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Title : The Prime Minister made a statement on Newspaper Report on Payment of Cash for Votes.

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Madam Speaker, yesterday several hon. Members raised allegations based on reports in a newspaper of what purport to be 'cables' from the US Embassy in New Delhi to their authorities in Washington. The Government of India cannot confirm the veracity, contents or even the existence of such communication. I may point out that many of the persons referred to in those reports have stoutly denied the veracity of the contents.

Madam, an issue was raised that the offence of bribery was committed in India. The Government rejects that allegation absolutely and firmly. Yet, if you remember that in July, 2008, in the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, the Government moved a Motion of Confidence. In an open vote that was taken on the floor of the House, the Government won the confidence of the Lok Sabha by 275 votes for and 256 votes against.

The allegations of bribery were investigated by a Committee constituted by the Fourteenth Lok Sabha. The Committee had concluded that there was insufficient evidence to draw any conclusion of bribery.

Madam, I am disappointed that Members of the Opposition have forgotten what happened thereafter. Upon the conclusion of the term of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, there was a general election. In that general election, the Opposition parties repeated their allegations of bribery in the trust vote. How did the people respond to those allegations? The principal Opposition Party which had 138 seats in the Fourteenth Lok Sabha was reduced to 116 seats in the Fifteenth Lok Sabha. The Left Parties, found that their tally was reduced from 59 to 24. It is the Congress Party alone which increased its tally from 145 to 206, an increase of 61 seats.

Madam, it is unfortunate that the Opposition continues to raise old charges that have been debated, discussed and rejected by the people of India. It is most surprising that speculative, unverified and unverifiable communication should be given dignity and seized upon by the Opposition parties to revive old charges that have been soundly rejected.

Madam, I wish to make it clear that no one from the Congress Party or the Government indulged in any unlawful act during the trust vote during July, 2008. The UPA-I Government always enjoyed the confidence of the people and the Fourteenth Lok Sabha. The UPA-II Government has been formed in the Fifteenth Lok Sabha and enjoys the confidence of this House and the people of India. Thank you very much.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as per rules, no questions are allowed and if you want to raise a discussion, you may give a proper notice please.

...(Interruptions)

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (विदिशा): अध्यक्ष महोदया, ...(ल्यवधान)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing else will go on record.

*(Interruptions) **

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री, विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री तथा पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री (श्री पवन कुमार बंसल):

अध्यक्ष महोदया, अब तक ये इस बात को लेकर शोर कर रहे थे कि प्रधानमंत्री स्टेटमेंट दें। उन्होंने डिनाइ किया है। क्या ये चाहते हैं कि हम इनकी बात मान

लें...(व्यवधान) क्या ये लोग यह चाहते हैं कि ये जो कह रहे हैं, उसे हम मान लें? क्या विपक्ष का यह कहना है कि जो ये कहते हैं कि रिपोर्ट में कहीं भी कुछ आ जाये, एक आदमी की बिना पर सरकार उसको मान ले?...(व्यवधान)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing else will go on record.

*(Interruptions) â€ˆ**

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, you have your Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam Speaker, after you have given a ruling...*(Interruptions)*

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : अध्यक्ष महोदया, सदन में वक्तव्य के बाद ...(व्यवधान)

MADAM SPEAKER: Rules do not permit.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I am bound by the rules. If you want a discussion, you can give a notice.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3.30 p.m.

14.06 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past
Fifteen of the Clock.*

15.31 hrs

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty-one minutes past
Fifteen of the Clock.*

(Shri Inder Singh Namdhari in the Chair)

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा (हज़ारीबाग): महोदय, प्रधानमंत्री जी ने जो वक्तव्य दिया है, वह वक्तव्य इस देश की राजनीति में ...(व्यवधान) एक नया अध्याय शुरू करता है...(व्यवधान)

श्री जगदम्बिका पाल : महोदय, उस पर व्यवस्था आ चुकी है...(व्यवधान)

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा : और हर अपराधी को उन्होंने इस बात की छूट दी है...(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up Item No.13, further discussion on the Resolution moved by Dr. Bhola Singh on the 21st of August, 2010. Shri Bhola Singh to continue.

...(Interruptions)

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा : हर अपराधी को छूट दी है कि अपराध कसे, चुनाव लड़ो और अगर चुनाव जीत...(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only Shri Bhola Singh's statement will be recorded in the proceedings.

*(Interruptions) â€ˆ**