

C.P.M. Party headed this verbal attack and the severest criticism was made by Shri Gujral. I would like to quote Shri Gujral.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Would you continue speaking in this manner ? This is the zero hour. This is not the time to deliver speeches. Members have to be brief in the zero hour.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : I would like to quote him. He had given a statement on Star TV that he had allowed the refuelling of fighter planes at Indian airports. On the other hand, when he spoke on the adjournment motion on 22 February, 1991 in this House the last line of the second paragraph of his speech was :

[*English*]

"But so far as we are concerned, I can only tell you that request for refuelling came to us also which we rejected for the reason that we have already given."

[*Translation*]

At that time he had stated that he did not give the permission and today he admits on Star TV that he had given the permission. Whether India has started dancing to the tunes of U.S.A. ? Have we become sycophants ? It is a question of prestige of the nation because upto now we have followed the policy of non-alignment, not sycophancy. The foreign policy is being discussed since yesterday. We have our own foreign policy and Shri Gujral said that this policy was chalked out during the Freedom struggle and was put into shape by Nehru ji. The Prime Minister had maintained in his earlier statement that he had not given the permission and rejected it. On Star TV, he says that he had given the permission. Shri Chandra Shekhar maintains that he had given the permission. Only one of the two statements is true. Either it is Chandra Shekhar ji or Gujral ji who is speaking the truth. What is the truth.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this controversial matter is being discussed for past few days. Many journalists and friends have asked me to comment on it. But I have no comments to offer because the entire nation and the whole world knows the truth. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji and your leaders are very much aware of the true position.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, all I have to say is that I do not wish to take any credit for the permission given at that time. That permission was given by the Government of this country. It is not important as to who had given the permission. But I would like to say to my friends who had levelled serious allegations against me and especially to my communist friends and these from the Congress Party that I fail to understand the reasons for their having maintained silence over it for last seven days. If that statement is correct and since Gujral ji is my close friend, I fail to understand as to why did he not lend his support at that time. All I have to say about it is that I do not change my statement with the change in times. I stick to what I had said earlier. At that time also I had said that there was nothing wrong in it and even today I believe it to be the right move. Other people may think about it and ponder over it. If they have not lost their voice and

can speak out, they will do at least some justice to their conscience.

[*English*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Sir, I regret that some confusion has been caused by a remark made by me in a TV interview in the context of the Gulf Crisis of 1990. The entire Gulf War crisis, so far as India was concerned, carried two parts historically.

When Iraq invaded Kuwait, V.P. Singh Government was in office and I was its Foreign Minister. While disapproving the invasion, India kept in step with the UN Security Council Resolution. At the same time, the entire country was very much concerned about the safety and welfare of nearly 170,000 persons help up in Kuwait and another 30,000 in Iraq.

The House will recall that India then undertook a massive evacuation of people; that is now recorded in the Guinness Book of Records. Since, we were supportive of the UN Resolutions, the Government of India was approached to permit, at that time, overflying of the planes; that was a part of the UN operations.

By the time, the Gulf War actually began and this permit of overflying was given, there was a change in the Government in Delhi and Shri Chandra Shekhar, for whom I have great respect, headed the new Government. I am not in a position to say whether permission to refuel of the planes was sought or given by that Government.

A few days ago, while replying to a TV question, there seems to have been some confusion caused that I wish to correct and with regret I say that this wrong impression has gone. During the period of V.P. Singh Government, no permission was sought or given for refuelling.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time in the Zero Hour. I would just state a few things about the industrial scenario.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Minister of Industries and hon. Minister of Finance. The workers of national textile units of India are not getting their wages for the last three months because the budgetary support has been withdrawn. The NJMC is facing a crisis because the package has not been cleared. Jute workers are crying at the doors of the factories. In Remington Rand, a known factory, in spite of the intervention of Minister of Labour, the workers have still not got any wages and the unit has not been opened. In the Metal Box factory, in spite of the observation of the BIFR, the workers are crying and committing suicide in Mumbai and Calcutta. MAMC of Durgapur and Shaw Wallace Co. of Calcutta are also facing similar crisis because the Shaw Wallace Managing Director, Manu Chhabaria is looting the empire. There is no intervention by the hon. Finance Minister. Hindustan Copper Unit of Musabani is also facing the similar disaster.

I therefore, request the hon. Ministers of Finance and Labour to take immediate action in this regard. The plight of the sufferings of the NTC workers should be taken due note

of by providing the budgetary support, clearing the package of Jute Mill Corporation and intervening once again in the cases of Remington Rand (Howrah), Metal Box (Calcutta and Mumbai), MAMC (Durgapur), NJMC (Calcutta), Shaw Wallace (Calcutta), Hindustan Copper Metals (Musabani) and National Textile Mill Corporation (All over India).

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise a very important issue. The scheduled caste women and even M.Ps in Madhya Pradesh are being subjected to many atrocities by the police. Recently, during the last month, a small child was killed in an accident at Kalali Depalpur in my constituency and in protest, people belonging to scheduled caste had blocked the traffic on road, they were also trying to observe bandh in Kalali. Resultantly they were taken into custody by the police. Now they are being subjected to many inhuman sufferings throughout the night. Even women are misbehaved and abused when they go to police station for giving food to their relatives.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the police officer who is inflicting such atrocities on these persons, is surprisingly is being given six month's extension. Institution of an enquiry is only an eye wash. People have given even affidavits mentioning the atrocities they are subjected to, but so far no action has been taken.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, after fifteen or Twenty days of this incident, there occurred another incident in which a policemen went alone to a scheduled caste area to nab a thief but in the name of catching the thief, he indulged in molestation of women. Men and women are beaten by him. But the most amazing thing is that inspite of such cruelties, these police officers are being granted extension. I through you, demand that stern action should be taken against such police officers and atrocities on SC/ST women should be stopped immediately.

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a matter pertaining to the atrocities on the women of scheduled caste. Therefore, my request is that a report thereon should be asked for from the Government ....

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Primary Health Scheme, intended for the rural poor, was launched upon by the Central and State Governments with much fanfare. But it is a matter of great consternation that its functionaries – several thousands of Community Health Guides and Trained Dais in West Bengal – are being paid very meagerly at Rs. 50 per month, which is almost a day's remuneration in the context of the present spiralling high rise in the prices of essential commodities. Even the unskilled workers are being paid minimum wages, but this category of employees are being totally ignored. So, I demand that the wages of these employees, who render very useful service in the rural areas, are suitably and properly raised with the Central assistance so that they are able to sustain themselves at least.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargoda) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the other day we discussed about the virus infection of Hepatitis-B. Now I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India and its Ministry of Health about the spread of the dangerous Tuberculosis disease in India.

More than 1.4 crore people are now suffering from TB. Today, in Delhi over two lakh people are suffering from TB. But the Government of India and the Ministry of Health are claiming that this disease has been prevented and eradicated completely. It is false.

For the last thirty years, in India and abroad medical science and medicines are developed and reformed fastly. In the circumstances, it is high time to review our old TB eradication programme and evolve a new and scientific ways for the purpose. So, I request the hon. Health Minister to take effective steps to contain and eradicate this deadly disease.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Faggan Singh Kuleste, a scheduled caste MP from Mandala constituency of Madhya Pradesh has been sitting on *Dharna* in Mandala for the last many days. Shri Kuleste got his suite reserved in Mandala Circuit House where he went and stayed but when he returned in the evening after a day long tour, he was not allowed to stay in that Circuit House by the SDM in spite of the fact that all the four suites in that Circuit House were vacant. He was humiliated and asked to leave.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, certain petulant officers are misbehaving with Members of Parliament. He was insulted because he belonged to scheduled caste.....(Interruptions) Such incidents are very common these days in Madhya Pradesh. The M.Ps of scheduled caste are being internationally humiliated. In protest against this incident, he has been sitting on *dharna* for the last eight days with thousands of tribals. I through you, demand that this whole episode should be got enquired into and the officer found guilty of insulting a scheduled caste M.P. should be brought to book.

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH (Aonia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been giving notices for the last two-three days, but so far my name has not been called.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If your name is in the list, I will definitely call you.

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : My name is there in the list?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is alright. But why are you coming over to here ?

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you going to threaten me ?