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Title: Regarding submission on reported missing files relating to allocation of Coal Blocks.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY : Sir, it is under Rule 372.

I have no objection to the discussion being carried out on the missing coal files and on the Statement made by the Leader of the Opposition and other very important leaders. I am not speaking on the merits of the matter. But I want to understand, just for my knowledge, that under what rule we are discussing it.

You can say that we are doing this to bring peace in the House. But, at least, Sir, we must observe the Rule and follow the procedures. Rule 372 says that if the Minister makes a Statement, then there will be no discussion on the Statement.

The Prime Minister made a statement yesterday and he left the House. Some Members have pointed out that it is not a proper courtesy to leave the House immediately after speaking. But that was not Rules of Procedure; that was a rule of behaviour. It is written that the Member should not leave immediately after he has given a speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY : Sir, let me complete. If a discussion was to take place, it can only take place under Rule 342 where any Statement can be taken into consideration. Unless there is a proper notice and if you allow rampant speeches, then the rules of the House are not observed.

I would like you to illuminate me under what rule it is being discussed. I am not speaking on behalf of my party. My colleague Mr. Kalyan Banerjee will be speaking on the subject.

But please explain to me under what rule this discussion on the missing coal files is being carried on. If you say that "we are using discretionary power", you tell me under what discretionary powers, you are allowing a discussion on this...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please take your seat.

The hon. Speaker had received a notice, and that notice was disallowed. The Speaker had given the ruling yesterday that after the Prime Minister's speech, there cannot be a discussion on that. But today, considering the precedent in this House, it was allowed. The precedent is that on a matter of public importance, the Speaker can permit; and using that precedent, we are allowing a discussion. So, a few Members would be allowed to speak.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY : Under what rule is this discussion taking place?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please understand.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. This is enough.

...(*Interruptions*)

सभापति महोदय : आप बैठिए।

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Saugata Roy, you are very right that on the statement of the Prime Minister, a discussion is not allowed as per Rule 372. But there is a precedent in this House; and the Speaker uses that discretion and allows such discussion. Actually, this is not a discussion. These are only submissions. In a few minutes time, the leaders who want to speak and have already intimated to the Chair that they want to speak, can only make a submission.

This is not a discussion; this is only a submission. Please take only two or three minutes each.

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