

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, I am going to take the next item.

There are four persons who have given notice on this subject. I will try to accommodate all the four.

Shri Basudeb Acharia, please.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Delhi-Sadar) : Sir, I have also given notice.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your name is there. All of you will be called one by one. I shall try to give chance to every one, whose name is there.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, last year, this House could not function, because then we in the Opposition raised this issue—when we found that the contracts for thousands of crores of rupees were being awarded to a particular firm, giving a favour—at that time we were criticized by the Members of the then Ruling Party, Congress (I). Now, it has been vindicated... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The Court did not give that verdict and your leader gave a clean chit to him... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Bypassing the Parliament, the order was given although there was opposition in this very House at that time... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Besides, he should be hanged.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There is no question of hanging. The prescribed punishment would be awarded.

[English]

They have not expelled him; they have only suspended him... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We are not like South Korea... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Now, the CBI has unearthed more than Rs. four crore from his houses both at Mandi, Himachal Pradesh and from his Delhi residence including jewellery worth lakhs of rupees and also foreign currency.

He had overruled the recommendation of the two Committees to award the contract to M/s. Advance Radio

Mass, a firm of Hyderabad. He ignored the repeated warnings of the officials against awarding this contract. He directed that 900 sets be bought from that particular firm. These 900 sets were of inferior quality, that is, crystal-500, of synthesized quality.

Shri Sukh Ram by making this direction, distinctly made a favour to that particular firm—Advance Radio Mass. It is a clear case of favoritism and corruption.

The Crystal system was of inferior quality. Then the other firm was asked to supply as this particular firm was supplying inferior quality material. On 27th, Shri Sukh Ram ordered at the same price both the systems—the Crystal system and the synthesised system. A number of officers like Director MCC, Advance Planning, Member (Planning), reiterated and observed that since the Crystal version was inferior in quality, a price difference should be made... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, please take less time because three more Members have also given notice on the same subject.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But the former Communication Minister has overruled it. Thus, he has violated the norms, rules and the system of the Telecommunication Department. It involves a huge corruption.

I urge upon the Government and demand that a statement should be made on the floor of the House giving the present status of the enquiry. The CBI should be allowed to enquire and the House should be informed of the present status and the action taken against the former Communication Minister, Shri Sukh Ram and other high officials who were involved in this large scale corruption.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : During the last few days a mega scandal involving the former Communication Minister hailing from Himachal Pradesh is unfolding. During the raids conducted by the CBI in several houses belonging to the former Minister as also some of the associates including high officials and friends of the Minister, it has come to light that the Minister was involved in granting undue favour to certain companies against monetary consideration.

This was a demand made by us during the last session and for a pretty long period, for a number of days, there was no option left to us but to protest against what was happening in the name of liberalisation in the telecom sector. It was one of the greatest events involving corruption in high places.

I can cite one example. When we are discussing at a particular forum about the efficacy of the MARS, the Multi Access Radio System, provided to the Panchayats which was

not working, we were told that after the version-one, version-two was provided which was expected to work better. But even this, version provided by the same company belonging to Hyderabad had not been working. Still the favour continued. This is not just in the case of that particular Hyderabad Company ARM, but it relates to another company, Sham Company, and such other companies which were quite unknown to the corporate world. When contracts were given by way of granting tenders in favour of HFCL, Himachal Futuristic Co. Ltd., we were discussing that Futuristic's offer, which was quite an unknown company, was to the tune of Rs. 84,000 crore out of Rs. 1,10,000 crore that was to be mobilised.

The nine sectors that were given were ultimately capped to only three sectors and then the process continued and continued. After the raids, we find that it is like a serial unfolding. Again, there are coded names in the personal diaries suggesting that not only Indian companies but some multinational companies have also been favoured.

We have demanded that it needs a total review of whatever contracts have been given. We have now been told of a very recent news. As it had happened in the case of the *hawala* scam, the CBI has got incriminating documents, which they have seized after the raids. The case involves violation of FERA also but the Enforcement Directorate—as it happened in the *hawala* case—are not given access to the documents relating to FERA violations.

It is widely believed that the money is quite disproportionate to the real income of the former Minister and some of his associates. The money is not only lying inside India; some of it might be lying abroad also. The Enforcement Directorate should be put into service and they should not be deprived of the documents already seized by the CBI.

We want a full-fledged discussion and we want that all the relevant documents involving the former Minister relating to the telecom tender activity and such other issues should be laid on the Table of the House for having a proper discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform you that I am not raising this matter in the House for the first time. When a deal has struck between Department of Telecommunications and Himachal Futuristics Ltd. and other companies. I filed a writ petition in the capacity of President of Lok Abhiyan. Other hon'ble Members had also raised this matter in this House with full force. It continued for 15 days in the Parliament and Congress Members continued to defend him and they used to say that proceedings of the House are being hampered. I want to know for how long such scams would be coming to light. What action has Government taken so far, Government should place all the relevant record before the House. I demand that a thorough

probe should be conducted not only in respect of this scam but all other scams taken place during his tenure. The C.B.I. has recovered cash and other assets for the residences and godowns belonging to Sh. Sukh Ram. I want to know as that why warrants have not been issued against him inspite of all the recoveries. It would be wrong to supply documents to the Enforcement Directorate in haphazard way. They should be supplied all the documents so that a thorough probe could be conducted by them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I do not want to use the word 'keep' (Rakhe) but when C.B.I. raided various houses, women friends were also found to be present there. Such things do not have good bearing on our respectable society. So many scams are coming to light one after the other. Our friends belonging to congress party are silent today. Earlier, they used to oppose us. I want to know as to why has he not been expelled from the party so far.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a voluntary scheme for disclosure of unaccounted money. The Government should introduce such voluntary scheme for the corrupt representation of the people also so that they could explain various scams in which they have been involved. (Interruptions) I need not mention names of all the Members of Congress party so many charges have been levelled on the President of the party itself and so many inquiries are being conducted. It would be better to give benefit of Voluntary Disclosure Scheme to such people to enable them to disclose their assets and the Government may give them some relief. I demand that a House Committee should be constituted and passport of Shri Sukh Ram should be seized at once. His son is also a Minister, he should be kept under surveillance. We should watch activities of the son of Shri Sukh Ram as to how he is trying to hide the facts relating to his conduct. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Ram Naik can speak now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : I have been called to speak. (Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : I know you have been called. Are you going to speak on the same subject? (Interruptions) Then, you go ahead.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him finish first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Sir, with your kind permission I would like to make a suggestion. Many hon. Members have given notice on this subject. Many new hon. Members have come down to this august House. We do not

know what exactly had transpired in the previous discussion. Perhaps, the new hon. Members' views may also fall in line with the same views. What I feel is that this is not a small matter. It is a very huge and big matter which has to be discussed on the floor of the House. You please permit all the hon. Members to speak so that they can also participate in the discussions and throw a lot of light on the subject. Allow this under a particular Rule for a separate discussion altogether. This is a normal suggestion. You please think over it. It is better that other Members also get an opportunity to speak on the subject so that they could throw a lot of light on the subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[Translation]

I would like to inform you that I have learnt that some other Members have also given notices and they are with the hon'ble Speaker. He is, perhaps, going to take it up under Rule 184. It would, therefore, be better if we close this issue right now.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I have given a notice for a Motion for constituting a House Committee to inquire into the conduct of Shri Sukh Ram because he has behaved in a derogatory way which has brought disrepute to the House. As 45 years back, when Shri S.C. Mudgal, had just taken Rs. 2,000 for asking a question and also for moving some amendments, a Committee was constituted by the then Prime Minister and the House, this time also a House Committee should be constituted. I do not want to just raise this issue in the Zero Hour but I would like to place my views through a Motion. So, it is better if you allow the motion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Speaker is already seized of the matter and he would take a decision on that issue.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I think, you have not gone through my notice. Sir, I have asked for constitution of a House Committee and an enquiry should be conducted. That Committee should conduct an enquiry into his deeds. A criminal case should also be filed besides C.B.I. enquiry. The House Committee should examine the whole issue that how hon'ble Members of the House should behave. I have given notice for this purpose. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, on the 26th morning, there was a meeting of all party leaders. In that meeting various matters were raised by some hon. Members, including the Sukh Ram issue. On behalf of the Congress Party, I

attended the meeting. I had made it abundantly clear to the hon. Speaker and other Members who were present there, that we were not averse to any sort of discussion that would be allowed by the hon. Speaker on Sukh Ram issue.

Secondly, we have said that this issue, as it has come in the newspapers and the investigating agency's press conferences, is quite a serious one. In view of that if the House unanimously decides to take certain stand, either through House Committee or Standing Committee or any other method, we do not have any objection to that.

We have also said that our experience in the past, of JPCs on Bofors and Securities Scam, is that the JPC does not serve my vital purpose, when a criminal case is going on. But, if it is the wisdom of all the parties, we are with them and we are not against that. Some hon. Members are pinpointing and accusing Congress. No Congress, as in the past, has taken action. We have also paid penalty for this in the election, when many of our stalwarts against whom investigations are going on, were not given tickets. In the past also, when there was a report against Shri Ghani Khan Choudhary, during Shri Rajiv Gandhi's time, he was asked to resign. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I raised that matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Yes. You raised that matter; and subsequently, it was found not to be correct! But he resigned.

So, please do not try to make a political game by saying that the Congress is standing in the way. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Why had you done it 15 days before...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Rather, we are surprised that the House has not discussed this for the last four days. They are raising it now only. But we were mentally prepared for it on the first day of this Session itself. So, we are not standing in the way, in any matter. Whatever, the House decides, we will accept. Let it be very very clear. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What is the view of the Government? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I take exception to one part of his statement. The JPC on Bofors issue and the JPC on the Securities Scam were of two different qualities altogether. While the JPC on Bofors issue was boycotted by the entire Opposition, the other JPC was not. It performed an eminent service to the country by bringing out so many

facets of the bank scam. So, such comments are not at all called for in the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you. I brought it to your notice also. I would like to raise this issue today and I hope most of the hon. Members of the House will agree with me that the matter is very sensitive. While the entire nation is debating on the agenda of corruption, CBI is found to be functioning as an active agency at the behest of the judiciary to investigate all matters of corruption at high Offices. At this juncture, I would like to quote the provision of Article 26 of the Constitution which says:

"(b) to manage its own affairs in matters of religion;

(d) To administer such property in accordance with law."

It is a fundamental right of everyone. In this very House any matter that affects the interests of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, anything that affects the dignity of women and anything that affects the interests of the minorities, especially the Muslims have been debated time and again. Today, I am sorry to mention that a scam of more than Rs. 1000 crore involving the Wakf property of the Muslims in Bengal has come out. It has been exposed and why not a CBI inquiry is held? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Dasmunsi, it is a State subject.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : No, Sir. It is not a State subject. ...(*Interruptions*) It is a subject of the minorities. ...(*Interruptions*) It is not a State subject. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right, carry on.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, the Accountant-General of Bengal has observed irregularities and passed strictures about this great Wakf scam. ...(*Interruptions*) It has been exposed. ...(*Interruptions*) Efforts had been made to suppress the entire facts by constituting this committee and that committee. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, let him finish first.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, we are always talking of secularism. ...(*Interruptions*) They are minorities, they are Muslims and they are crying. ...(*Interruptions*) Shri Banatwalla

knows it and everybody knows it as to how they are using the music. ...(*Interruptions*) Now, I demand a CBI inquiry immediately on the entire affairs of the scam of Wakf property. It is about Rs. 1000 crore scam. ...(*Interruptions*) Efforts had been made to suppress the facts. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, they need the protection of Article 26 of the Constitution. ...(*Interruptions*) On the Sukh Ram issue, it is at the highest order of investigation and we said that whatever the Parliament decides, we would do and that the Congress will stand by that decision. ...(*Interruptions*) So, equally, such a corruption charge which has been protected and shielded by the party in power, should not be left to any agency except the CBI. CBI must be directed for this investigation. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You all had your say. Please sit down.

...(*interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is all.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : That has been looted and plundered. It is in the knowledge of everybody. Why should there not be an inquiry? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your views have come. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Waqf Board is a national issue. ...(*Interruptions*) It is a secular issue. ...(*Interruptions*) CBI should inquire into that matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Gentlemen, please take your seats. Mr. Chatterjee, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please listen to me?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please have a decorum.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you allow me to say a few words?

* Not recorded.