

**Title:** Introduction of the Indian Council of World Affairs Bill, 2000.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up item No.9.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to declare the Indian Council of World Affairs to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to declare the Indian Council of World Affairs to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith."

...(Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह ठीक नहीं है।

...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : राजो सिंह जी, आपको कल बोलने का मौका देंगे।

...(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Dasmunsi says.

(Interruptions)\*

श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी (रायगंज) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बिल जो अभी इंट्रोड्यूस हुआ है। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Dasmunsi says.

(Interruptions) \*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I oppose the introduction of this Bill, not just on the ground of legislative competence. It has legislative competence. Legislative competence is there.

By introducing this Bill, this Government is deliberately engineering a confrontation, exposing its total disregard to the judiciary.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, your notice in this regard has reached after 10 o'clock today.

\* Not Recorded

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I will take only two minutes.

Sir, the matter is lying in the court. The BJP Government is taking over one institution after another by force, to design their plan. The Executive Committee of the Indian Council of World Affairs is an elected body. Shri Jag Mohan wanted to capture this building by force. The High Court gave a stay. In violation of stay, they did it; on a matter of contempt, again it has gone. The matter is listed for hearing in the Delhi High Court on the 7<sup>th</sup> December. Deliberately by bringing the Ordinance, he wants to take it over. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, he is not talking of legislative competence. At the introduction stage, he can only talk and oppose on the ground of legislative competence. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he is not to reply now. This is not the way to interrupt. Let me complete and then let him talk. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I am talking to the hon. Speaker. He does not follow any rules in the House. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This is not fair. I will sit down and then let him react.

Sir, I strongly oppose the introduction of this Bill. In total disregard to the judiciary, they are doing it. The issue of contempt proceedings is lying in the court for hearing on the 7<sup>th</sup> December. By force, they brought forward the Ordinance to take over this organisation. I tooth and nail oppose its introduction. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, I have moved an amendment. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is introduction stage; we cannot take up any amendments now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I have moved a Statutory Resolution, disapproving the Ordinance. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak later and not now. We are in the introduction stage.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I paid very close attention to what my dear friend, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has stated. May I just cite very briefly three or four aspects?

Firstly, at this stage of introduction of a piece of legislation, it can be questioned only on the ground of competence of the legislature to consider it or not to consider it. He is good enough to say that it has legislative competence. ...(*Interruptions*) There is no *mala fide*. ...(*Interruptions*) I will come to that in a minute. ...(*Interruptions*) I will come to all these aspects. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: When the Minister is replying, please do not interrupt. This is not the proper way. If you want to say anything, you can do so, once he completes and not now.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the parliamentary practice.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, in this case, the question of competence of the House is not even being cited by the hon. Member. May I take this opportunity to inform the hon. Member – as he is no doubt informed – that we have a unanimous report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs, which recommended precisely such a step?

Thirdly, may I also inform the hon. Member that during the Prime Ministership of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi in 1985-86 to 1988-89, mindful of the irregularities that were taking place here, for the first time action began to be taken against this organisation? So, the financial assistance from the Government was discontinued and began to be progressively cut down.

Finally, on the question of the High Court of Delhi having granted any Stay, may I inform the hon. Member that if there was indeed a Stay, this Stay would have been on the operation of the Ordinance. There is no stay of the High Court. There was a case filed in the Chandigarh Court. The Supreme Court has therefore taken both the cases, in accordance with the law.

The legislature legislates and the judiciary interprets the law. I would appeal to the hon. Members not to curtail the powers of the legislature on the ground that judiciary is seized of the matter.

The matter is not *sub judice*. We are not violative of any judicial norms. We are acting entirely in accordance with the Constitution and we are taking a step to declare an Institution as venerable as the Indian Council of World Affairs at Sapru House as an Institution of national importance. I am astonished that my hon. Friend finds fault with it when it comes to declaring this Institution as an institution of national importance. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You do not know past history. It is not your declaration. It has already been declared as an institution of national importance. Since it is managed by the Congress people who are in the Executive Committee, by the design of RSS, you want to grab it by any force. ...(*Interruptions*) Now, what is important for you is to implement the dictates of the RSS. That is of national importance for you....(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): In the Committee, even the Congress Members supported it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Yes, I know. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Sir, he admits it. Then, what is the harm in introducing this Bill. ...(*Interruptions*) What is wrong with the RSS? ...(*Interruptions*) If Congress can do it, then RSS can also do it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You are not the Minister. ...(*Interruptions*) We will oppose it tooth and nail. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Minister's reply.

*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The Member is well within his right to support or oppose this. He can do whatever he wishes to. But I must express my disappointment that the hon. Member stretches the point to such an extent which is not expected of him. The Government is entirely clear and the Government is not persuaded by what the hon. ----

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\* Not Recorded

Member imputes so loosely. The Government is entirely persuaded to restore to this

Institution its importance as an Institution of national importance. Hence I seek the permission of the House to introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to declare the Indian Council of World Affairs to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I introduce the Bill.

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#### **STATEMENT RE : INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD**

#### **AFFAIRS ORDINANCE -- LAID**

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Indian Council of World Affairs Ordinance, 2000.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 2438/2000)