

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I am allowing you.

I do not know why so much noise is being unnecessarily created.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Sir, please tell the Prime Minister to answer ... (Interruptions) ... It is a very important Bill ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mamataji, why don't you give chance to others also ? Let them explain.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, we are not against the reservation. It has to be provided but how to provide, in what manner to provide ? What is the provisions to be made so far as the Council of States and Legislative Councils are concerned ? Are these to be decided by this House ? What about Rajya Sabha ?

The House is to deliberate it. This is a very important Bill. That Bill cannot be passed without a discussion. We must have the discussion. We cannot be called retrograde.

Therefore, I say, there should be a discussion before passing this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, I have heard everybody now. Yes, Mr. Prime Minister.

CONSTITUTION (EIGHTY-FIRST AMENDMENT) BILL**

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Respected Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission I would like to introduce the Bill. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let it be introduced.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Please hear me.

Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I introduce the Bill.

Just one second, Sir.

For consideration, I would request you that we will call all Party Leaders meeting today itself because some very important issues have been raised by the hon. Members. Kumari Uma Bharati has raised a pertinent question about reservation for backward class ladies ... (Interruptions) ... Some of these points, I cannot brush aside. So, we will call the meeting of all Party Leaders today itself ... (Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (PALI) : What about Rajya Sabha ? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Justice Lodhaji, why are you interfering the Prime Minister ?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : And then, whatever be the decision that is going to be taken in the all party leaders meeting, we will accept it ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mehta, please listen to me now. It is a Constitution amendment and therefore the Bill has to be passed by division. That is a constitutional requirement for which some time is required to make all the arrangements.

Secondly, the Prime Minister has rightly said that since some little points have come here and there, it is desirable that before the Bill is actually taken up for consideration, we will have a meeting of all the leaders. I am adjourning the House for one hour and the House will meet at...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : At 12 o'clock the leaders of political parties may kindly come to my Chamber.

The House stands adjourned till 12.40 p.m.

11.41 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Forty Minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

12.44 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Forty-Four minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

(SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE in the Chair)

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Madam Chairman, whether reservation has been made for the post of Speaker also ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yesterday also I was in the Chair uptill 9.30 P.M.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Speaker is now busy with the Russian delegation which has come to meet him. In the meantime I would be in the Chair and we can take up Papers to be Laid on the Table.

By that time, he will finish and come here.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (MUMBAI-NORTH EAST): Madam, before the papers are laid, in today's business, there is a Short Notice Question standing in my name. That should be taken up first. The Question Hour was suspended and Short Notice Question is not a part of the Question Hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I hope that the Short Notice Question is also suspended. Are you all agreeing to it ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No ... *(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Short Notice Question cannot be suspended

MR. CHAIRMAN : But can it be deferred ?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK (MUMBAI-NORTH) : Normally and always, only after the Question Hour is over, Short Notice Question Comes. So, what was suspended was the Question Hour and that is why he has every right to ask his question. This is my submission ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (SOUTH DELHI) : Mr. Chairman, I am on a point of order.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Definitely, he has every right. Now, we have two alternatives. One is to let it go and the other is to request him and the House to defer it, to tomorrow.

● SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I am on a very important matter. Before Mr. Mahajan takes up his Short Notice Question, the Minister concerned must be present in the House. Why is the Minister absent in whose name the Question has been asked ? This is my question. You may dispose of that matter first and then take a decision as to whether it should be taken up today or tomorrow.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It cannot be taken up tomorrow.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (LAKSHADWEEP) : Madam, there are three forms of Questions technically. They are Starred Questions, Unstarred Questions and Short Notice Questions. When the Question Hour is suspended, the House has to decide whether the Short Notice Question is also coming under Question Hour or not. That decision is to be taken by the House ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY) : Madam I am on a point of order. Rule 54 (2) of the Rules of Procedure says :

"If the Minister concerned agrees to reply, such question shall be answered on a day to be indicated

by him and shall be called immediately *after the questions which have appeared on the list of questions for oral answer have been disposed of.*"

The list has not been disposed of. Even an hon. Member had stood up to ask his question and that has not been disposed of, leave aside other questions. So, Short Notice Question cannot be taken up.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Madam, though you are inclined to allow him to ask the Question, in today's Revised List of Business, the first item is "Questions entered in separate list to be asked and answers given," and then there is a separate second item which is Short Notice Question. That means, it is not part of the Question Hour. It is so obvious ... *(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, you may allow him instead of wasting the time of the House ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : A Short Notice Question has a special procedure than Starred and Unstarred Questions. Short Notice Questions are admitted only when Ministers concerned give due consent and agree to answer them. That is why, it is listed separately. It should not be clubbed with the general Question Hour ... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : I fully agree with the hon. Member, Shri Ram Naik and Shri Pramod Mahajan. He has every right to put his Short Notice Question. The Question Hour was suspended and after that, the next item in the agenda is the Short Notice Question. But Madam, we have already entered into the legislative business and the Prime Minister was allowed by the hon. Speaker to introduce a Bill.

The Bill was introduced. Now, if you go back to the Short Notice Question, it is not proper.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I don't mind if you want to pass the Bill and continue with the listed business ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Hon'ble Madam Chairman, Just now you had announced that...

[English]

"Papers will be laid on the Table.

[Translation]

Now this item too is listed next in the agenda. Hence according to the Minister, you have already proceeded to the next item on agenda, then how will you revert to the previous item. What would the Minister like to say in this regard ? ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Let it be taken up tomorrow.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It cannot be taken up tomorrow, since it is listed for today.

SHRI BASU DEV ACHARIA (BANKURA) : What is the difficulty if it is taken up tomorrow ?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL (BHANDARA) : This question could not have been listed on the Agenda unless prior concurrence of the Minister was obtained. And, if it is listed on the Agenda, it should be taken up. Every item listed on the Agenda should be taken up including this Short Notice Question.

SHRI RAM NAIK : If the Parliamentary Affairs Minister's argument is to be held, then Papers cannot be laid on the Table.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : If you can go back to the item, Paper Laid on the Table, why can't you go back to the Short Notice Question ?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I am neither opposed to the Short Notice Question nor going back to an item on the Agenda. The question is of time. If the Chair permits, the Minister is ready to answer it. You are also ready to put the question.

12.52 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (BARASAT) : Sir, the point to be taken note of is, the Short Notice Question is different from other variety of Questions. Here, the consent of the Minister is very much significant and important. Therefore, it is the Minister who has to decide whether he is willing to reply it today or tomorrow.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : His consent is necessary for admissibility only.

MR. SPEAKER : The Short Notice Question was admitted with the consent of the Minister.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Grant of Permission to Tata Singapore Airways

SNQ 2. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the grant of permission to Tata-Singapore Airways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when the proposal has been under Government's consideration;

(c) the present status of the proposal; and

(d) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) A proposal was received from M/s Tata Industries Ltd. in February 1995, to operate a domestic airline in India with 40% equity participation by Singapore Airlines. The proposal has not been approved by the Government so far.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (MUMBAI-NORTH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it would be rare to find an instance of such a country throughout the world wherein foreign capital investment has been allowed in domestic air services in the field of Civil Aviation. That is why I feel that our country is unique in this respect as we are considering the proposal of foreign Capital Investment in the field of Civil Aviation.

I have held the post of Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Civil Aviation for three years. Hence I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister towards a recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee. The Committee has made a recommendation in its report submitted last year that —

[English]

"This is a dangerous trend. Let the Indian owned Organisations, be private or public, compete and flourish. The entry of foreign carriers, through joint ventures, will create hub and spoke within the country. It will ruin the Indian Carriers. We still cannot compete in foreign market because growth of Air India in particular will be hampered and the only way to survive is to protect our equity participation and it will hit the Indian Airlines badly also."

[Translation]

For the last two years, the issue of equity participation with Singapore Airlines is being discussed. As the situation stands today it does not appear that the Minister has, unfortunately, taken any decision in this regard. Singapore Airlines is one of the best Airlines of the world and if it is allowed to enter the area of domestic operations,

[English]

it will be a death knell for the Indian Airlines and all the other domestic carriers in the country.

[Translation]

Therefore I want a clear-cut assurance from the Hon'ble Minister in this regard. Would the Government give an assurance to the House that under no circumstances would the foreign capital investment be allowed in the field of Civil Aviation.