

Title: Regarding arrest of Shri Deepankar Bhattacharya, General Secretary of the CPI(ML) during a public agitation in front of the Jharkhand Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Jayant Rongpi, the issue which you want to raise is a State matter. In that case, how can you raise it?

DR. JAYANT RONGPI (AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT-ASSAM): Sir, the issue of democracy cannot be a matter of State. What I want to raise is about the murder of democracy in the newly formed State of Jharkhand.

On 1st March, my Party, CPI-ML, was organising a peaceful and democratic demonstration in front of the Jharkhand Assembly demanding the scrapping of Koel Karo Project and protection of *dalits*, minorities and weaker sections.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Rongpi, law and order is a State subject.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI : Sir, in a span of two months of its formation, the Jharkhand Government have resorted to firing thrice killing *dalits* and Muslims. Of course, there is a State Assembly there..â€¦ (Interruptions) This was a peaceful demonstration led by our National General Secretary, Shri Deepankar Bhattacharya. The issue is that the Jharkhand Government had arrested him on 1st March and till today, he has been kept in illegal custodyâ€¦(Interruptions) There is a total murder of democracy. He has been implicated in false charges and there is even a conspiracy to kill him in police custody.

Therefore, I demand that the Government should intervene in the matter and this murder of democracy should be stopped. I would like the entire House to support us on this issue. There may be political differences. But the basic right of a political party for peaceful and democratic opposition should always be upheld. I want the Central Government to intervene immediately and send a message to the Jharkhand Government in this regard. When the Jharkhand Government was formed, irrespective of political differences, all political parties supported it. And now, this Jharkhand Government have started curtailing the democratic rightsâ€¦(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Even though it is a State matter, I allowed him. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

DR. JAYANT RONGPI : It is not a State issue but it is an issue of democracy....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you go on doing like this, then everyone would want to raise the State matters only. Please wind up.

...(Interruptions)

DR. JAYANT RONGPI : Sir, the Central Government should respond to it. It is an issue of democracy. It cannot be termed as a State matter. It is a matter of basic democratic rights. So, I request that the Central Government should respond to it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Next, Shri Ramdas Athawale. Yours is also a State matter.

Next, Shri Hannan Mollah. Yours is an individual matter. How can you raise it?

Next, Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav. I think you have to give a proper notice for raising the privilege issue, not like this.