

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : It does not make any difference to me whether the Prime Minister talks to me or not. The people who do not want to talk, are saying...*(Interruptions)*. His views seems to be correct. This question is being raised whether the Government of Bihar gave cooperation in this matter or not and the Government should inform about it. What is the need of making hue and cry in this manner ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV : Laloo ji has announced...*(Interruptions)* Jail Bharo ...*(Interruptions)*

12.43 hrs.

#### RE: ALLEGED SURVEILLANCE OF MPs

*[English]*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, I am thankful to your for giving me the time. I am also grateful to Shri Chandra Shekhar for his nice intervention.

I want to draw your attention to a very serious matter. It concerns all the Members of this House. There is a serious report that the Intelligence Bureau people are keeping surveillance on the Members of Parliament inside the Parliament premises. The Prime Minister, all the Ministers and a few important Members of Parliament are entitled to come to the Parliament premises with security and we have no objection to that. But if the IB people are keeping surveillance on the activities of the M.Ps., it concerns the dignity of the House and the privileges of the Members. I would like to tell you - my party's Chief Whip is present here - that seven days before, one of our staff members in the office told me that one IB official was coming inside our party's office and asked me to kindly nab him. The moment I went there, he ran away. I brought it to the notice of our party's Chief Whip...*(Interruptions)* Yes, in our party's office in the Parliament House. I tell you, Sir, that if there is an iota of truth in the report that has appeared today, the Government, in its full responsibility, should come out with a statement, either accepting it or denying it. If they accpet it, they should tell us the reasons for which the IB officials are operating inside the Parliament premises. If they deny it, we do not mind that. But the fact remains that this has created a serious embarrassment for all the parties, irrespective of the party they belong to. We are entitled to meet any M.P. in the Central Hall, we can go to library, and we can go to canteen. We may have different kinds of talks with

people. IB has not right to keep an eye on us within the Parliament premises...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Sir, only, MPs are criminals in the country...*(Interruptions)* In view of the Government there are only two types of criminals, nobody else is criminal in the country...*(Interruptions)*. It is the duty of the Government...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I share Shri Dasmunsi's concern. We have discussed this matter in the Executive of our Parliamentary Party. We too have an Intelligence Bureau surveillance outside our office on a daily basis.

Sir, the rot really set in in 1984, and that rot of 1984 set in when we permitted the dilution of the authority and responsibility of the Chair for the total security within the premises of Parliament. The day we permitted external agencies — I hope Shri Chandra Shekhar will forgive me — the day we permitted the S.P.G. elements to enter the premises of the House, the day we permitted the C.R.P.F. elements to enter the premises of the House, to provide protection to Parliament, which is the responsibility of the Chair, that day the responsibility of the Chair was voluntarily diluted and thereafter the presence of the I.B. and other such agencies has become an inevitability. It has been a presence not since today or yesterday but it has been a presence since 1984. Repeatedly we have brought this to the notice of the hon. Speaker that this is a violation of the authority of this Parliament which theoretically we call sovereign and of which the total responsibility of security rests only with the Chair. We accepted it. All of us accepted it. The day we accepted this dilution of the inviolability of Parliament, the inevitability of Intelligence Bureau was absolutely on the cards. We accept S.P.G. and all kinds of armed people to roam the corridors of Parliament.

I have often pointed out that these people sit with their fingers on the trigger. Nowadays it is monsoon. But in the heat of summer they keep dozing. I have often expressed an apprehension that what if they start fighting with each other? What if suddenly somebody pulls a trigger by accident?

Sir, this is a very serious matter. It is not simply a question of surveillance and supervision over Members of Parliament. By all means you carry out your surveillance on the B.J.P. We are an open book. An I.B. man has been sitting in front of our parliamentary office. What is the point of protesting? To whom do we protest? This Government? This has been an issue which the Chair ought to have taken very seriously because we

have violated the totality of what we theoretically call the sovereignty of this Parliament and we are responsible...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I agree with Shri Jaswant Singh that the question of security and safety of this building and the Members rests with the Chair. On various occasions we have discussed on this and meetings were held on this. We were told that there are serious apprehensions of breach of peace, danger to even the Parliament building and, therefore, we had to leave it to the Speaker on many occasions. In your judgement, in your wisdom you had to take a decision because we were not even told the details of the nature of apprehensions that were there. It happened that we were sometimes summoned to be told that a serious situation may arise because of threats. Therefore, we had to leave it to the hon. Speaker. But, surely and obviously that does not mean surveillance on M.Ps. Protecting this building or protecting the M.Ps. from terrorism or somebody or some other similar situation does not mean the Members should be under surveillance. This is objectionable. I am sure if there is any such move it should be discontinued and the Government should make a statement on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will only say that this is a very serious matter and the Government should take note of it.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why are you annoyed? I have allowed Shri Azmi. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let the hon. Minister say something. Please allow the Minister.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Chirayinkil) : Sir, there are so many cameras here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why do you not listen to me? The hon. Minister is speaking.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, I have to mention only one thing. This news item appeared in the *Indian Express* on the front page that all MPs are being observed and that they are under the scrutiny of IB. This is the most insulting news towards MPs...*(Interruptions)* The news item is projected on the front page. Who has given this news? Is it a fact? If it is happening so, it should be stopped forthwith and precautions should be taken by the Speaker. The entire House should be taken into confidence in this regard.

It should be ensured that there is no surveillance in the Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let it be completed first.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue raised by Shri Priyaranjan Das Muni is a very important issue. It is a question of dignity and decorum of entire Parliament. It is not a question which could be averted.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : What is the need for him to speak?

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one officer of the rank of Joint-Secretary is sitting in the premises of Parliament House for security purposes. That is why CRP, SPG or IG have nothing to do here...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why do you lose your temper?

*[Translation]*

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Apart from the security of Parliament, the Government should withdraw any of the security agencies, whether it is SPG, IG or CRP. It should be withdrawn from today onwards.

*[English]*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Sir, in the wake of the decision that has been delivered by the Kerala High Court, I understand that the Fundamental Rights of the people and the political parties have been infringed...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In addition to this, there are other issues also. I take up the other issue and you again switch over to the first one.

*[English]*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : The trade unions and other organisations, especially the peasantry take recourse to movements and realise the demand. Despite various types of legislations, land reforms could not have been effected in West Bengal unless the peasantry of West Bengal had risen to the call and fought for realising the demand and materialising it. Subsequently, the Government had taken it up and legalised all the things. Therefore, I request the entire House to discuss the matter and come to a decision because in the year of fiftieth anniversary of our Independence we find that there is an imbalance between the rights and privileges of the Judiciary, Executive and Legislature. Here is an