the steps the Government are going to take for their release?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have to say something on this issue. Mr. Shivraj Singh had also given a notice for this, would he like to speak something on this?

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Honourable Deputy Speaker Sir, I share the feelings and grievances expressed by honourable Satyadeo Singh. Previous 10th December was celebrated as a victory day on the occasion of our victory over Pakistan. But our brave leader and hero of the war General Manek Shaw was not seen on that occasion. Besides Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Arora, who was responsible for surrender of as thousand Pakistani soldiers was also not seen there. Our entire nation backed the defence forces during the Indo-Pak war in 1971. But the manner in which our Government celebrated the victory day did not involve the sentiments of our country as the brave leaders of our victory was not seen. There is no point in organising such functions. Today entire nation wants to know as to why General Manek Shaw was not present there? That function was limited to a official function involving no public sentiment. The Government should be answerable to the public that by demoralizing the defence forces in such a manner how anyone would be inspired to join our defence forces and sacrifice every thing for the nation?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Before Calling any other member to speak, I add that it is a very serious issue. We have deported as thousand soldiers prisoners of war of Pakistan detained in our country but our soldiers are still detained in Pakistan as prisoners. Therefore, I would request the Government to consider this matter as it is shame on us. The Government should take a serious note of it. I remember a urdu couplet which I quote here :

"Kis ko rahate hai bure Vakta ke Saathi yaad,  
Subah hote hi chiragon ko Bujha dete hai".

They should be remembered as they have sacrificed everything. I would request the Government to take a serious note of it.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Honourable Deputy Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you as you have associated yourself with our feelings. The Government should answer to it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I since it is a direction of the Chair, and nothing is above it. The Government would certainly consider this issue.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention and, through you, the attention of the Government to a serious matter. The hon. Prime Minister has many a time expressed his concern about the urban development programmes of the country. The other day, the House has also debated the M.P.'s Local Area Development Programme and the necessary fund availability. With a very heavy heart, I would like to inform you, Sir, that for the last four months, I have been watching the cities of Ahmedabad, Kanpur, Agra and Howrah which top the list of polluted cities