

>

Title: The Minister of Finance made a statement regarding agitation in Tashkent, Russia about Bhagwad Gita.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam Speaker, with your permission, I would like to share information with this distinguished House. I am sorry, Madam, my voice is cracked. As the Leader of the Opposition and other hon. Members will recollect, there was an agitation when the news appeared that some organizations in Tashkent in Russia, moved in the Court and sought a ban on *Bhagwad Gita*, because of an extremist language it has.

Yesterday, I received information from the Foreign Secretary that the higher court, in which the case was being heard, have rejected the petition and clearly demonstrated that even those who filed the petition and made comments, did not go through the original text of the language. They depended on the translation of somebody and on the basis of that came to some erroneous conclusions. As the hon. External Affairs Minister, while responding to the queries of the hon. Members, stated that it was absurd and his observations have been vindicated by the judgment of the Russian court.

I thought that I should share this information with the hon. House.

---