

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country is the biggest democratic country in the world. People have some expectations of conduct from our Lok Sabha and this august House. We should think about how our members, together with this House should conduct themselves and the country should also think about it and we need to ponder over it. Therefore, a committee of the House should inquire into the undesirable, unbecoming, insulting and derogatory conduct of Telecom fame Hon. member of this House Shri Sukh Ram. I want to speak in connection with the notice given by me to you.

When such a conduct is done, what should be done about it, it has been clearly mentioned in the book of Kaul and Shakhder at page 288, which, I want to quote:

[English]

Procedure for Inquiry into Conduct of a Member

"Anyone who has a reasonable belief that a Member has acted in a manner which, in his opinion, is inconsistent with the dignity of the House or the standard expectent of a Member of Parliament, may inform the Speaker or the Leader of the House about it. The person making such an allegation is required first to make sure of his facts and base them on such authentic evidence, documentary or circumstantial, as he may have."

[Translation]

So whatever information I got, I have presented it to you. Alongwith you I have also kept the Hon. Prime Minister of the country informed about it and also gave a notice to him. Before taking up this issue, I want to remind you one old thing, which relates to the year 1951. Shri H.G. Mudgal was an Hon. member of this House in 1951. It is 45 year old story. It appears that there is much difference between the then policy and the present day policy. Morality has suffered a lot and gone down. But I want to tell you what happened then. A Bill was to come up in the House in regard to Mumbai Bullion Exchange, and an amount of Rs 2000/- was taken for moving an amendment to the Bill. After two thousand rupees were taken, the matter came to light and on that basis discussion took place in the House and a committee of the House was constituted. You can imagine the difference between two thousand rupees of that time and four, five, six or fifteen or twenty crore rupees of to day. What was done by this House in 1951, we should ponder over it. An eight member committee of this House was set up on 8th June, 1951 and that committee submitted its report on 24th September 1951, i.e. after Three-Four months after having due deliberations. That report contained all facts. In that report it became clear that it was true as was revealed. The committee recommended that he should be removed from the House.

[English]

He must be expelled from the House.

[Translation]

When this discussion was going on in the House Shri H.G. Mudgil rose up and said that such a talk was going on in the House, and he said that he was tendering his resignation. He tried to circumvent the motion then before the House under discussion. The House took it very seriously. An amendment was moved to the motion before the House, to expell him immediately from the House, which was passed by the House. It happened in 1951. So the then Speaker of the House gave his ruling on it. I am raising this question on the basis of that ruling as also the provisions contained in the procedure.

The House should consider what type of undesirable derogatory and insulting conduct was adopted by the Hon. Member, Shri Sukh Ram.

I, without going into details, want to say two main things. We all have known from the newspapers that from his house an amount of rupees three crores and sixty six lakhs, many types of documents and several types of separate promisory notes have been recovered. The question is that how so much cash money came in his house....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You need not go into the details of the case. It is the question of the status of the M.Ps.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: I am stating in short.

[English]

Sir, I am explaining how unbecoming it is.

[Translation]

No citizen should keep so much cash amount in his house. Now, he is a member of Parliament. He kept cash money like this and later on lockers were opened. In addition, some more information has been received. Now, the thing is that such a big cash amount was recovered from his house. Second thing of importance is...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Naik, we are not starting a debate on that.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I am just explaining the facts and that is why I am not going into the details.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, we, the MPs have got a handbook issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. In its rule

87. whatever is written. is being quoted by me as under—

[English]

Sir, I am quoting Rule 87—"Members visiting abroad".

"(1) when any Member decides to visit abroad, the following information should be given by him to the Lok Sabha Secretariat about two weeks before the date of his departure from India:

- (i) itinerary with date, time, flight particulars and countries to be visited including transit visas;
- (ii) whether the visit is official or private, in the former case, the exact purpose;
- (iii) the nature of passport held, whether diplomatic or official or ordinary and addresses in the countries of visit.

On receipt of the above information, the Lok Sabha Secretariat sends intimation to the Secretaries of the National groups of the IPU, Secretaries of the CPA branch, Indian Missions in the countries of visit requesting them to render necessary assistance to the Member".

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, now it appears and is revealed, new news are daily appearing in the newspapers in regard to where he is. May be, he might have told you at the time of leaving, but we are not aware of.

[English]

You would be in a better position to know.

[Translation]

When such a raid has already been conducted at his house, it became known to all and spread among the whole world where Sukh Ramji is.

[English]

He is not Traceable.

[Translation]

Then it appeared after two days.

[English]

He has been found.

[Translation]

Then it appeared on the third day.

[English]

He has been surfacing.

[Translation]

Then it appeared that he could not be contacted. The high commission is trying to establish a contact, but even there it was not possible. This type of different news were spreading, you also told that information has been sought. Keeping this in view the Hon. members should give notice. A copy of my notice has been given to you. My notice should also go on the address known to you, so that.

[English]

He should also be aware that I am raising this issue.

[Translation]

Now, looking to all these things you should think as also the House. Even otherwise, the Congress party has decided that the conduct of that member is not right, so he should be suspended. The Congress party has taken action in this matter belatedly, but it did take. So, I have to say that his conduct of this kind is not worthy of an Hon. Member of this House. It is an act of degrading the House in the eyes of the world and our own country. Hence a committee of the House should be constituted, as some more things may also come to light thereby as to which contracts he gone. Then the House may look at that. A suggestion was also made whether a joint Parliamentary committee should be set up or not, this can also be considered. Some people have a feeling that setting up of a joint committee does not serve useful purpose. But I do not feel like that. My feeling is that the joint committee set up on the securities scam accomplished very good work, but the follow up action required to be taken by the Govt. was not taken up by it. Hence, such a committee should be set up, which will be very useful. Sir, at the end, I have to submit that the purpose behind the formation of the committee is to find out the type of the conduct of the Hon. member. C.B.I. will do its own job and appropriate action should be continued in accordance with the criminal procedure, income tax and various other laws. In spite of all these happenings, we have not been able to know...

[English]

How has he not come ? Why has the CBI not brought him to the country?

[Translation]

The Govt. should clear all these things in the House. When such action is taken, we shall be in a position to go to the people and say that we are members of Parliament, we have some respect and honour. If such impression continues to prevail in the country that we members of Parliament are of such stock, I feel, it will be an insult of the Parliament, this House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, I do not think we would go into it, not at this stage.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Having this thing in mind, I have to make a suggestion that you should accept this motion, this is my submission to you. It should be replied as to what the Govt. intends to do in this matter.

Sir, my motion should be accepted by the Govt. I have to stress upon it. The Govt. should disclose what action it proposes to take in this regard.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, We have asked for a full-fledged discussion on this. The Government should make a statement on this ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen. As I informed the House the other day

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (PALI): The manner in which the conduct of the C.B.I....*(Interruptions)* it went to London....*(Interruptions)* He has become a fake patient. The Home Minister should make a statement in this connection....*(Interruptions)*. The Home Minister does not want to tell as to what happened....*(Interruptions)* nothing has been done since 10th August.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Justice Lodha, do you have to speak on every subject?

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH): Mr. Speaker, I have given a notice under rule 184.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not undermining the importance of the issue. There is a way to deal with certain issues which are not the simple issues. Here is an issue of the conduct of an hon. Member. We do not have a permanent rule to deal with such a situation. Mr. Naik has referred to an incident of early Fifties where a Committee was formed to go into this kind of a matter. The other Parliaments in the world have got a permanent Committee called the Ethics Committee to deal with such a matter.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (NALANDA) : Such a committee should be constituted immediately.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to say that when the Committee was formed in the earlier case, which Mr. Naik has referred to, at that time we did not have the Departmentally related Standing Committees. Now, we have the new practice of having these Standing Committees. So many things are there. It will not be fair on our part to come to an immediate judgement or conclusion as to how to deal with such matters because this is not going to be an isolated case. I have already received another notice served by Mr. Dasmunsi. Mr. Naik has himself referred that every day something or the other appears in the newspapers about the conduct of Members. This has to be looked into very carefully. We have to discuss among ourselves and find out the way to deal with such matters.

As far as this specific case is concerned, I mentioned it last week that we have asked for the comments of the Home Ministry. The Ministry has informed that the matter has been referred to the Department of personnel and Training because it is this Department which deals with anti-corruption.

We have the address of the hon. Member. I have got two communications from the hon. Member informing as to why he is not able to attend the Office. It is not a fact that Member's whereabouts are not known. I know his whereabouts. We have sent a communication to him. I think we should wait. If in the next two days I do not get intimation from him, then I will take a final decision as to how to dispose of the matter.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Before the adjournment of the House we should take up this discussion....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (DUM DUM): Not only this, there are other important matters also....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How can I hear, when everybody is speaking!

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have only two ears.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, I had written a letter to you on the 16th July. But you did not reply to my letter.

SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ (SOUTH DELHI): Mr. Speaker, the session will come to its end by the 13th.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to you, Madam. Mr. Fernandes, I will allow you also.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: If there is a railway accident in which even if one life is lost, the convention is that the Minister comes to the House and makes a Statement. This is the convention of the House. Every day, not only the issue of Mr. Sukh Ram, so many issues are coming up before the House. About Rs. 1000 crore has vanished from the Indian Bank. There are so many other things.

The Government is not doing its job by not making any Statement in the House so that we can have a discussion on that....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chatterjee, did you give notice? Those who have given notice will get the chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: You should intervene...(Interruptions) On such matters like Sukh Ram case, the Government should inform the House. Why should we know from the newspapers and not in the House itself?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The House will be adjourned on 13th September. We must take the opportunity to discuss this serious matter and the Government should also come forward with a Statement.(Interruptions) Everything is coming in the newspapers.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, I wrote you a letter on 16th July. That letter was published and reached the whole country and was published in the newspapers there also. That went elsewhere as well as reached the T.V. One lady Member is sitting here who came to this House by committing forgery....(Interruptions) All the documents are with me and it is an important matter. This matter is not less important than the matter raised by the Hon. Member Shri Ram Naik...(Interruptions) you constitute any committee of the House, Joint Committee or any other type of committee may be setup. But we want a reply as to how such a person came to this House?(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI (DARBHANGA): Mr Speaker, this is a very wrong thing. Such a senior member is making such a statement there in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down now, Shri Fatmi.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Listen to me please.

...(Interruptions)

~~SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF - FATMI~~
(DARBHANGA): A senior Member like him is giving this type of statement in the House.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not listen to me? Sit down everybody.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are a very senior Member, I cannot shout at you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Fernandes, an hon. Member has come to this House with a certificate from the Election Commission of India.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (NALANDA): Sir, I have got all the documents of the Election Commission.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I agree that I have got no jurisdiction to go into it. The proper forum is the Court, the proper forum is the Election Commission.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Govindan.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGODA): I draw the attention of the Government through you that the sufferings of the employees of the Regional Rural Banks.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot go and the House cannot go into this. There is a different forum to go into this matter. An election petition is going on.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGODA): There are 70,000 employees in the Regional Rural Banks....(Interruptions) 196 branches are established including in the remote villages of India. They are facing some serious problems.

[Translation]

SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, our any conduct in this House should not give an impression that you are protecting corrupt people. This session will come to an end on the 13th September. You demand time of two days....(Interruptions) I am speaking on Sukh Ram affair....(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sukh Ram's statement has created reaction in the whole country. He has told that the money did not belong to him and that he would tell after reaching his country as to whom the money belonged. The entire country ~~anxiously~~ wants to know where money is. If you want two days and give your decision on the 12th, then the session would come to its end on the next date i.e. the 13th. Who knows the date

of the next session? So, I am saying that from our any action it should not appear that we are shielding corrupt persons. You should take a decision immediate on this matter and direct the Govt. to make a statement on Sukh Ram's statement. kindly do not take so much time ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, I have said that I will take two more days to get the comments and I will finally dispose of it within two days' time.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGODA): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you, towards the problems raised by the Regional Rural Bank employees. Their strength is about 70,000. 196 banks are working in remote village areas.

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (PALI): What communication has been received by you in regard to the place of his staying. Why is he not coming in this House and why C.B.I. is not arresting him?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: The Regional Rural Bank employees submitted three demands. They are in agitation. Their demands are simple and legitimate. One of their demands is implementation of revised wage structure.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (NAGPUR): Mr Speaker, I have a question of privilege.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will go into it. I got a notice and I will go into it. Those who are taking part in Zero Hour, please get ready. Your names will be called.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: They want implementation of the revised wage structure as per the Tribunal recommendation. They want a total restructuring of Regional Rural Banks to form National Rural Bank or Zonal Rural Bank under single Apex agency. They want no private banks to be allowed in remote village areas.

I request the Government to sympathetically consider these demands of the Regional Rural Bank employees and solve their problems immediately.

12.32 hrs

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (ALLAHABAD). Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the House, Govt.

and the whole country toward a statement made by a top high official of the Indian navy.

In today's newspapers in a statement published from Mumbai, the highest official of the Indian navy, apprehension has been expressed about the security of our country, in which he has stated how reduction has been made continuously for the past few years in the defence budget relating to Indian navy, as a result of which the Indian navy is facing a crisis. The question of manufacture of new ships of any kind in the navy does not arise, and the maintenance, has also become difficult. Whatever he has stated in this regard, is very significant and what he has stated in being quoted by me from the newspaper

[English]

'Observing the efforts were being made to put breaks on the country's progress so that India did not become equal to world powers, Admiral Shekawat said colonialism was being replaced by other methods such as the World Trade Organization, Technology Denial Regimes and the Intellectual Property Rights "We have to develop our own technology".

"Asked to comment on the possibility of US warships being serviced and repaired by Indian shipbuilding dockyards as expressed by the Commander-in-Chief of the US Pacific Fleet Admiral Ronald J. Zlatoper during his visit in May, 1995, the Navy Chief said. These are his one sided views."

[Translation]

My submission as also demand in this regard from the Govt is to tell to the country as to why such an attitude is being adopted in relation to the security of the country and why such a thing is being done, particularly with regard to our navy. Our country has a very long coastal border, which has to be defended by us. The types of efforts being made presently by our neighbouring country in the Bay of Bengal are very dangerous for the security of our country. In such a situation, the issue of a statement by such a high officer of our navy and stating that such efforts are being made that India does not become a world power, is a very serious and dangerous thing to which I want to draw the attention of this House as also of the entire country. We want to know whether the Govt. has framed any defence policy or not? What action the Govt proposes to take in regard to our navy and these matters, toward which the attention of the entire country has been drawn by such a high officer of our navy that efforts are being made to stop the growth of the strength of our country by way of trips, D.T.O. and denial of technology regime. Sir, it is a very vital matter I had drawn the attention of the House toward it earlier also. The path adopted by our Govt in this regard has been creating serious danger for our country's economic progress and defence potential. I would urge upon the