

that, whatever Shri Joshi says, he should not be behind Vajpayeeji, he should be with Vajpayeeji, because in politics if you are behind, you can stab easily! That is very bad thing.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The Congress history is not repeated here. It is with you.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : With these words I request the Prime Minister to say something.

MR. SPEAKER : Would the Prime Minister like to say something?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to make the following statement with regard to the Gujarat issue which was the main ingredient for stalling the proceedings of the House for nearly two days.

At least today, the hon. Leader of the Opposition and his Party have cooperated to have the Question Hour. Now, he wanted to know the reaction of the Government. There is no need for me to hesitate so far as the Government side is concerned. I have made it clear yesterday in the Press conference. I am going to read the same thing here today.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, the recent developments in the Gujarat Assembly are a matter of concern for all, including the Government of India. However, as far as the Government of India is concerned, while it has a responsibility to monitor the developments in all the States including Gujarat, since developments of this nature would have an impact on the law and order situation, I wish to make it clear that there is no question of interference in the political affairs of Gujarat by the Government of India. The present situation in Gujarat is something which needs to be sorted out by the political parties in Gujarat and by the State Government.

The Government of India comes into the picture only if it is convinced that there is a break down of Constitutional machinery in the State. Even here, the matter is very much within the jurisdiction of the State Governor. The question of any interference from the Government of India, therefore, does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : Sir, I have given a notice about Shri Sukh Ram... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think, I have received your notice. Since I do not have the facts with me, I have called for the facts from the Ministry of Home Affairs and since the hon. Member is a Member of the present House, it is only fair on my part to have his comments also. So, I have asked for his comments, that is the comments of the hon. Member, as

well as the report from the Government of India. After receiving them, this matter could be discussed.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Is he available for giving comments?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, so much of time has already been lost. If you do not allow me today, I can understand that. I think, I would be allowed at least on Monday. If the Member does not reply... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hope that by Monday the reply would be coming.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The point is that we are trying to judge his conduct. If he does not reply, we should not be deprived of discussing his conduct. So, if you want, you can allow me on Monday. But it should not be just... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not trying to reject it at all. I am only saying that I am waiting for the report of the Government of India, that is from the CBI and also the comments of the hon. Member. Once I get these two, ...

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : And if the hon. Member is not available for giving his comments, how would you obtain his comments?

MR. SPEAKER : In order to give his comments, the hon. Member need not be here.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : How will you get the comments of a person who is completely underground? He is not available.

MR. SPEAKER : We have sent the message to him, wherever he is.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I hope I will be allowed on Monday.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am going to allow all those hon. Members, who have given notices for the Zero Hour. Everybody would be allowed. Please be short and brief, so that everybody gets a chance.

12.34 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Sir, I had raised a question on 2nd August... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, an incident occurred in Hamirpur district involving an hon. Member... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him make his submission first.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : An incident involving an hon. Member has occurred. It is an important matter... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already asked him to speak...

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the 2nd August, I had raised a question about the erosion of land in my constituency... *(Interruptions)*. The land there is shifting to the side of Bangladesh and nobody has paid any attention to it. The people who are now stranded there due to floods do not want to go anywhere, leaving their houses, because they will have to come to this side after swimming through 8 Kms of water. If they come over here from the other side, Bangladesh will occupy all that land. I have been repeatedly raising this question of land erosion... *(Interruptions)*. This is Indo-Bangladesh river Ganga. We have been raising this question for the last 16 years. The erosion has been going on for 40 years. My constituency now is on the other side of Ganga, bordering Bangladesh, having receded by 8 kms. Both the Parliamentary Affairs Minister and the Finance Minister were present when I raised this question last time. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs gave an assurance also that he would do something in the matter. When I met the Minister of Water Resources, he also gave an assurance.

The Prime Minister is coming to my State again and again and he met the Deputy Finance Commissioner too. A proposal to the tune of Rs. 150 crores has been put forward to check this erosion of about 105 kms. I had raised this question the other day so that our land may be prevented from going over to Bangladesh, but nobody appears to be concerned about it... *(Interruptions)* Please do not take this question lightly, don't take it jocularly. I have been raising this question repeatedly and there is no action on the assurance given in the House by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. The Home Minister is here, the Finance Minister is also here, at least they should say something about the border, about that portion of our land bordering Bangladesh.

I had also raised another question prior to this one. It was about a complete portion of land known as Jamalpur which is now under occupation of Bangladesh. At least a statement should come about this... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have got the list. I will call out the names from it...

*... (Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen. The Prime Minister wants to say something on this issue.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Sir, with your kind permission I would like to make a statement on the natural calamity like flood havoc in various rivers of North Indian States. I would like to take this issue as a non-political issue. First of all, I would like to make it clear that this is not a political issue. This is a national issue and we have not applied our mind all these years for finding out a permanent solution to this problem. Every year we are facing either high floods or severe droughts. Every year we are debating on this issue. I agree with the hon. Member as something... *(Interruptions)* I have already instructed the Minister of Planning to appoint a high-powered committee which will consist of only experts to study this aspect and give a report within three months. I have requested Dr. Alagh to find out... *(Interruptions)* Please let me conclude the statement. Shri Ghani Khan Choudhury and others have met me and apprised me what exactly is the damage done to Malda, the constituency of Shri Ghani Khan Choudhury. The Chief Minister of West Bengal had a discussion with me today morning for nearly one hour about the total damage that has taken place in the entire State due to floods. Bihar is facing the same situation. Recently Bihar witnessed floods... *(Interruptions)* Yes, UP is also affected by floods—Mathura, Agra, all are affected by floods. I do not want to make this issue a political issue. I said that I would like to take it as a national issue and I would see some remedy is found out. I have requested the Minister of Planning to appoint an Experts Committee, consisting of experts, who are well equipped with the technical knowledge.

Let me be very plain. There is no question of mixing politics in that. I told him; and I have also suggested some ideas. In the meanwhile, the Centre is prepared to give some funds to take up relief measures. That is the first thing. Secondly, I am going to visit that area after the 13th of this month. May be on 15th or 16th, personally I will visit both Bihar and West Bengal. I will inform all the hon. Members concerned about this. I will personally have a visit. Whatever is possible within the limits of the Central Government, we will take action immediately... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : The hon. Prime Minister may kindly come to Uttar Pradesh and see the situation there also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Shri Shivraj Singh.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to raise a serious matter.