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Title: Regarding issue of notice by the Supreme Court to the Centre and Election Commission pertaining to a petition on grant of pension to lawmakers.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Thank you, Madam. I bring to your attention to something which concerns the honour and prestige of MPs and of the Indian Parliament. The hon. Supreme Court on Wednesday issued a notice to the Central Government and to the Election Commission on a petition moved by an NGO Lok Prahari as to why the cost of MPs' perks and pensions should be borne by the taxpayers.

As you know Madam, the MPs' allowances and pension is covered by an Act of 1954 which was amended in 2006. By issuing and accepting a notice on MPs' perks and pensions, the hon. Supreme Court is actually transgressing into the area of Parliamentary privileges and their rights. We are not asking as to why the Judges of the hon. Supreme Court are being paid pension. But, why the hon. Supreme Court should ask that why MPs are being paid pension? This is not the first example of the hon. Supreme Court interfering into the affairs of the Parliament. You are the custodian of our rights in the Parliament. I bring to your notice and through you that of the Government that such transgressions by the hon. Supreme Court in the exclusive areas of MPs' privileges, perks and pensions, which are part of the law of the land, should not be allowed.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Why ex-MPs are also provided pension?

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: They are asking why ex-MPs are provided pensions, whereas it is guaranteed by law. Madam, we should take a stand as a whole in this House against this hon. Supreme Court's attitude.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shrimati Kothapalli Geetha,

Adv. Narendra Keshav Sawaikar,

Shri Nishikant Dubey,

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra,

Shri Om Birla,

Shri Arjunlal Meena,

Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat,

Shri Devji M. Patel,

Shri Rahul Kaswan,

Shri Harish Meena and

Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Prof. Saugata Roy.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Madam, our learned friend, Prof. Saugata Roy Ji, has raised a very important issue that is of the hon. Supreme Court of India. I think Madam every section of this august House agrees with both of us that the rights and privileges of this Parliament is sacrosanct. It is the right of the hon. House to decide and determine the salaries, pensions and allowances of the Hon. Members of both the Houses of Parliament.

He has talked about the provisions of the Act of 1954 but at same time, it is a matter of constitutional mandate. According to article 106 which talks about the salaries and allowances of Members:

"The members of either House of Parliament shall be entitled to receive such salaries and allowances as may, from time to time, be determined by the Parliament."

It means that this Parliament has every right to decide about salaries, allowances and pensions.

Madam, you are the protector of the right of this Parliament and the entire House is with you to uphold this right...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : बस-बस, आपको बिल्लाने की जरूरत नहीं है। I have not called you.

...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : प्लीज इस पर कोई चर्चा नहीं होनी है। क्या आप उस बात का विरोध कर रहे हैं?