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Title: Regarding permission granted by the Government of India to Bangladeshi writer, Taslima Nasreen for her stay in India.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (PANSKURA): Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue to draw the attention of the Government.

Taslima Nasreem is a writer of eminence. She is a citizen of Bangladesh. She had to leave that country under fundamentalist's threat. She had roamed about around the world. Afterwards, she came to India and stayed in Kolkata. Yesterday, in a most tragic circumstances, she had to leave that city. It is a pity that Taslima Nasreem had to leave Kolkata, Kolkata of culture, Kolkata of tolerance. I apologize for all that has happened.

I am told that she is now in Jaipur. There is now an unconfirmed report that she has been asked to leave Jaipur also; I am not sure. Freedom of Expression is a right guaranteed under the Indian Constitution. If a writer, whatever may be his or her homeland, is hauled up, harassed and threatened for writing something, which is according to his or her own conviction, then there should be no persecution. That is our position.

Now, the position is that she has said that she would like to live in India and she would like to die in India. She says that India is her home. As the visa was granted by the Government of India, should the Government of India not ensure her protection during her stay in India in any place it may be, including West Bengal? While a lady is in distress, moreover she is an eminent writer, she should have a place to stay to lead a peaceful life.

I would, therefore, appeal to the Government of India to protect her stay in India in any place. I would be extremely happy if the Government of West Bengal takes the responsibility of her protection in Kolkata itself.

But there is an additional point. The additional point is that if Taslima Nasreen applies for Indian citizenship, I would appeal to the Government of India to consider granting her the citizenship because that is in consistence with India's highest traditions. If Dalai Lama could be given protective asylum in India, much to the criticism and annoyance of many other quarters, should not Taslima Nasreen be allowed?

I would only say...

**सभापति महोदय :** दोनों अलग-अलग मुद्दे हैं।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I am on my last point.

**सभापति महोदय :** आपकी बात सुन ली गई है।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

**सभापति महोदय :** और भी बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय हैं। आपकी बात हो गई है।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I have only one point to say. The country should not surrender to any form of fundamentalism, be it Hindu fundamentalism or Muslim fundamentalism. That is what I wanted to say on this...(Interruptions)

**प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दक्षिण दिल्ली) :** सभापति महोदय, हम भी इनके साथ एसोसिएट कर रहे हैं।

**सभापति महोदय :** यद्यपि आपने नोटिस नहीं दिया है, फिर भी हम आपको एसोसिएट कर रहे हैं।

â€¦(व्यवधान)[N14]

**सभापति महोदय :** श्री मुंशी राम के अलावा और किसी माननीय सदस्य की बात रिकार्ड में नहीं जा रही है।

...(व्यवधान) \*

**सभापति महोदय :** उनके अपने विचार हैं। आप किसी माननीय सदस्य को मजबूर नहीं कर सकते कि वे क्या विचार रखें।

â€¦(व्यवधान)[N15]

**13.00 hrs.**

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सभापति महोदय : ठीक है, ये उनके विचार हैं।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

\* Not recorded

सभापति महोदय : मुंशी राम जी की बात के अलावा कुछ भी रिकार्ड में नहीं जायेगा।

â€¦(व्यवधान) \*

सभापति महोदय : मुंशी राम जी, एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय उठा रहे हैं इसलिए आप बैठ जाइये।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

सभापति महोदय : आप बैठिये। गवर्नमेंट को इस बात के लिए कम्पेल नहीं किया जा सकता। एक विषय उठाया जिसे सुन लिया गया।

â€¦(व्यवधान)