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Title: Regarding observations made by the Standing Committee on Defence in their twenty-first Report on non-utilization of funds by the Ministry of Defence. (Motion rejected).

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, I gave a notice to suspend the Question Hour so that we could take up a very vital matter concerning the security of the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the 21st Report of the Standing Committee on Defence, presented to the House. This is a unanimous Report. This Report made three clear observations; they are decisive observations.

The first one is that till today, the Tenth Plan allocation for Defence has not been finalised, when half of the year is over. Second is bullet proof jackets worth R.150 crore have still not been made available to the *jawans* which were asked to be procured in 2001. Third is that lapsable fund has been converted into modernisation fund and yet it has not been released, which is for the preparedness of Defence. This is the Report of the Parliamentary Committee.

Under what authority the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister are running this country, ignoring this whole Report? Earlier Lahore Summit was held, and that was followed by the Kargil massacre. Now, things are improving between India and Pakistan, and we are happy about it. But at the same time, we want to know the preparedness of defence, under the Prime Ministership of Shri Vajpayee. This Report categorically made clear that our country's defence is not ready. The money of the Tenth Plan has not been finalised. This is the condition of Defence. So, the Prime Minister is answerable to the House.

I demand that either the Prime Minister or the Finance Minister come to the House during the Zero Hour and take the House into confidence. This is not a small matter. This is the Report of the Parliamentary Committee. We demand either the Prime Minister or the Finance Minister come to the House during the Zero Hour and make the position clear.

< A name="584">MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is here; she would bring it to the notice of the Finance Minister and tell him that this is an important issue and that this should be taken up during this Session.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : He could come to the House during the Zero Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: In the BAC meeting to be held today at 1 o'clock, we will take a decision on this.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, you were kind enough to give your observation on the other vital issue, that the Minister concerned shall respond to that during the Zero Hour. Equally, let the Finance Minister also come during the Zero Hour and respond to this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: We are meeting today in BAC at 1.00 o'clock.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : How can they treat Defence like this? It is not an ordinary matter....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I now move on to the Question Hour. I will take it up in the Business Advisory Committee and take a decision on this issue. It is an important issue.

...(Interruptions)

श्री रघुनाथ झा (गोपालगंज) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्य को रक्षा मंत्री महोदय से प्रश्न पूछने का कोई नैतिक अधिकार नहीं है। जब रक्षा मंत्री सदन में प्रश्नों का जवाब देने के लिए खड़े होते हैं, तो सारा विपक्ष भाग खड़ा होता है। अर्थात् (व्यवधान)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): We do not know the fate of the notice of our Motion....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already given my ruling. All the notices regarding either suspension of Question Hour or Adjournment Motion have been rejected by me. I have already informed the Members about it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Question 181, Col. Sona Ram Choudhary. There are important questions to be asked in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already gone on to the Question Hour. I will give you permission to speak in the Zero Hour. I will give you permission to raise this issue during the Zero Hour and not now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, I have also given a notice....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have rejected it. I have received your notice and rejected it also but you can raise the issue through some other device.