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Title: Regarding arrest and imprisonment of Shri Vaiko, M.P. and leader of MDMK Party under POTA.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (POLLACHI): Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I am speaking about the illegal and immoral arrest of my leader, Shri Vaiko, Member of this House, Leader of MDMK Party from Tamil Nadu, under POTA. He was arrested about 156 days ago and he is under custody without any basic reason. No chargesheet has been framed and he is under custody.

It is unfortunate that he has been made to stand throughout the course of enquiry and for more than one and-a-half to two hours he has been made to stand in the court. He is undergoing unproclaimed and undeclared punishment in the court by making him to stand.

I wish to bring to the notice of the Central Government and the hon. Members of Parliament about making him to stand continuously in the court for one-and-a-half hours to two hours. I request that justice may be done to Shri Vaiko, Member of Parliament, who has been a genuine and true politician and who has been respected and given well wishes by all sections of the people from North to South as a gentleman with clean hands and fine past records. Shri Vaiko, who is a genuine politician and statesman, has been arrested and kept under custody without any rhyme or reason under POTA. He should be released immediately. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, I do not agree with the politics of Shri Vaiko but I oppose the way he is being treated. It is more than private preventive detention. Nobody knows what the actual charges against him are. There is no question of any trial. He cannot get any bail. I may not agree with him politically but as a citizen of India, he cannot be treated like this. As a Member of Parliament, he is representing so many people. I do not know why you should not go and do something instead of shouting and crying here. What are you doing? ...(*Interruptions*) It is shameful. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. C. KRISHNAN : The hon. Speaker has to give protection to him. Only in the Parliament we can raise this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What has happened is that POTA is being misused. For a few votes, they are doing it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Shri Vaiko is a very good friend of ours. He has been with us for many years. This cannot be permitted. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, we have supported POTA in good faith that it would not be misused against the politicians. But it is being misused now. Today it may be Shri Vaiko, tomorrow it may be some other Member. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Sir, you are the custodian of the House. POTA is being misused now. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. MOHAN : Sir, I associate with Dr. C. Krishnan. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I take note of your sentiments.

...(*Interruptions*)

श्री रघुनाथ झा (गोपालगंज) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हम सब सदन के सम्मानित सदस्य हैं लेकिन उनके साथ जो व्यवहार हो रहा है, (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : देखिए, जब मैं खड़ा हूँ तो आपको बैठना चाहिए। देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव जी, आप भी बैठिए।

(व्यवधान)

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार इस विषय में स्पष्टीकरण दे। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. The Minister, Shri Ananth Kumar wants to say something.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have requested the Minister to take note of the sentiments of the House. The Minister wants to say something.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR : Sir, for 156 days he is under custody. You are the custodian of the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please convey the feelings of the House to the concerned Minister.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Sir, I have taken note of the concern of the hon. Members. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Sir, you are the custodian of the House. POTA is being misused now. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I have taken note of the concern and the agitation of the hon. Members. I will convey it to the hon. Home Minister of India. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): That is only a casual approach. It is a very serious matter which is being raised. Shri Vaiko, the hon. Member, is languishing in the jail....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Another subject has started.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : When a very serious issue is raised, they are taking a very casual approach....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pramod Mahajan, why do you not control the hon. Member? You go there and control the hon.

Member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : That hon. Member is being detained....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister will speak to you. You please speak to the Minister.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : The matter is not serious but POTA is very serious.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य नोटिस भी देते हैं और सदन में गड़बड़ी भी करते हैं - दोनों बातें एक साथ कैसे हो सकती हैं।

â€ (ब्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey.