

immense harm to the people in the long-term as well as in the short-term not only in the valley or the state but elsewhere like the North-east. It has its own repercussions.

Thank you very much. I have taken more time.

RE: QUESTION OF PROPRIETY OF PRE-
BUDGET HIKE IN ADMINISTERED PRICES
OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS — Contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you. I think we are approaching 4 o'clock. Hon. Members, in the morning, I had informed the House that we have received a large number of notices under Rules 56, 184, 193 and 197 on the issue of price rise on petroleum products. In the beginning, I did say that I would like to be guided by the House as to which road we should take because there is unanimity in the House that this is a serious matter and we should have a full debate, discussion on this issue. Somehow, I had the impression that the House expected me to give the ruling at that particular moment and that I had given the ruling without hearing the House. I am sorry for that. That is the reason why when we assembled here again after the lunch, I thought that I must hear the Members on this issue. I have heard the Members on this issue. Various viewpoints have been expressed and when I gave the ruling in the morning, it is not that I had just given the ruling without applying my mind, without going into the precedents. I had very categorically mentioned that I had gone through the precedents in the past and my ruling was based on the past practice. I am grateful to the hon. Members who agree that it will not be a good precedent that the Speaker, after having given a ruling on a particular issue, should review that particular ruling. Quite a number of members have expressed their views. I am grateful to all of you. At the same time, this is such an issue which is agitating the minds of the hon. Members and the people of India and, I am sure, the Government will take this matter very seriously. They will take cognisance of the feelings of the members and the feelings of the people of India who are affected by this decision and I would expect the Government to apply its mind very carefully on this, particularly after listening to the hon. Members. But since I have taken a decision in the morning and given a ruling, I do not think it is advisable for us to review that ruling. So, we shall have discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : No, We are answerable to the people. Why has this price hike been made? We want a discussion on that..(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : It is an affront to the Chair. Is this the way of discussing things?

15.58 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Harin Pathak and some other hon. Members came

MR. SPEAKER : This is your House, you do whatever you want to do. But I am sitting here up to 6 O'clock.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to adjourn the House. I am sitting here upto 6 O'clock.

[English]

I am sorry, this is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is too much. There is a limit to everything. Your decision is being challenged in this manner..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : May I sincerely appeal to all of you that we are the custodians of democracy; we are the custodians of this House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not correct.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not correct.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think, it is enough.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What do you think of Parliament?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Is this the Parliament of India?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : May I appeal to you? Please resume your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am very sorry. It pains me a lot.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : I do not think that we can preserve democracy today.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am very sorry.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, Why do you not discuss it?

You are not giving them a chance. Let it be discussed.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. on 11th July, 1996.

16.40 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Thrusday, July 11, 1996/Asadha 20,
1918 (Saka)*
