

Mubarak must be there by that time. So there was no alternative except to take it up by air.

Out of the 70,000 yatris camping at Pahalgam, I was told that about 15,000 had not been able to move up to the Cave for Darshan. However, in view of the fact that they would not be able to get to the Cave by 28th August, they have reportedly expressed their willingness to return. Instructions have, however, been issued to make arrangement for their movement to the Cave should any of them desire to reach the Cave by the 28th, after taking care to see that they are exposed to the minimal risks.

I also discussed the plan of the State authorities to deal with the mortal remains of the deceased. The number of dead has now gone upto 127 but the authorities had by then been able to identify only 77. In 19 cases, where the relatives gave their consent, cremation had already been done. The local authorities were preparing wooden coffins for those in whose cases the relatives have expressed desire to take the human remains back. As for the unidentified bodies, photographs have been taken by the authorities. If no relatives turn up for identification in a day or two, there will be no option left but to perform the last rites in Pahalgam or Chandanwari itself.

I may say that some of the bodies have already begun decomposing because the weather has changed again. Weather is very changeable there. Yesterday when I was there, it was quite hot. It was a bright sun shine and the temperature was quite hot. Some of the doctors and people told me that these bodies would not remain intact very long, they will start to decompose.

Some hon. Members had asked yesterday why advance warning was not given when there were signs of deteriorating weather. I had also asked the State authorities what precautions had been taken in view of the inclement weather. I was told by the Adviser to the Governor that on 22nd August itself, when the weather suddenly turned hostile, instructions were issued to the Yatra Officers not to allow yatris to proceed beyond the established camps without clearance. While this instruction was enforced at various camps but by then, thousands of yatris had already left the respective camps and were in between two camps, and many of them who were at the higher altitudes had already suffered severe exposure. Although, in retrospect, one would wish that more advance meteorological information should have been sought and acted upon, the State authorities seem to have done their best in minimizing the damage under the given circumstance.

Although some minor lacunae in the arrangements can be seen here and there in the context of the large number of yatris this year, the arrangements made for yatra were by and large satisfactory and would have been adequate had the weather not been unusually harsh. The State authorities with excellent cooperation from the Army and Para-Military Forces have left no

stone unturned in reaching succour and minimizing casualties in handling the tragic event.

Subsequently, Sir, I have got one or two pieces of information which I would like to share with the House.

Edible oil and pulses have been sent to Pahalgam from Anantnag this morning. The National Highway between Anantnag and Jammu is being thrown open for traffic from 3.00 P.M. today. About 2,000 yatris will come to Jammu by today evening. There are no yatris left now at Panjtari or Seshnag. All have been evacuated and come down to Pahalgam. The Director of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir, Shri P.K. Tripathi — who is an IAS officer — has been put incharge of the Pahalgam Camp to oversee the arrangements which are being made there.

14.33 hrs.

RE: MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Amarnath Yatra

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Sir, I want to make my submission.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, are we having a discussion on it or you are just asking some question.

MR. SPEAKER : No, question. I have to give my ruling on the admission of the Adjournment Motion.

Would you like to say before that?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Would you, before giving ruling, permit us to say something?

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : He has to give a Ruling. All that I am saying is before his Ruling. The Hon. Speaker would permit me to make my submission.

Sir, it is not our intention to raise contention in the face of as grim a tragedy as has so obviously taken place. But if we do not give voice to our concern in this assembly, I do not know, where else we are to do so. If the question, that I have raised to the hon. Home Minister sounds pointed, it is only because our concerns are also pointed. The whole House was awaiting with anxiety. Indeed, the hon. the Prime Minister said, 'let us wait, until the Home Minister comes'. And, we were rather expecting that the hon. Home Minister would come back with facts which are the consequence of his visit, and not simply a post facto narration of what has been taking place, and repeat that in this House on behalf of the Government or other agencies since yesterday. If it is being repetitive, I do not know, what new...

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, I am on the point of order. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Unless there are pigments of imagination, facts have to be repetitive...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am on a point of order. Are we now only in that Rule?

MR. SPEAKER : I am to give the Ruling whether the Adjournment Motion is to be admitted or not.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I am not on that point. I am on a different point of order. What I am drawing your attention to is that in the rules of the Lok Sabha, it is not provided for that after a statement of the Minister, questions are allowed to be asked or references made to that statement. We sometimes do waive that rule. What I want to know is whether that has been done.

MR. SPEAKER : There is a difference between the statement that you are referring to and this statement. This is a statement which has come on account of the consensus in the all party meeting and also the consensus in the House on the Adjournment Motion moved by the hon. Member. I am now to decide whether the adjournment Motion is justified or not. If he wants to clarify a little, I am just allowing him to do so.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It will not take me more than two minutes to do so. I am afraid, I am still left in a doubt as to what, after all, was the purpose of the Union Home Minister's visit. All that has been done is to put the entire blame on the weather saying that the guilty party is the weather alone. As I said yesterday, it is not the adverse weather that is the guilty party, it is the insensitive and incompetent administration that is the guilty party.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is the adverse mindset.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It is the adverse mindset which persuades you to continue to fly in the face of an obvious enough tragedy that has afflicted us. For as senior a man and as valued a colleague as Comrade Indrajit Gupta to say this, as if the whole purpose of going there was to grant certificates; certificates to the State Administration; certificates to all and sundry; the only party that has not been granted certificate is the...

MR. SPEAKER : We are not discussing the statement now.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : We are, because that is the substance. I have to point out why we are asking for an Adjournment Motion. It is because the Government has to be censured. I am afraid, I am left unconvinced that the only guilty party...

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : If you are not going to allow the Adjournment Motion and that is why he is speaking, let him speak.

MR. SPEAKER : The House is approving to his assumption!

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I do not know how my friend is predicting your thinking.

Let me say that I am still unable to determine as to what after all was then the purpose of the Union Home Minister's visit. It was not simply to go there and grant certificates to all and sundry and to give us a tabulation of the ration that are available. I must here point out that the Prime Minister has access to information which no other person has. But, for the Prime Minister of my country to have come here, yesterday and to say that this is all the information that he has; the Union Home Minister has gone there to get more information, is not good. And when the Union Home Minister comes, he is simply reiterating what has been said since yesterday. This is a deep disappointment to us. We expected a much more comprehensive and total assessment and analysis of what has gone wrong. It is not simply the weather that has gone wrong.

Yesterday it was pointed out - I think hon. Member Shri Chandra Shekhar pointed it out - that it is our expectation that when the Union Home Minister returns from his visit, he will at least do us the courtesy of answering some specific queries that have been raised. If those specific queries also remain unanswered after the hon. Prime Minister's intervention, after the Union Home Minister's visit and after his statement, which is a prepared statement, if none of these queries have been answered, what do we do? For example, what was the role of the Governor? How do you account for his absence? What was he doing here for three days?

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Even the Chief Secretary was also not there.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : There is some purpose being served by what I am saying. I had also pointed out that even whilst this grim tragedy was unfolding, there was no Government in Delhi. There was no Government in Jammu and Kashmir also. It is not for me to suggest as to what the Ministers of the Government ought to be doing. I made separate attempts to get in touch...

MR. SPEAKER : Pleased conclude.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : There is no answer to this very query.

Thirdly, we had raised a query relating to rail evacuation. It is not my point that what the hon. Ram Vilasji Paswan says is incorrect. It is no my charge also. It is possible that there is a great gap between the information available with the hon. Minister of Railways and what is actually taking place. That is largely to be accounted for, because of one great confusion that still prevails and a question that still remains unanswered: Has the *yatra* been cancelled or, is the *yatra* continuing? Simply, with the arrival of the *chhadi mubarak*, which is symbolic and is a ritual that must be performed, is the *yatra* continuing? Or, has it been

cancelled? The *yatris* had stayed back. The pilgrims had stayed back on account of this confusion. Therefore, the whole question relating to rail evacuation from Jammu remains unanswered.

I must, with deep concern, point out the great variations in casualty figures, from the Government sources itself. The earlier casualty figures were 160, while the hon. Union Minister of Home Affairs started his statement by saying that it was 121.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : That was the figure when I reached there.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : During the course of the narration of his statement, he said that it was 127. We are not in the macabre game of counting dead bodies. This is a very important aspect because it conveys a message to all the relatives, from all parts of the country, who are waiting to hear it because a number of these bodies are unidentified and in the process of decomposition.

[Translation]

The body is perishable, it Bill perish.

[English]

After all, bodies will decompose. The bodies will die. This is a natural thing. But those that are alive and those that are awaiting the return of the pilgrims, for them this is a very important message. Therefore, when these figures are confusing - 160, 121, 127, 400 and 1,000 - then, a very great alarm is caused throughout the country. I feel - and I have no doubt that a man of the sensitivity and experience that the hon. the Union Minister of Home Affairs is - that he sees my point. It is not a debating point that I am attempting to score. This is a very real concern of the entire country because the pilgrims have... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. This is not a debate, this is an Adjournment Motion.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I will not emphasize the point on evacuating pilgrims... (Interruptions) But I do wish to know if this is the Government's point: that there has been no failure; that no one is to account for or that no one is to answer for the absence of governance is Jammu and Kashmir for these critical three or four days; and that no one is to account for or answer for what was happening in Delhi or not happening in Delhi. Has there been no failure? Is there to be no inquiry into this? We had received an assurance yesterday from the hon. Prime Minister himself. From every section of the House, there has been quite an uproar. This is a tragedy of unprecedented dimension because it has never happened like this. There was a demand made for an inquiry. The hon. Prime Minister said that they would inquire into it. The hon. Home Minister has given a certificate of merit to everyone concerned. Where then is the fate of the inquiry? If these post-facto certificates of merit are given in the face of an obvious tragedy,

then, what are we to say about all this? That is why we insist and assert that an Adjournment Motion is merited and it should be an Adjournment Motion under which we discuss this particular tragedy. This is my submission.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

Let me now come to the conclusion. We have been discussing this issue since yesterday. The Prime Minister has given a statement yesterday. Today, the Minister of Home Affairs has given his statement after he returned from the place of occurrence. I do not think that I would be in a position to give my consent for the Adjournment Motion. So, I do not give the consent for an Adjournment Motion. However, since there has been a consensus in the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not challenging your ruling but we would definitely express our resentment against the hon'ble Home Minister. The discussion will take place only when you permit it. We want to see for ourselves the position prevailing in Pahalgaon.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why did you not go earlier?

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (Kangra) : Why didn't you take him with you?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : What he means is that why did I not go before the tragedy or to have the 'darshana'.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : This is not so.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The hon'ble Home Minister, asks me why did I not go earlier, what does it mean?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Have you understood the meaning?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I have understood but perhaps you are at a loss.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Maybe.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I would have gone before you, before the tragedy. But you could take the Members of Parliament with you. You could atleast take some of the yes men of the United Front... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They are saying that they are not bringing politics into it. What else is happening here? What sort of language is he using! What sort of reference has he made to Members of Parliament's It is not expected from Shri Vajpayee ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Is it expected from the Home Minister?

[Translation]

What does it mean? This is not politics to say that why did you not go earlier...*(Interruptions)* What is his question?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You can ridicule the Members of Parliament like this.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Now, Sir, Suppose a railway accident occurs, many people are killed and the Railway Minister reaches the spot thereafter and if Railway Minister is asked why didn't he go earlier then what would it mean?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, The entire incident needed investigation as my colleague Jaswant Ji had said, everything was okay but the weather deceived. The countrymen will not believe it. The hon'ble Home Minister should be concerned about the sentiments of the people of the whole country. The people from every corner of the country have gone there and they are worried. You have not shown any concerns for their worries. You have not given any assurance for an inquiry. We want to register our protest against this attitude and we are walking out this House.

[English]

14.47 hrs.

Then Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and some other hon. members left the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They are challenging the veracity of the statement made by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. They have no information of their own. The Home Minister has rightly said that before they are able to controvert the statements of the hon. Prime Minister and the Home Minister, they should know personally what had happened. The Home Minister had made a right comment. You are challenging the veracity of the statements of the highest persons in the Government without having any personal knowledge about it. You are giving lectures to everybody is concerned. You said that there would be a discussion. The solemnly agreed before you. Now, they want to go back on this for the purpose of politics. They want to be on the headlines of the newspapers. I strongly protest against the irresponsible behaviour of the Leader of the Opposition ...*(Interruptions)*

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): I do not want to mix politics on this particular issue. Yesterday, I all along waited till you gave the direction to make a statement at five o'clock. Even at that time I made it clear that after the Home Minister comes back after studying the situation and gives the latest information, if the House wants to discuss this issue, I have no objection. This is all what I said. If the House

wants to have a discussion on this issue, I have no objection. There is no question of mixing politics. On thing that I would like to say is that the Government is alive to the situation. Yesterday, I have not mixed politics.

I have heard the speeches of so many senior leaders and they hurt me. On the 21st night, severe rain stated and nobody expected it. It continued on 22nd, 23rd and 24th also. Till the afternoon of 24th, nobody could enter that particular place. The Governor, the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, including the Opposition Leader, nobody could enter. What can we do? It is humanly impossible. The situation was out of control because of the non-cooperation of weather. Now, these hon. Members want to say that we have failed. What do you mean by that? We had made all arrangements. Last year, only 900 tenements were made, but this year, 3600 tenements were made. Is the Government not alive to these matters? We do have got some basic knowledge about how to govern...*(Interruptions)* Please hear me.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : The statement is silent about so many things. Mr. Prime Minister, we do not want to politicize the issue ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Prime Minister complete.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I am not mixing politics ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : We do not want to politicize this issue.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : At every stage, I myself am monitoring that. Even when I was in Madras, I got the information. But what can we do? When I asked my principal Secretary and the Home Secretary, they said that the weather was so bad, the rain had not stopped and nobody could go there. But communication was maintained from point. In-between Pahalgam and Panjarni, pilgrims were stranded...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, that is not the point. I have one point to ask the hon. Prime Minister.

We totally do not approve of the reaction of this side. It is a sensitive situation. We disapprove of this.

But, I have a question to ask the hon. Prime Minister. The point is not what has happened there; the point is how does it happen. There are seven stages. Every year, *yatra* takes place. From point 1 to point 2, that is, from Anantnag, when a person moves to Pahalgam, there is a clearance by the *yatra* officer. From point 2 to point 3, again there is a clearance. Like that it goes on. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, how did they clear from point 6 to point 7. How did they go to Sheshnag, when they knew that the weather was bad? There is a forecast available to you. I do not know

whether they have informed you or not. How much staff was available? How much machinery was available to you? You please accept that it has failed.

I will speak from your position. It is your words that I am repeating. Why did you give these figures, Mr. Minister? Accept that it is a fault...*(Interruptions)* I am still repeating your language...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let us not go into that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I want to ask only one question. They should accept that there has been a failure of the system. Please accept it. I have sat on that chair. I would have replied the same way the Home Minister has said. I am repeating the words of Shri Indrajit Gupta when he was sitting in this chair Sir, do you know what was your language? It was, "Mr. Minister, why are you giving this information? I have read this in the newspaper in the morning. Give us some facts." That was your question to me, always. I am repeating the same thing to you. Mr. Minister, Sir, These are all what we have read in the newspapers. Tell us, how did it happen. You have the weather forecast, you have so many senior officers in the Home Ministry...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think, we will have time to discuss these things.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : So, the system has failed; let them accept it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No. No. I think, it is enough.

(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, I have not completed. Only one word I want to say. Shri Rajesh Pilot was asking that when the pilgrims were going from one point to the other point, why were they not prevented from going further. It is a right question that he has posed. The issue is, when the rain was heavily pouring, snowfall started, the communication was given to the Centre. But the pilgrims were stranded in-between one camp and the other. We were unable to communicate because the communication system had totally failed. I discussed all these points. It is not the question of sparing anybody...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You have walkie-talkie every 20 metres with the Jammu & Kashmir police, and you are talking about the communication failure. They have not used it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : No single security personnel, no single tourism personnel or no other officer has collapsed or died there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Four people have died there. I have made a statement.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Those four people died on the last day.

Today also, 20 people are stranded.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wrote a letter to you for this. I have all the respect for the Home Minister. I have the

highest esteem for his integrity and for his contribution to the country. I am sorry to say this. I am telling him with tears. For the last four days, the SP, Jammu could not tell the whereabouts of 68 people whether they were dead or alive or untraceable. They are stranded. I got a phone call. I sent my own people with tickets. What is he talking? They are stranded there. They asked: "Tell us whether they are dead. If so, we will take their dead bodies. Or give us a car. We will go to Srinagar. Or tell us whether they are alive." The SP said: I cannot say anything.

When the Minister is are talking in passing, what do we do? how do we communicate? This morning, at eight o'clock, I sent two persons with the tickets. What do I say? The system is still not functioning. That is my point. Please enquire about that.

The Chief Secretary and the Governor were sleeping in Delhi. They had no other business. Nobody is talking about this. Mr. Prime Minister, why did you take the blame? It is not your fault. You are not to rush to the spot. Let the Home Minister do so. These two persons did not bother to give any kind of support.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : It was practically impossible.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think we are going to debate it now. I have not given my consent. The general consensus is already know. There was a consensus that this matter should be discussed on the floor of the House. We are having a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee after five minutes. So, the BAC will decide about the time.

We will not resume discussion on the General budget. Mr. Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee was on his legs.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Why are they giving protection to this Governor? Why are they feeling shy of having judicial inquiry?...*(Interruptions)*

14.57 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Please hear me. There is no need to make any cover-up. If you are under the impression that I want to protect the Governor or 'x', 'y' or 'z', I am not afraid of this...*(Interruptions)* Please hear me.

In the last Session, 59 people had died in Haridwar and earlier also in Ujjain. They were all pilgrims. Were their lives not precious? Nobody made this type of gimmick. Do not do all this. I can also understand because Kashmir election is there. Uttar Pradesh election is there. They want to take the benefit from that*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : 168 people have died there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : 59 people had died ...*(Interruptions)* There is a limit for all these things. I

can also understand that...*(Interruptions)* tomorrow, I can transfer the Governor. It is not a big issue for me.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : So, please do it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : For God's sake, please do not bring politics...*(Interruptions)* Seeing the magnitude of the tragedy, I have the concern, I have the sympathy for the bereaved families. We are making all arrangements.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : But our feelings are conveyed in a very humble way that the system has failed. Let us accept it and find out how it has happened...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : The Hon. Prime Minister need not misunderstand me. I am very clear about it...*(Interruptions)* Whenever there was a tragedy involving the death of 20, 30 or 50 people, there had been a judicial inquiry...*(Interruptions)* This has been the trend all over India.

Now 168 people have died. Do not compare it with any other tragedy. We do not agree with the BJP people. We do not want to politicise this issue. The State was under the President's Rule. The Governor is supposed to be the administrative head there. He was not available there. The Home Minister is silent about it. In view of this, we say in all fairness that there should be a judicial inquiry into the whole thing. We do not hold Shri Deve Gowda or Shri Indrajit Gupta personally responsible...*(Interruptions)* Why are they taking it that way?...*(Interruptions)*

15.00 hrs.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : You raise it at the time of discussion. Why are you demanding it now?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to the Home Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Why are you waiting for a demand to be made? In the past incidents, the Government had always held a judicial inquiry...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to Shri Gupta.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : I quite agree that the whole matter requires to be inquired into. But I do not agree that whenever some five or ten or twenty people die anywhere in the country, there is always a judicial inquiry. At least I cannot agree with him on this point. I think his memory is failing in...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : You please check up your memory. How many times have you contradicted your own statements in the House? Do not say that my memory is failing. How many times have you contradicted yourself?...*(Interruptions)* He is saying that

my memory is failing. You have stated the things differently. You are such a senior person.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Instead of saying personal things against each other, please listen to him.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Was judicial inquiry held regarding the people who died in Ujjain and Haridwar?

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : In the Ujjain incident, there was a judicial inquiry...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : They do not want to listen. They are supposed to be junior Members and not senior Members. They just go on behaving like junior Members. It is not a question of whatever I like.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Kindly put an end to it. The BAC will decide the form of discussion. Then you will get a chance to speak. If there is any misunderstanding between us, let us forget and forgive. Let us not stand in the way of people who have walked out. Kindly sit down and end the matter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I am only replying to a point raised by the Member. My point is, there will definitely be an inquiry but it may not be a judicial inquiry.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : But I demand a judicial inquiry.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The Government will decide about the kind of inquiry which will be held, its terms of references etc.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : We accept your point.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : He does not accept it. I am telling you that an inquiry will be held.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up further discussion on the General Budget. Mr. Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee was on his legs. He may continue now.

15.03 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET 1996-97 GENERAL DISCUSSION

(Shri Chitta Basu in the Chair)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, I want to begin today by focussing our attention on what seems to be the Central weakness in the Budget proposals.

Sir, we all know that there is always a choice problem, as our hon. Speaker indicated, between short-run and long-run. There is a contradiction of conflict between 'immediately' and 'distance'. Therefore, this problem had to be answered. In economics, this choice problem is expressed as a choice between consumption and savings. I am surprised that despite a rigorous