

Title: Demanded the Government's response to and statement regarding the allegedly corrupt defence deals.

रुक्मिणी (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जीरो आवर में क्या कोई नियम नहीं है कि इशू कैसे रोज करेंगे ?

अध्यक्ष (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मेरे पास लिस्ट हैं, लिस्ट के अनुसार सब को बुलायेंगे ।

अध्यक्ष (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जीरो आवर रोज ऐसे ही हो रहा है । दाशमुंशी जी, आपको फूलन देवी जी के बाद बुलायेंगे ।

अध्यक्ष (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please tell me, should I go according to the list or not?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House, especially the attention of the Minister of Defence, to a very very important matter pertaining to the interest of the Defence and the morale and strength of the Armed Forces, Air Force and the Navy as well as to defend the transparency in every deal that is being transacted in Defence, as is being claimed by the Government many a time.

On 1st March, 2001 a Starred Question No.120 was admitted in my name. I would like to quote it. It says:

" (a) Whether the Government are negotiating for purchase of Jet Trainer "Hawk" aircraft from Britain;

*Not Recorded.

(b) If so, whether in England itself, such aircraft have been declared obsolete;

(c) If so, the reasons as to why the Government are negotiating for the same; and

(d) If not, the delivery schedule of the AJT and the stage at which the matter stands at present?"

The answer given was: 'Yes, Sir, the negotiations are on'. The peculiar answer to my question whether it was obsolete, redundant or outdated was this and I would like to quote it:

"Certain airframe designs, especially the trainer aircraft ones, do not get outdated for considerable periods and also lend themselves to periodic upgrades to retain their effectiveness. Unless the training philosophy undergoes a change."

Now, these Advanced Jet Trainers are being negotiated by the Government with a company in England called BAE. Officially it has been declared both by the BAE and the Royal Air Force of Britain that this aircraft is no more required; it is an outdated technology and the on-line assembly point was closed in 1975. It is reported in the British Press that the company is closing its unit because of the threat of its not getting sold as also its technological restructuring will cause a lot of people lose their jobs. The share-prices got crashed. Finally, this technology is so bad that the Air Force in England conveyed to the Defence Ministry not to give it any more encouragement. Finally, its assembly line has been closed and in next three years this will be wound up...*(Interruptions)* Am I not permitted to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am only asking you to let other Members also speak.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is a very important matter. I want to bring it to your notice. You may first hear me and then give any ruling, I do not mind.

So, Sir, 66 aircraft are being on the negotiation line of the Ministry of Defence. This has been admitted in answer to the question. Earlier, each aircraft was offered 10 million dollar. Now, the price is negotiated at 21 million dollar per aircraft and the total deal for 66 aircraft comes to about Rs.7,000 crore. The tentative delivery schedule is, 24 aircraft will come in SKG condition and other 42 in CKG condition. This will be delivered within three years. The supply chain will start from next year.

When the technology has been declared obsolete, abandoned, what is the hurry on the part of the Government to clinch the deal at this exorbitant price which is detrimental to the cause of the Indian Air Force? The very Defence Minister after the Kargil war had said that 'we are not only competing or combating the enemy but combating it with higher efficiency'. Throughout the world this technology has been declared as outdated in all items of Defence, especially in the Jet Trainers. A number of crashes took place during training resulting in the death of our great pilots....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are the first speaker and there are other Members also who wish to speak.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : On this matter, all Members should join me....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is an important matter and that is why I have called you but do you mean to say that the notices given by other Members are not important?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I will be concluding my speech in a minute.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, the Minister of Defence is required to take the House into confidence as to how this negotiation for an aircraft of outdated technology, is going to be concluded.

Sir, the newspapers are flooded with the reports about the purchase of second-hand Mirage. If that aircraft is not a second-hand one, the Ministry of Defence could have given the denial. Till date, it did not give any denial on the Mirage purchase and whether they are second-hand or whether it paid more than Rs.630 crore. It did not give denial about the Hawk negotiations. They did not tell whether the technology is outdated or whether they are going to stop it. The country is witnessing the whole thing but Parliament is not taken into confidence. Therefore, I am compelled to bring it to your notice.

Sir, I hope that today the Minister of Defence shall make a statement on this matter. Otherwise, we shall have to expose the Government in this matter with all the materials that we have. In the interest of defence of our country, we cannot spare such kind of risky and reckless dealing on the part of the Government. It can jeopardise future preparedness of our defence. Therefore, Sir, I once again call the attention of the Government in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Government want to say anything on this matter?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the Government must respond....(*Interruptions*) There should be some response from the Government...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you allow me. Today, in a public place – in the Imperial Hotel – a company, called '*tehelka.com*', has indicted the Government of a very scandalous scam about Defence deal involving the top functionaries of the ruling party. ...(*Interruptions*) It is not an allegation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can raise it tomorrow.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dasmunsi, it is not a 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : No, no. My only desire is that this Government should take a proper stand and make a statement tomorrow to clear the mist over the nation involving Army officials and party functionaries. As a politician, I feel very sad if a document involving the Government and the party functionaries is shown before the media and the whole world in a public place.

As a Member of Parliament, I feel that there is a moral responsibility of the Government to come forward with a proper statement and clarify the position. That is what I want to say. It is a serious thing. It will create shocking

things tomorrow.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to again draw your attention to the issue that in the interest of the morale of the Armed Forces of India, some consideration of the Government should be there. Before the House adjourns today the details are to be given as to what is going on in the Imperial Hotel. The indictments with photo-prints are shown live on ZEE TV about this scandalous thing. If it is not cleared by the Government by this evening, it will create uproar tomorrow and it may demoralise the Armed Forces.

So, my humble appeal to the Treasury Benches is to please inquire into the matter and before the House adjourns today a statement is made in this regard. It is a terrible thing. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, we also associate ourselves with the views expressed by Shri Dasmunsi...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia will speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked the Government. But I cannot compel the Government.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked the Government. I cannot compel the Government to respond on a matter raised in the 'Zero Hour'.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have brought it to the notice of the House and I have asked the Government. But I cannot compel them.

...(*Interruptions*)

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी (खजुराहो) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इतने महत्वपूर्ण मामले पर सरकार राजनीति करना चाहती है। (व्यवधान) सरकार की खामोशी इस मामले में संदिग्ध है। (व्यवधान)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I think that such an important matter of national security should be brought up through a structured discussion. If it is so important, then a structured discussion should be brought so that the Government can reply it at a proper time...(*Interruptions*). Now do you want to listen to me or you want to listen to only what you want me to say? You give a notice at 10 o'clock, stand up in the 'Zero Hour', and you want me to react on the matter of AJT which is pending for the last 15 years. I am a Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and you want me to react as to which aircraft is going to be purchased...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : In other matters you can convey to the concerned Minister, but on this matter...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): You can convey it to the concerned Minister and you could also respond adequately...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: If you want me to convey the sentiments, I will convey them.