

Title: Demand for clarification regarding Statement made by the Minister of Defence, Shri George Fernandes on fire at Ammunition Depot, Bharatpur on 18th April, 2000.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is very unfortunate that such a cryptic statement is given by the hon. Minister. ...(*Interruptions*) This is a very cryptic report on such a major issue like this. There are so many things which are being said on behalf of the Government which come out in the Press. But the Parliament is not taken into confidence. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA): The media knows more than us. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we should immediately discuss this. Let it be taken up tomorrow. This discussion should be held immediately, tomorrow itself. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): We have to pass the Finance Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, it is a very important issue. The whole nation is worried. The media is giving different reports. I am sorry to say that the hon. Minister has spoken more to media than to Parliament. He has stated many things in the media which have come in the newspapers. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, this should be discussed immediately. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You fix up the discussion for tomorrow. We have no objection. So many things are to be discussed. The hon. Minister must agree for tomorrow. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now that they have agreed for a discussion under Rule 193, if we find time tomorrow I have no objection to have it tomorrow.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, you see the degree of importance of the issue. ...(*Interruptions*) When do you want to discuss it? Sir, he is taking very long time. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I have a deadline for the Finance Bill. The Finance Bill can be discussed in one day on 4th. Then, you can take it up tomorrow. I have no objection. You cannot have the cake and eat it too. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): That is right.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I have no objection to discuss it tomorrow provided you can leave one day for Finance Bill. I have to get the Finance Bill cleared by 4th evening. If the House agrees to reduce the time for Finance Bill, it can be taken up tomorrow. The Finance Bill is to be taken up tomorrow for two days. There is a deadline to clear it. There is a deadline of 10th. I have to check. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Shri Pramod Mahajan, the statement itself is too cryptic and too laconic. The Minister ruled out sabotage outside the House but has not referred to it inside the House. Can the Minister get away with that statement? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, not even a single cause has been suggested. It is very strange. So many theories are going round. I can understand ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It appears that we are straightway discussing now. You fix a time. You discuss it

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Is it not an important matter? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Mr. Deputy Sir, how can a *suo motu* statement be ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, can I speak? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs wants to speak. Let him complete now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, if the House agrees, the Finance Bill can be discussed in one day and passed, and we can take up this issue tomorrow itself. We have no objection. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this matter has been taken by the Minister in a very casual manner as if this House is not relevant at all. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I have said that we can discuss it tomorrow if the House agrees to one day for discussion and passing of the Finance Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)

श्री रामचन्द्र पास्वान (रोसेड़ा) : उपाध्यक्ष जी, भोपाल में सचिवालय के सामने उन पर हमला करया गया है। (ब्यवधान)

श्री शिशिराम सिंह रवि (बिजनौर) : हम उन पर जो हमला हुआ है उस विय को उठाना चाहते हैं।

â€¦ (ब्यवधान)

डा. रामकृष्ण कुसमरिया (दमोह) : उमा जी पर सचिवालय के सामने हमला करया गया है।

â€¦ (ब्यवधान)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आपको चांस मिलेगा, आप बैठ जाइये।

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have given the floor to Shri Vaiko.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, you have called me. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have allowed him. You will also get a chance. I will call you. You cannot impose your decision on me.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. Let Shri Vaiko speak. I cannot

allow you.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I would suggest that time for the Finance Bill may be discussed in the Business Advisory Committee, but the issue which has been raised by Shri Somnath Chatterjee should be taken up tomorrow itself. This issue should be taken up first. We will discuss the time for the Finance Bill in the Business Advisory Committee, but this issue should be taken up tomorrow. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: We do not agree. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Since you have agreed that it should be discussed under Rule 193, you will have to discuss it in the Business Advisory Committee to fix up the time for discussion.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We will discuss it tomorrow. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Business Advisory Committee has fixed it up for tomorrow!

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: No, not tomorrow. Tomorrow, the Finance Bill will be passed and you take it up day after tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can discuss it in the Business Advisory Committee. That is all.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I am sorry.(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let me conduct the affairs. It is going to be taken up in the Business Advisory Committee.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria, what is this? I have called Shri Vaiko.