

**Title:** Statement regarding accident that occurred on 13th December, 1999 at I.G.I. airport, New Delhi.

16.35 hours

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (प्रो. चमन लाल गुप्त) : महोदय, मुझे अत्यंत अफसोस के साथ सदन को यह सूचित करना पड़ रहा है कि १३-१२-१९९९ को दुबई से आने वाली एअर इंडिया की उड़ान संख्या ७२० के इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर पहुँचने के बाद जब यात्री इमिग्रेशन क्षेत्र की ओर जा रहे थे तो एक दर्दनाक दुर्घटना में सात वर्ष की एक युवा बालिका ज्योत्सना की मृत्यु हो गई और चार यात्री घायल हो गए।

इस दुर्घटना का कारण ०२५२ बजे एक यात्री के बैग के स्ट्रेप का नीचे जा रहे एस्केलेटर की सीढ़ियों में फँस जाना था। चूँकि यात्री स्ट्रेप को बाहर निकालने की कोशिश करने लगा और एस्केलेटर से उतर नहीं पाया, जिससे पीछे रुके अन्य यात्रियों के बीच आपा-धापी मच गई। यह भी प्रतीत होता है कि जिस यात्री का स्ट्रेप फँसा था उनके द्वारा इस्तेमाल की गई ताकत से एस्केलेटर की आखिरी सीढ़ी की लोहे की प्लेट बाहर आ गई। इसके परिणामस्वरूप, इससे एस्केलेटर के फर्श में एक खाली स्थान बन गया।

सबसे पहले एक महिला गिरी और उनकी टांग एस्केलेटर की सीढ़ियों तथा साइड की दीवार में बने खाली स्थान में फँस गई। उसके बाद सात वर्षीय लड़की ज्योत्सना गिरी और उसका सिर एस्केलेटर की अंतिम सीढ़ी से टकरा गया और एस्केलेटर की चलती सीढ़ियों से पिचक गया। एस्केलेटर संभवतः जाम हो जाने के कारण अपने आप रुक गया।

इमिग्रेशन हाल में ड्यूटी पर मौजूद एक पुलिस कर्मचारी ने भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण के बरिष्ठ एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधक को सूचित किया, जिसने ड्यूटी पर मौजूद डाक्टर तथा तकनीशियन को बुलाया। बरिष्ठ प्रबंधक तथा डाक्टर लगभग पांच मिनट में घटना स्थल पर पहुँच गए। कुछ ही देर बाद तकनीशियन भी पहुँच गया।

एस्केलेटर को हाथ से उल्टा चलाया गया और लड़की के शरीर तथा महिला की टांग को निकाला गया। डाक्टर ने लड़की की जांच करने के बाद ०३.२० बजे उसे मृत घोषित कर दिया और उसके शरीर को पुलिस को सौंप दिया। महिला को तत्काल प्राथमिक चिकित्सा उपलब्ध कराई गई, लेकिन भारी चोटों के कारण प्रातः लगभग ३.२० बजे भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण द्वारा उन्हें अपोलो अस्पताल भेज दिया गया। दुर्घटना में घायल चार यात्री ये हैं- १. राजेश जेठानी, आयु ३० वर्ष, लिंग पुरुष, इनको अनेकों खरोंचे आई, २. जी.पी. कल्याण, आयु ६४ वर्ष, लिंग पुरुष, इनको खरोंचे तथा हाथ पर छोटा घाव था, ३. परमानन्द जेठानी, आयु ६० वर्ष, लिंग पुरुष, इन्हें हल्का घाव आया था, ४. श्रीमती उषा रानी नागपाल, आयु ५५ वर्ष को गहरा घाव लगा। जब कि तीन व्यक्तियों को मामूली खरोंचे तथा चोटें आईं। श्रीमती उषा रानी नागपाल को उनकी बाईं टांग पर गंभीर घाव आए जिसके लिए प्लास्टिक सर्जरी की आवश्यकता थी। उन्हें अपोलो अस्पताल, नई दिल्ली में दाखिल करवाया गया है। भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण ने उनके इलाज के लिए सभी प्रबंध किए हैं। परिवार के शोक सदस्य १३ तारीख की शाम को जोधपुर रवाना हो गये थे तथा इस यात्रा के लिए सारे प्रबंध भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण द्वारा किए गए।

यह दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण घटना अपने किस्म की घटना है और इसके लिए हमें बहुत खेद है। पीड़ित परिवार के प्रति हम अपनी पूरी सहानुभूति प्रकट करते हैं। यह सच है कि कोई भी शब्द अथवा कार्य परिवार को हुई क्षति को भरपाई नहीं कर सकता, मंत्रालय ने प्रभावित परिवार को पाँच लाख रुपये की राहत राशि दिए जाने की घोषणा की है।

एस्केलेटर को ऑटिज कम्पनी द्वारा १९८६ में लगाया गया था, जो एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय अग्रणीय सप्लायर है। इसका रख-रखाव, मासिक जांच तथा आवश्यकतानुसार बुलाए जाने के आधार पर एक विस्तृत अनुरक्षण ठेके के आधार पर किया गया है। इसके लगाए जाने से लेकर आज तक इस प्रकार की कोई घटना इससे पहले कभी नहीं हुई।

दुर्घटना के कारणों की जांच करने तथा विस्तृत ब्योरे सहित घटना के घटित होने के कारणों की छानबीन करने के लिए एक जांच समिति नियुक्त करने के आदेश दिए गए हैं, जिसमें भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण के श्री एस.एच. खान, कार्यकारी निदेशक तथा डाक्टर के. रामलिंगम, महाप्रबंधक शामिल हैं, जो अपनी रिपोर्ट ४८ घंटों में, आज शाम तक प्रस्तुत कर देंगे।

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Madam, this is a very serious matter. I take strong objection of the fact that the incident took place right in the capital on 13th December and the Minister has come to the House after 48 hours to make a statement. What prevented the Minister to make a statement yesterday?

">Secondly, the Head of the Airport Authority has been appointed a member in the committee to inquire into the incident.

">श्री चमन लाल गुप्त: मैडम, वैसे तो यहाँ ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है।

... (व्यवधान)

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">श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी (रायगंज) : हम मैडम की इजाजत लेकर बोल रहे हैं। आप इस बात को इतना लाइटली मत लीजिए।

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">The entire responsibility of the security and management lies with the Airport Authority of India and the Government has appointed its head as a member to inquire into the incident. Are you taking the matter lightly? You cannot do like this. It has been reported in the electronic and print media that for 45 minutes the escalator went on rolling. There was nobody to stop it. Nobody knew how to stop it. The Minister has simply said that the escalator rolled and the child got crushed because someone was behind her. It is not a fact. The Minister has to state the facts properly. It went on rolling for 45 minutes and there was nobody to stop it. Why has the Government appointed someone to be a member of the Inquiry Committee who himself is answerable to the country? The Government should have appointed somebody else.

">It was reported that the Government instantly offered Rs.5 lakh as compensation to the family but they refused to accept it. Do you have some concern for humanity? At that time did anybody ask for the money? Instead of punishing the guilty, the Government instantly offered the money.

">This is a very serious incident. We are not at all satisfied with the statement. Will the Government change the authority being appointed to inquire into the incident and appoint someone who is free from the control of the Airport Authority?

">MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not allowing a discussion on this. Since this is a serious matter, Members are allowed to raise a few points.

">SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): I would like to say that it should be a judicial inquiry. No less than a sitting judge should go into what has happened, otherwise, there will be the suspicion and the doubts that have been raised in the minds of not only Indians but the people abroad. To assuage the feelings as also to remove any lurking doubt about the functioning of the Airport Authority, it should be inquired into by a sitting judge.

">It is being said that it is maintained by OTIS through a comprehensive maintenance contract with monthly checking. My query is, when was it checked last time?

">श्री चमन लाल गुप्त: मैडम, हमें बताया गया है कि पिछली बार २५ नवम्बर को बाकायदा इसकी चेकिंग हुई थी और हर समय उनका आदमी वहां रहता है और उसकी कोशिश होती है कि इस तरह की कोई घटना न हो। पहले इस तरह की कोई घटना नहीं हुई, मैं समझता हूँ कि इस वजह से थोड़ा बहुत समय पर पहुँचने में कमी रह गयी।

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">सभापति महोदय : पेपर में आया था कि पहले भी घटना हुई थी।

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">श्री चमन लाल गुप्त: परसों घटना हुई, ऑनरेबल मिनिस्टर साहब और मैं उसी समय मौके पर गये थे और हमने सब चीजें अपनी आंखों से देखी हैं। लड़की की माता से हमने सम्पर्क किया और उनके परिवार से हम मिले हैं। जब ये तीन साल पहले हिंदुस्तान आये थे तो इनकी एक साल की बच्ची थी जिसकी मृत्यु हो गयी। जो घटना हुई, उसे हम किसी तरह से छिपाना नहीं चाहते हैं। हम चाहते हैं कि इस घटना से और भी जो मैल-प्रीक्टिस वहां चल रही है उसको हम दूर कर लें। मैं अपने सांसदों का इसमें सहयोग चाहूंगा। अगर उन्हें किसी भी प्रकार की कोई शिकायत है तो वे हमें बताएं।

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">जैसा उन्होंने कहा कि एयरपोर्ट एथॉरिटी के मेम्बर उस कमेटी में हैं। यह कमेटी बनाने की घोषणा एयरपोर्ट एथॉरिटी ने पहले से ही कर दी थी। यदि आवश्यकता हुई तो

">... (व्यवधान)

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">श्री प्रियरंजन दासमूंशी : आपने कहा कि अगर आवश्यकता पड़ी तो

... (व्यवधान)

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">You do not think that it is a serious matter. What are you talking?... (Interruptions)

">श्री चमन लाल गुप्त जब तक रिपोर्ट नहीं आएगी किसी को दोषी ठहराया नहीं जा सकता।

... (व्यवधान)

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">श्री प्रियरंजन दासमूंशी : मंत्री जी ने बताया कि चेयरमैन ने पहले घोषणा कर दी। आपकी हाउस के सामने जिम्मेदारी है। आपने यदि समझा कि उन्होंने पहले घोषणा कर दी तो आप जिम्मेदारी लेकर उसे चेज कर सकते थे। आप मंत्री हैं। आप ऐसा क्यों कहते हैं कि अगर आवश्यकता होगी तो बाद में देखेंगे?

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">MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot have a discussion on a statement.

">... (Interruptions)

">SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Madam, the international tourism sector is shocked by this incident. I want to help the Minister. But he is taking it lightly... (Interruptions)

">श्री चमन लाल गुप्त अगर इस दुर्घटना में किसी को दोषी पाया गया तो हम उसे कभी माफ नहीं करेंगे।

... (व्यवधान)

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">श्री श्रीप्रकाश जायसवाल (कानपुर) : मंत्री जी ने जो बयान दिया है, उसमें यह नहीं बताया कि दुर्घटना कितने बजे हुई और कितने बजे उन्हें अस्पताल ले जाया गया। ... (व्यवधान)

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">SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I was expecting a reply stating the fact about the suspension of the persons of the Airport who are responsible for this. I thought you would constitute an inquiry. But you left the matter to the Chairman itself... (Interruptions)

">सभापति महोदय : मंत्री जी कुछ बोल रहे हैं।

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... (व्यवधान)

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">श्री श्रीप्रकाश जायसवाल : बयान में यह नहीं दिया गया कि कितने बजे घटना घटी और कितने बजे घायल लोगों को अस्पताल में दाखिल किया गया। इस बयान में सबसे बड़ी कमी यह है कि इसमें घटना का समय नहीं दिया गया है।

... (व्यवधान)

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">श्री चमन लाल गुप्त एयरपोर्ट एथॉरिटी के तीन आफिसर्स जिन की जिम्मेदारी थी, उनको सस्पेंड किया गया है।

... (व्यवधान)

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">श्री श्रीप्रकाश जायसवाल : समापति महोदय, यह बयान अधूरा है।

... (व्यवधान)

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">SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Why are you suppressing the information? He did not say so in the statement. But now he comes out with the facts. This is not the way. You cannot take the House lightly. Why did you suppress the information? Madam, he should have mentioned the fact regarding suspension... (Interruptions)

">MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give him the chance to reply.

">... (Interruptions)

">SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : If the Minister comes with a statement, suppressing the basic fact of suspension, do you think it is the proper way to inform the House?... (Interruptions) Madam, had I not raised this point, the House would have been kept in dark... (Interruptions). I am not talking to you. I am talking to the Minister. Madam, it amounts to breach of privilege.

">MR. CHAIRMAN: If it amounts to breach of privilege, you have different ways of raising it.

">... (Interruptions)

">MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acharia, we are not having a discussion on this subject.

">... (Interruptions)

">SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Sir, the Minister has already suspended them. He has taken action against them. But instead of being happy, he is raising objections... (Interruptions)

">SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You are not the Minister. I am talking, through the Chair, to the Minister.

">I have nothing against the Minister as a person. But how can he afford to make a statement ignoring and suppressing the basic facts that they took some action against some officers? On my enquiry, he comes out. Is it being fair to the House?

">SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : If he has done so, what is the harm? What would he have gained by suppressing the facts. He might have forgotten.

">SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : He is not the Minister, Madam.

">SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I know, I am not the Minister. But I know that your intention just cannot be this.

">SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): We were told that the statement would be presented today. The statement was not made earlier when we raised the matter during Zero Hour. In spite of that, we had to wait up to a quarter to five o'clock for this statement. The incident took place on the early morning of 13th December. Today he is making a statement without full facts. He is suppressing the facts. This is a contempt of the House. When he is making the statement he should come out with full facts. What action has he taken against the officers? He should inform the House as to why he has suppressed the facts.

">MR. CHAIRMAN :

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">HHe has made a statement which has been circulated. Shri Dasmunshi raised a question and asked whether he has suspended anybody. The Minister said yes, they have suspended three people.

">श्री श्रीप्रकाश जायसवाल : यह बताये कि एक्सीडेंट कितने बने हुआ ?

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">सभापति महोदय: स्टेटमेंट में टाइम दिया हुआ है।

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">SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Shri Dasmunshi sought a clarification and asked a question whether anybody has been suspended. Then the Minister replied that some officers have been suspended. Why did he not say that at the time of making the statement? Why did he suppress that fact?

">SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (SHIMOGA): With your permission Madam, I ask a simple question to the hon. Minister. When was those three officers suspended?

">...(Interruptions)

">MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody is agitated over this question. Let them make a mention of their view points for two minutes and we will finish it.

">SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : When have they been suspended?

">MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Acharia, you have asked your question. Please take your seat.

">SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : I am posing only one question to the Minister. When was those three officers suspended? What are their names? Please answer this question.

">MR. CHAIRMAN: The same question. That will be the end of it.

">श्री चमन लाल गुप्ता: सभापति महोदय, मैंने यह कहा कि कल हम स्टेटमेंट देना चाहते थे लेकिन उस समय हाउस का जो माहौल था, नहीं दे पाये। आज प्रीलिमनरी इंक वायरी थी। उसके बाद उन्होंने तीन आफिसर्स को सस्पेंड कर दिया जिनमें एक टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज का इंचार्ज, इलेक्ट्रिकल ग्रुप का इंचार्ज और तीसरा आदमी जो एस्कलेटर ड्यूटी पर था। जैसे ही उनको महसूस हुआ,

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">that they were at fault, they were not on duty,

">and they were not performing their duty properly, the authorities have suspended them.

">MR. CHAIRMAN: The matter is closed.

">SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH): How can it be closed?

">MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot tell the Minister to change the inquiry here on the floor of the House.

">THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): Let the preliminary inquiry report come. If necessary, we will change it.

">MR. CHAIRMAN: He has said so. If necessary, they will then change it. Let him get the preliminary report and see what has happened.

">SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The incident is so serious that there should be a judicial inquiry.

">I would like to know whether he agrees to it or not. Please tell it today itself...(Interruptions)

">SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): Madam, I just want to make a submission. It is very unfortunate that such a tragedy has taken place and the life of a young child was snatched away...(Interruptions) Now, the hon. Members from the opposite are not interested in knowing the truth. It is very unfortunate. They are just trying to make accusations all the time and bulldozing the House...(Interruptions)

">श्री नसुदेव आचार्य : आप बताइए कि क्या आप ज्यूडीशियल इनक्वायरी कराएंगे? आप हाउस में बताएंगे या बाहर बताएंगे?

... (व्यवधान)

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">मेजर जनरल (सेवानिवृत्त) भुवन चन्द्र खण्डूरी (गढ़वाल) : आप बिना इनक्वायरी के सब काम करना चाहते हैं? कुछ इनक्वायरी होने दीजिए।

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">MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please sit down. The matter is closed now. We are having the next speaker to speak.

">... (Interruptions)

">SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Who is running the Government - the Ministers or some Members of Parliament running the Government? The Minister is answering...(Interruptions) Some Members from that side are also answering. What is this? Let me know this first...(Interruptions)

">SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : When you are answering, we are also entitled to do it...(Interruptions)

">MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Shri Bangarappa, you are a Member of Parliament. I am also a Member of Parliament...(Interruptions) You have expressed your views. I am not replying as a Minister. I am talking as a Member...(Interruptions)

">SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : When a question is put to the Minister, another Member from that side has got up to answer to that. What is this?...(Interruptions)

">SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : When you are answering, we are also entitled to it...(Interruptions)

श्री श्रीप्रकाश जायसवाल : हमें चिन्ता है कि जो इनकवायरी कराई जा रही है, उसके बाद ज्यूडिशियल इनकवायरी नहीं कराई जाएगी।

... (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Kumaramangalam, do you want to say something?

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kumaramangalam has got to say something. Let us hear him and then we will conclude it.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Madam, I am really adding to what my good friend, the hon. Minister of State for Civil Aviation has said. I am saying it in terms of clarifying it and bringing to light the facts in all its fashion...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This has got nothing to do with power...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: It is one of the most unfortunate incidents that we have heard in the recent past...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Madam, he cannot say that yesterday the House was out of order. I say this because business was transacted beyond eight of the Clock. Why did he say that the atmosphere was not good? How can he say that?...(Interruptions) When the Prime Minister could come to make a statement last night, could the Minister not come and make the statement? What is he talking?...(Interruptions)

श्री श्रीप्रकाश जायसवाल : कल चार बजे से साढ़े आठ बजे तक हाउस चला था। आप कैसे कहते हैं कि माहौल नहीं था?

... (व्यवधान)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Madam, this is not a good defence.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Please hear my words. I have never said that it was out of order...(Interruptions) Madam, am I going to be permitted to speak nor not? Otherwise, I will sit down...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please sit down. I have permitted the Minister to say something. The point is you want an answer. If you do like this, you will not get the answer.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : They cannot bulldoze the House for all the time...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Shri Munsu, are you going to speak? Or, Shall I speak? I do not know...(Interruptions) I am sorry, this is wrong. With all humility, I want to say one thing.

श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी : खुद प्रधान मंत्री आ गए और मंत्री नहीं आ सके? ... (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Munsu, you have had your say. You want a reply. Let the Minister say something. He is giving a reply.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Is it my duty to help them? I can only alert them...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, they are very much grateful to you.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Madam, Shri Dasmunsi was my leader. So, I should not say very much. He does have the personal right always to make me sit down...(Interruptions) But I would only say this much that he has the personal right to intervene. But the normal courtesy in the House is that when any Member is speaking, not the Minister, we do not intervene without asking that Member to yield. I am just reminding him about this. Of course, in my personal case, he can always do so. If I may submit, I never said anything...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have all seen you in form.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I have never said anything more than that. We have shown our good intentions. The issue is very serious. We are not saying that it is a light issue. The hon. Minister did try to bring to the notice of the House one thing...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): In what capacity is he speaking?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I am speaking as a Member of the Cabinet. He did say one thing...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : When the Departmental Minister concerned is here, how does he reply to this?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM:I am sorry. I think this point must be clarified in terms of the procedure.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Let it be clarified. Madam, kindly give your ruling.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I would agree to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think it is a joint responsibility. I have permitted him to say.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : In a Cabinet System of Government, the Prime Minister represents the Government. But the hon. Minister does not represent the Government...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is the joint responsibility.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I think the ruling is very clear. We have the collective responsibility.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is very unfortunate. If the Minister concerned was not here, certainly he could speak...(Interruptions)

17.00 hrs.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Madam, I have only said that I would only add something to what the hon. Minister had already said.

MR. CHAIRMAN :I thought you were helping to sort out the problem.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I thought I was helping, but it looks like my good friend, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi does not want me to do that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Madam, I only want that he should do good work there and not defend them wrongly. I want that his career should always be bright.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I only wish to assure them that, as a Government, we have taken it very seriously and we are looking into it.

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