

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let the House function upto 6 O' clock.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPUYADAV : He stated that house should be adjourned at 6 minutes to 6 O' clock.

[English]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : He is misleading the House.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Sir, I was saying that all the political parties have to decide that they will not shield anyone charged with corruption among themselves. If the political parties do not decide so and they try to shield the corrupt how can we eradicate corruption among the higher-ups?

So, the need of the hour is we must decide that whoever may be black sheep, he has to go to jail; he has to face the court; and whatever be the consequences not a single person be shielded by any political party. Unfortunately, out of political compulsions when corruption is pointed out, there are attempts to protect the corrupt people. That is the main weakness in fighting corruption in this land at present.

I do agree with our hon. Prime Minister that mass movement is essential. But only with mass movement, we cannot curb corruption in high places. The politicians, bureaucrats and the Mafia nexus is armed to the teeth. They have every convenience and means to protect themselves. Unless our investigating agencies take timely action against the corrupt people, we cannot check corruption in the higher places only with mass movement.

So much has been said here about judicial activism. I fully agree with Shri Nitish Kumar that the only ray of hope nowadays against corruption is the Judiciary. When the Executive fails in its duty in our democratic set up, our Judiciary is one of the important pillars, it is the active vigilance of the Judiciary in recent years that the people have a ray of hope in it. If the Judiciary does not perform the duties enshrined to it in our statutes, corruption will go on unchecked. I do not understand why when some big people are caught and they are brought before the court, so much enthusiasm and uproar we hear here. That gives very bad signal to the investigating agencies.

The other day I read in the papers that Dr. Manmohan Singh was saying that the scams and corruption are not the result of economic liberalisation. That is not correct. But if you take the events of the last seven years into consideration, with the liberalisation, everybody thinks that he can loot anything and loot from anywhere. Everywhere there is a tendency to become rich, to amass wealth. Nobody questions them. After the scam, we have seen that some high officials of the State Bank of India, the Housing Development Corporation and so many other institutions were assisting the corrupt people and after retirement they got higher posts with the corrupt institutions. Liberalisation has opened the door in every institution to amass wealth by any means. There is no check on them.

18.00 hrs.

The Executive, the Enforcement Directorate, the Reserve Bank of India, the S.E.B.I. and so many agencies are shutting their eyes. They are shielding the corrupt people. Otherwise those who were involved in the scam the corrupt people would have been in the jails by now.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Raghavan, you can continue it next time. Please wait.

(Translation)

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Whether the powers entrusted to Mr. Speaker have been utilised or not?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is on record. It has been shown to me.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Have you utilised the powers?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Papers have been shown to me.

[English]

Shri Ramakant D. Khalap to introduce the Bill Now.

18.01 hrs.

[English]

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of Legislative Councils for the States of Punjab and Tamil Nadu and for matters supplemental, incidental and consequential thereto.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of Legislative Councils for the States of Punjab and Tamil Nadu and for matters supplemental, incidental and consequential thereto".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India. Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dated 14.5.1997.