

from the railway stations, Bus stands, airports and hospitals located in the cities near the border. There will be no restriction on the entry of vehicles in the prescribed areas. Besides this, no tax will be levied on them. Under this Friendship Treaty, hundreds of Nepali vehicles run every day in Raksol and other cities of India without paying any tax but Nepali officials have been charging tax from Indian vehicles dauntlessly after filling up form, in the name of entering Nepal. More than two hundred rupees are charged from Indian vehicles in the name of entry tax by the Nepali officials in Veerganj city which is only one and a half kilometer away from Raksol (India).

I therefore, urge upon the Government to ask the Government of Nepal to abide by the provisions of the Friendship Treaty.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to raise a very important matter. Since two Cabinet colleagues of our hon. Prime Minister are here and also the leader of the House Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is present, I am drawing the attention of both the Ministers.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, all the Union Ministers took oath from the President of India and after they took oath, respective Ministries/Departments on behalf of the people of India and they would also be accountable to the Parliament. There is a House of the People here.

Now, the Ministry of Water Resources, which is a key Ministry, is headed by, I understand, Shri Janeshwar Mishra who has to negotiate matters of river water disputes within the country and also matters of river water disputes with other countries. With all due respect to the hon. Minister, I would like to submit that I read in the newspapers that the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu is negotiating the matter of water dispute of Farakka with the Government of Bangladesh.

I would like to know: In what capacity is he representing the Government of India? Why was the Parliament not taken into confidence? I would like to know whether this is an official delegation that is being headed by Shri Jyoti Basu and has been approved by the Union Cabinet. If so, I would like to know: Why was the Minister of Water Resources kept away from the scene?

Sir, this matter cannot be treated lightly. It is not a matter between West Bengal and Bangladesh. West Bengal is very much a part and parcel of India. We represent India as a whole, as a nation. A matter like this, a matter which involves two nations, cannot be dealt without the presence of a Union Minister who is supposed to represent the President of India. It is a very important matter. The Leader of the House who is a senior Cabinet colleague of the Prime Minister must take the House into confidence and come out with an appropriate reply on this issue. The Prime Minister must also take the House into confidence and say as to what

has happened in the matter. This has never happened in this country in the past. It is an international matter. I wonder how it is being conducted. There is no constitutional propriety of Shri Jyoti Basu to represent the Union Government and negotiate the matter of Farakka river water dispute with Bangladesh. This is what I wanted to raise. I hope the Government would give an appropriate reply to this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let me say a few words.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, it is on record now that this is a matter of constitutional propriety and not a matter of politics. So, I would like to request you to take this as a serious matter. This would have implications tomorrow also for various parties in various States. Our Constitution being as it is, I would like to know, if this trespass is silently being allowed by the Central Government how it is going to end up tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No debate on this please.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : Sir two Cabinet Ministers are present here and they should react to this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, these are not powers which could be used by anybody...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, please sit down. Let me say a few words.

Mr. Minister, what Shri Dasmunsi has said is correct. It is a serious matter. Please take note of it. The House should be informed as to the exact position.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Can Shri Farooq Abdullah negotiate with Pakistan about Kashmir issue?

13.29 hrs.

INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income-Tax Act, 1961.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income-Tax Act, 1961."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I introduce the Bill.**

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** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.