

Fourteenth Loksabha

Session : 8

Date : 26-07-2006

Participants : [Pal Shri Rupchand](#), [Yadav Shri Devendra Prasad](#), [Acharia Shri Basudeb](#), [Sharma Shri Anand](#), [Dasgupta Shri Gurudas](#), [Nayak Smt. Archana](#), [Swain Shri M.A. Kharabela](#)

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Title : Submission made by members regarding situation arising out of the recent Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, I strongly condemn the brutal military aggression by Israel on Lebanon.

Israel launched a full scale assault on Lebanon through massive aerial and naval bombardment. Ground forces also have crossed the border in southern Lebanon. This attack has primarily targeted the civilian population and till yesterday, more than 400 Lebanese have been killed. Two Indians were also reported to be killed. Hundreds were injured. Twenty per cent – about 7.50 lakh people of Lebanon have had to flee their places. This is 20 per cent of the population of Lebanon. Many of the residential areas of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, have been destroyed by Israeli forces. It is a brazen violation of international law and Geneva Convention which prohibits attack on civilian population. It is also totally unwarranted, disproportionate response to kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers.

Hence, I urge upon the Government of India that it should immediately suspend the purchase of weaponry from Israel[s16]. The Government of India should also support the demand for imposing international sanction on Israel. Continuously for more than ten days, Lebanon is being attacked by Israel. I have not seen any statement of condemnation by the Government of India.

In the past we have seen such a thing – you had to take the lead, when Iraq was attacked by America. I had been to Iraq 15 days prior to America's attack on Iraq. I demanded that the Government of India should condemn, as we did in the past, when North Korea was attacked by America; but we did not find such an action from the Government of India. The then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee responded and said that when Iraq would be attacked, then definitely the Government of India would condemn. But we had to stall the proceedings of the House continuously for three days and then, ultimately the Government agreed to pass a Resolution, and that too in Hindi and not in English.

I am surprised today that, when we are demanding that the Government of India should have an independent foreign policy, the Government of India is dithering and hesitating to condemn the brutal attack by Israeli forces on Lebanon. Why should the Government of India not take a decision to put pressure on Israel? Why should the agreement with Israel for purchase of weapons not be suspended? We should take a lead to mobilize international opinion to impose sanctions on Israel for diabolical attack on Lebanon. Thank you. ...
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait.

श्री मोहन रावले (मुम्बई दक्षिण-मध्य) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस बार मुझे बोलने का मौका दीजिए...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह क्या बात है, जिन लोगों ने नोटिस दिये हैं, मैं उन्हें एक-एक करके बुलाऊंगा।

...(व्यवधान)

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव (झंझारपुर) : इजरायल के नृशंस आक्रमण पर भारत की ओर से निंदा की जानी चाहिए...(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: I have got one slip from Shri Swain. I will consider it.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No other hon. Member's statement will be recorded. I will not allow this practice. Why are you saying all this, jumping the queue? I would not allow this. This shows that you are not concerned; if you had been concerned, you would have given a notice.

Now, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (PANSKURA): Something unbelievable is happening in the world. The gravest crime against humanity is being perpetrated with impunity by Israel, being backed up by the Bush Administration. Israel cannot have the courage to defy the international opinion and launch a full-scale war against a small country without some people drawing the strings from behind. Therefore, it is a combined attack by Israel and the Bush Administration on Lebanon in the name of fighting terrorism. We are also fighting terrorism in this country; we are also a victim of unwarranted terrorist actions; but India had never planned to launch a full-scale war against any neighbouring country to protect India's security. We had always believed that sanity and fight against terrorism need not be accompanied by barbaric action on the peaceful inhabitants of a country which may be helping the terrorists.

The basic point is Lebanon's public life has come to a standstill – all the airports are closed; all the ports are bombed; all the roads are devastated. Even hospitals are being bombed. One person from my constituency is now languishing in a hospital in Lebanon and he is in coma[V17].

Every day, I take information from the Government of India. Many Indians are affected. It is not that only Lebanese are affected. Therefore, the question is, can a country be allowed to behave like this, in total violation of the UN charter. If a country behaves like this in total violation of UN charter, should India remain silent? We have forgotten Nehru, Non-alignment and Indira Gandhi. We have forgotten our past traditions and, therefore, we are eating our own words and eating our own policies. India does not dare to raise its finger against Israeli aggression because it feels that will hamper India's friendship with United States. This is my serious allegation. I have a few suggestions to make.

I suggest that the Government of India must declare Israel as a down right aggressor.

Our Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Sharma should leave immediately for Middle East to talk to different States and build up pressure on reckless, mad administration of Israel.

India should send medical help to the People of Lebanon. We should help them. Why are we afraid of it?

India should express its solidarity with the people of Lebanon. Kindly take up with India's new friendship in Bush administration to tell Israel to immediately stop aggression.

India cannot remain a silent spectator when morality of the whole world is being tampered down by the military administration of Israel.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGHLY): Sir, this country has a glorious legacy of supporting struggle against imperialist occupations but it is a strange experience that this Government, although it is the 15th day of the naked aggression of a sovereign State, has not condemned it. It has not come out openly that what is happening is in gross violation of the international law.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Neither silently nor openly.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Even what we are hearing from the United Nations Secretary-General is really disappointing. He is saying that the cease-fire should immediately take place. We are now seeing that the cease-fire will take place at an appropriate time by which time the total aggression will be completed. This is the old history.

Our unfortunate part is, this Government is engaged in buying the second largest supplier of weapons to this country. This should be immediately stopped and along with our friends a pressure should be mounted. We have a lot of friends. At the WTO level we have found, we are proud of our Minister who stood up and told America that if this cannot continue, we cannot continue such negotiations where America is imposing unilateral terms. In another sphere, in our Foreign Policy, we are subjugating ourselves, trailing behind the strategic alliance of the US led leadership. They are backing Israel. They are racing in everywhere. This is continuing.

So, the least that should be done is, immediate cease-fire, immediate condemnation by India and mobilising public opinion throughout the world, mobilising international sanctions and immediate stoppage of purchase of weapons from this country which is a total aggressor of Lebanon.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we should have a response from the Government.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He will respond. Let me conduct the proceedings of the House. The Minister has agreed to respond. You cannot dictate either to me or to the Government, far less me.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (KENDRAPARA): Sir, four Indians were killed and one person reported missing in the ongoing Israeli attack in Lebanon. Thousands of Indians stranded in Lebanon are facing threat to their lives and are in constant fear.

Unfortunately, one of the Indians died during the Israeli bombings belongs to my constituency, Kendrapara in Orissa. The dead body of Shri Debesh Kumar Swain reached Kendrapara.

I urge upon the Central Government to give immediate financial assistance to the bereaved families of the NRIs, including Shri Debesh Kumar Swain, who died in Lebanon during the Israeli bombings[R18]. I would also request the Central Government to speed up the air lifting of the Indians trapped in the war-torn Lebanon.

MR. SPEAKER: Now hon. Minister to speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I respect your views. Please take your seats. All rules are there. Nobody has given notice, even then I am allowing. If I allow you, then how can I stop others? Therefore, I feel if all of us decide, there can be a full discussion on this. I will allow a discussion. Please give a notice. Mr. Swain, I request you to give a notice for discussion. I will allow you.

... (*Interruptions*)

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय है। ऐसी परंपरा रही है कि जब महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर चर्चा होती है तो सभी दलों को अपनी राय देने का अवसर मिलता है।

MR. SPEAKER: This is not permitted.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Sir, during 'Zero Hour' you could allow one person from every party.

MR. SPEAKER: Those of you who have given notice, out of them I have allowed.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Tell me how many I shall allow.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Then, just throw away the rule book.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, I am on a different point... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, he is saying that he is having a different view. If he is having a different view, he may be allowed. Let the House know where we stand.

MR. SPEAKER: I thank you all for your advice. But once I open the Pandora's box, there will be no end to it. Therefore, I am allowing only two more hon. Members, namely, Shri Swain and Shri D.P. Yadav.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I thank you for your kindness.

MR. SPEAKER: That is wrong. This kindness may be misused.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, on behalf of our Party, I very strongly condemn the terrorist organisation, Hejzbollah which kidnapped two Israeli soldiers in a cross border operation. This activity of Hejzbollah has led to the escalation of tension in the Middle East. Hejzbollah had in the past assassinated the Lebanese Prime Minister also. Terrorism in any form or with any intent must strongly be condemned. We also express our concern with regard to the death of hundreds of Lebanese and Israeli innocent citizens because of bombardment and firing of rockets. As hon. Archanaji said, one person from Orissa has also been killed.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed her to raise it.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, I thank you very much for that.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : थैंक्स की जरूरत नहीं है।

... (व्यवधान)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, through this august House I make an appeal to the United Nations for sending a peace keeping force to Israel-Lebanon border to function as a buffer between the warring parties and stop hostilities. This should be done immediately. India should appeal to the United Nations to send a peace keeping force.

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपका आभारी हूँ कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महत्व के इस विषय पर दो शब्द कहने का मौका दिया। इस्राइल द्वारा पिछले पंद्रह दिनों से जिस तरह से लेबनान पर बर्बरतापूर्ण हमला हो रहा है, उसमें न केवल लेबनान के 400 सिविलियन मारे गए हैं बल्कि भारत मूल के लोग भी आहत हुए हैं। स्थिति इतनी गंभीर हो गई है कि लेबनान में लोगों का जीवन पूरी तरह से अस्त-व्यस्त हो गया है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कानूनों का खुल्लम-खुल्ला उल्लंघन हो रहा है। सबको मालूम है कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मंच पर आज किसकी दादागिरी चल रही है। यू.एस. की दादागिरी चल रही है और यू.एस. प्रशासन भी इसको कहीं न कहीं ताकत दे रहा है। इस कारण से ही आज लेबनान की यह हालत हो रही है।

13.00 hrs.

आज जिस तरह की हालत हो रही है, उस पर भारत को मूक नहीं होना चाहिए। केन्द्र सरकार को मूकदर्शक बनने की जरूरत नहीं है। भारत सरकार को न केवल डिप्लोमेटिक दबाव बनाना चाहिए, बल्कि भारत सरकार को इसकी घोर भर्त्सना करनी चाहिए और हम समझते हैं कि आपको पक्ष में खड़ा नहीं होना चाहिए।... (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Only the reply of the hon. Minister would go on record.

(Interruptions) ... *

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. It is an important and serious matter. The hon. Minister is responding to it. He need not have responded, but he is responding. Please listen to him.

*m07

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA):
Hon. Speaker, Sir, the issue which has been raised by the hon. Members is a very serious one. The Government shares the anguish

* Not Recorded.

expressed by the Members over the situation, which is grave, resulting from the Israeli action in Lebanon. India has unequivocally condemned the Israeli action and the disproportionate and excessive use of force which has led to an escalation of an humanitarian cause and loss of a large number of innocent lives. In addition, the infrastructure of Lebanon has suffered considerable damage. At the same time, in our official statement and the position India has taken, we have also condemned Hizbullah's action. India has been talking to other countries. All our Missions in that region have been co-ordinating. We are for the immediate cessation of hostilities. As we have said, the situation is untenable and Lebanon has become a victim by default.

A large number of Indians were stranded there. We had 12,000 Indian nationals who had to be evacuated. The Government of India has issued advisory to all its nationals to keep their travel documents ready. Many of them had taken refuge in the Indian embassy there. At the same time, Indian missions in Jordan, Amman, Turkey and in Israel were also involved in this process of evacuation. Four Indian warships which were returning from a goodwill cruise in the Gulf of Suez were diverted to Cyprus and from there they went to Lebanon. Once the access was obtained, the evacuation of Indian nationals started within 72 hours after the hostilities were started. The first warship brought the Indian nationals to the port of Larnaka in Cyprus. Air India planes were sent there and the process is still continuing.

Regarding the death of Indian nationals, there is one confirmed death. The second one was not confirmed because the concerned individual was shown as missing. The Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri Navin Pattanaik had personally spoken to me in regard to this Indian national who hailed from the State of Orissa. Subsequently, the Chief Minister and me had spoken to each other and yesterday morning he confirmed that the man was found safe and he has since returned to India.

Sir, the Government of India is continuing all efforts to ensure the safety of its nationals and also to evacuate all those who want to come out. With regard to the humanitarian assistance, I would like to say that India had earlier, when the situation worsened in Gaza, had given humanitarian assistance and we are committed to do so in future also to the children and women in Palestine those who had suffered because of the situation.

Sir, lastly, regarding the Peace Keeping Force I would like to submit that it is a decision that is of the United Nations. Indian troops are there in Lebanon as part of the UNIFIL. In fact, that is the largest component. We have 800 soldiers there. We have been concerned about that but the Indian Government not only supports all efforts to restore peace but is also for the cessation of hostilities. As I have said, on the impression which was created and on what has been said, I would like to place the facts on record that India has not been silent on this issue. India has not deviated from its independent foreign policy and India has been very firm in condemning it.

The statements are there before me. I am prepared to lay them on the Table. That is all I can say.....
(Interruptions) I am not in a position to say anything beyond this.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2 p.m.

13.05 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch
till Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan *in the Chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up matters under Rule 377.

Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia – not present

Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi - not present

Shri Harisinh Chavda - not present

Shri Shri D. Vittal Rao - not present

Shri L. Rajagopal - not present

आज क्या बात है, नियम 377 के नोटिस देकर सब गायब हो गए हैं?

Shri Manskhbhai D. Vasava - not present