

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before saying something on my election, I would like to quote an Urdu couplet :

"Pathar ki Bhi Takdir Badal Sakti Hai,
Shart Yeh Hai Ki Karine Se Tarasha Jaye"

Fortunately, I have got training from a reverend person like Shri Vajpayeeji and you have embellished me further. Whatever has been said about me for a while I was thinking as to for whom all this is being said. I would like to thank all of you. Despite difference of opinion in political matters, the precedent of the election of Hon'ble Speaker has been repeated once again, by electing me unanimously as Deputy Speaker in this august House. This in itself is a unique exposition of the dignity of the House. My heartiest thanks to all of you. This is a very great achievement of my political life. In this regard, motions have been moved by top leaders of the country which include the names of reverend Vajpayeeji, Rajmataji, Shri Chandrasekharji, Bhai Ram Vilas Paswan ji, Shri Balasubramoniyam ji, Shri Sharad Pawar ji, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev ji, reverend Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi ji, Shri Surjit Singh Barnala ji, Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar ji, Shri George Fernandes ji, Shri Jai Prakash ji, Shri Om Prakash Jindal ji, Shri Nitish Kumar ji, Shri Pramod Mahajan ji, Shri Jagmohan ji, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar ji and Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona.

All of you have given me this honour and have expressed your faith in me. I hope that you will cooperate and guide me in conducting the business of the House in discharging this responsibility. My unanimous election has awakened me to do my duty.

I will consider it my duty to safeguard the interests of hon'ble Members while conducting the business of the House and for that I will sit on this Chair as your representative. I pray to the God to give me strength so that I can discharge my duties properly.

India is the largest democracy of the world. Sometimes doubts are raised about the existence of this democracy but the unanimous election of the hon'ble Speaker and Deputy Speaker has once again cleared these doubts and the democracy has been strengthened further. Thanks to all.

13.21 hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Before we adjourn for lunch, the Prime Minister will kindly introduce one more

Minister to the House. The Minister was abroad when introduction was done last time.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H. D. DEVE GOWDA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to introduce my colleague Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya, Minister of Steel and Mines, to the House.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an urgent issue regarding the safety of life of a person as the House will adjourn today for two days and will meet again on Monday.

CBI has filed a case in the court the witness of which is Shri Lakshu Bhai Pathak. His life is in danger. It has been proved when he was being honoured by the institution working for anti-corruption. It is a question of a person's life. In this case, evidence of Chandraswami, who is in jail at present, is being recorded. It is but natural that people will be afraid due to unusual things taking place in the entire case. When he was being honoured, a bid to exchange blows took place there. (Interruptions) I would like to add one more sentence.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Fernandes, the whole matter is before the court. Why should we anticipate things in the House like that?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, on behalf of CBI that person is being asked to leave the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot allow that. Mr. Fernandes.

(Interruptions)

13.23 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (GENERAL) 93-94

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1993-94.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to introduce a Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : No. There is an objection at the introduction stage. I have received a notice of objection from an hon. Member to the introduction of this Bill. It will take time. So, we will do it after lunch. Now the House stands adjourned for lunch till 2.25 p.m.

13.24 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Twenty Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

RE: CAUVERY WATER ISSUE

[English]

SHRI S BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your kind permission to raise a very important and urgent matter of public importance relating to the Cauvery issue. I would not like to take much of the time of the House. You may just allow me either under your residuary powers or under some other rules because the matter is so urgent. If you permit us to raise this matter in the next week, then it will lose all its importance.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay. Mr. Bangarappa, I am allowing you since I promised to you yesterday. This morning, it skipped my mind because we could not have the Zero Hour. As a special case I am allowing you, but please be brief.

SHRI S BANGARAPPA : Sir, I thank you for the same.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : Sir, kindly allow me also.

SHRI S BANGARAPPA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter relates to the Cauvery waters dispute. I would not like to say anything about the matter that is pending before the judicial authorities like the Supreme Court or the Tribunal constituted under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956. I am confining myself to two or three aspects only. This is a matter that has to be settled amicably through mutual negotiations. That was the unanimous stand of all the political parties which was adopted through a unanimous resolution passed by both Houses of the Karnataka State Legislature. We expect the same thing from the other lower riparian States like Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.

Sir, I am not against any of the States' share or the people there. It is not my concern. Four States are party to this dispute. Kerala, to some extent, and Karnataka form part of the upper riparian region and Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry fall under the lower riparian region. Now, I am not drawing your kind attention to the full details of the matter at all. I am confining myself to two or three matters only. One is, this matter can be taken up only after the National Water Policy is completely finalised by the Government of India. Already, a decision was taken by the previous Government headed by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. They had called the concerned State Governments for discussions and all these things have been gone into. The point is that till the National Water Policy is finalised, this matter should not be taken up because this matter will not be pertaining only to the Cauvery basin or something like that. There are so many basins all along the country and the matter relates to all of them. If one principle is adopted in respect of Cauvery basin by the Government of India, then in respect of other basin States, they cannot adopt the same principle. So, all those things have to be taken into account before this issue is taken up.

Now, this matter has engaged the attention of the Government of India and it is seriously thinking about it. I know that the hon. Prime Minister is also very seriously thinking on this subject because when he was the Chief Minister of Karnataka, he felt that till the National Water Policy is evolved, guidelines are prepared and adopted by all the concerned States, including the approval of the Government of India, this matter should not be taken up and till then the petitions pending before the Tribunal constituted under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act might be stayed. That is the stand of the Karnataka Government. When Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao was there, at that time, on the application made by Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry Governments, a direction was given by the Supreme Court to the Government of India, to Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao's Government, saying that the Government should intervene and call the concerned States to see that the temporary order passed by the Tribunal constituted under the Act was adhered to or something like that. Shri H.D. Deve Gowda when he was the Chief Minister of Karnataka State, ordered the release of five TMC of water and accordingly that water was released. Tamil Nadu has asked for more water. I am not trying to find fault with that argument. The point is this. Now another five TMC of water is again released by the present Government of Karnataka State.

In the catchment area, we have got four reservoirs in the basin. We have got sufficient water in the catchment area. We do not have sufficient water in our reservoirs. We cannot supply water to