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Title: Regarding opening of CBSE schools on 25th December, 2014 to celebrate Good Governance Day.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam Speaker, I am thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak on a very important subject.

Observing Holy Christmas Day, the 25<sup>th</sup> December as Good Governance Day, has created a lot of agony and uneasiness amongst the students of the country. For the last two days we have been raising this issue with great concern but the response from the Government side is totally misleading and incorrect. The hon. Minister, Venkaiah Naiduji has replied on the floor of the House that there is no circular to say that they must run the school on the day of Holy Christmas, and only online essay competition is organized. This is totally incorrect. The circular says, and I am quoting the circular:

"You are requested to ensure that Good Governance Day is celebrated in all JNVs under your region. A consolidated report specifying activities carried out in all JNVs is to be submitted by e-mail along with the photograph and video recording to this office on 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2014." Madam, how can they send the video recordings and photographs of the function without opening the school? How can they send it? ...(*Interruptions*) Second, today some of the newspapers have carried the news of a letter.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** रोज-रोज न्यूजपेपर की बात मत कहिए।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : I am not reading the newspaper. I am telling the House that a letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> December and signed by HRD Ministry's Joint Secretary, asked the universities and colleges to organize seminar on use of technology and innovations in promoting good governance and hold a competition on oratory on 25<sup>th</sup> December. It also announced three prizes in each category with cash prizes of Rs.15,000, Rs.10,000 and Rs.5000. ...(*Interruptions*) Hon. Minister was saying that there was nothing mandatory but by this letter again stated that a comprehensive report on observance of Good Governance Day and on holding of oratory competition in university has to be sent to the Ministry by December 29.â€¦(*Interruptions*)

I have another letter signed by the Joint Secretary, School Education also instructing to the CBSE schools for observing Good Governance Day. AICTE, IITs and IIMs are also the temples of education. They have also got the same circulars. â€¦(*Interruptions*)

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** रोज-रोज न्यूज पेपर की बात नहीं करते।

...(*व्यवधान*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : The statements made by the hon. Ministers are incorrect. Now, the HRD Ministry is going with the agenda of *Sangh Parivar* by hurting the religious sentiments of the people by asking them to observe Atal ji's birthday on December 25, the holy Christmas Day. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIHA NAIDU): Hon. Madam, from the Government I want to clarify it. ...(*Interruptions*)

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** यह क्या हो रहा है। बैठ जाइए।

...(*व्यवधान*)

SHRI M. VENKAIHA NAIDU: Madam, this is not fair. ...(*Interruptions*) He has taken my name.â€¦(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : Madam, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of HRD, through you, whether she is admitting the circular issued on December 12 signed by a Joint Secretary, HRD Ministry, Government of India and the circular signed by the Navodaya Commissioner.

Hon. Venkaiah ji, I respect you a lot. I also want to ask this from you. Yesterday you made a false statement before the House. We need an apologetic statement from the hon. Minister through you, Madam. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to know the plan of the Government for December 25<sup>th</sup> is. Are you going to observe the day? I would like to have a clarification from the Government. Thank you very much. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nobody will speak now. Everyday it can be something like that. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** हो गया, आप बैठ जाइए। नहीं अब कोई नहीं बोलेगा। I am sorry. Everyday it can be something like that.

...(*व्यवधान*)

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** बैठिए, कल भी मैंने कहा था, इस पर ऑब्जर्बेशन दे दिया था।

...(*व्यवधान*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, do you want to say something on this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Madam, I want to put the record straight. ...(Interruptions)

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** सब लोग नहीं बोलेंगे।

...(व्यवधान)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: People should not be allowed this sort of politicization of the issues. It is a very sensitive issue. ...(Interruptions) I do admit it. ...(Interruptions) Please, bear with us. You had your say....(Interruptions) Let us not mislead the country either from this side or from that side. ...(Interruptions) You said, 'Sangh Parivar'. ...(Interruptions) What is Sangh Parivar in this? ...(Interruptions) The entire country knows who is following the *privar* politics, family dynasty and all ...(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker, Shri Venugopal has raised an issue. From the Government side the other day I myself here and the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha have clarified it. The point is that when a particular day is announced by the Government, it is observed in the institutions. If the institutions are in holidays, it is observed even at their place of residence also. Gandhi Jyanti is a holiday but essay competitions are conducted a number of times. Does it mean to say that we have no respect for Gandhi ji?â€ (Interruptions)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : There is no Christmas Day on that day....(Interruptions)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: What can I do if my great former Prime Minister is born on the Christmas Day, which is a holiday? ...(Interruptions) Can I change it? ...(Interruptions) Karunakaran ji, you are a very senior Member. Please sit down...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Venugopal ji, is it the way? मैंने आपको दो बार, तीन बार एक ही मैटर को उठाने के लिए अलाऊ किया है। Everyday you will say something and still you are interfering like this. This is not proper.

...(Interruptions)

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** आप तो बैठ ही जाइए। यह क्या है, तीन लगातार इसे उठाने के लिए दे रही हूँ।

...(व्यवधान)

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** खड़गे जी, आप बैठ जाइए।

...(व्यवधान)

**श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे :** संघ का साथ, परिवार का विनाश। ...(व्यवधान)

**श्री एम. वैकैय्या नायडू :** फैमिली के साथ कांग्रेस का विनाश, देश का विनाश। ...(व्यवधान)

**माननीय अध्यक्ष:** आप क्यों टोकते हैं? क्या हो गया, क्या इसका कोई मतलब है?

â€ (व्यवधान)

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** वैकैय्या जी, आप अपनी बात कहिए।

â€ (व्यवधान)

**श्री एम. वैकैय्या नायडू:** आप लोग बैठिए। खड़गे जी और हमने आपस में कहा। इन्होंने मेरे परिवार के बारे में कहा, मैंने आपके परिवार के बारे में कह दिया, बराबर हो गया।...(व्यवधान)

Madam, there is a circular issued by the Joint Secretary. करुणाकरन जी, प्लीज़ थोड़ी करुणा दिखाइए।...(व्यवधान)

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Madam, he has to take back that word. ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) â€ \*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: If he takes back that word, I also take back my word. I have no problem. ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing except the Minister's statement will go on record.

(Interruptions) â€ \*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: The circular states:

"Please refer to my DO letter of even number dated 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014 regarding Observance of Birth Anniversary of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister, as a Good Governance Day. I would request you to organize a seminar on the topic of 'Use of Technology and Innovations in Promoting Good Governance' and a competition of Oratory (*Bhaashan Shailiee*) in such manner that Christmas holidays are not disturbed. Therefore, the celebrations relating to the Birth Anniversary of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee may be completed prior to Christmas break by the Central Universities and Colleges under their purview."

This is the Government's circular. There is no question of disturbing Christmas at all. People will celebrate Christmas; people will also celebrate Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee's Birthday as a 'Good Governance Day'. There is no contradiction; there is no conflict; and there is no disrespect for Christmas. We will celebrate Christmas. ...(*Interruptions*) If you do not want to listen, then you can go away. What can I do? ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Venkaiah Ji, have you completed your statement?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Madam, I have to put the record straight. The circular issued on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1987 states:

"The Vidyalayas being residential in its character, there is no question of declaring holiday and sending the children to their homes except for authorized vacation period. All festivals should be celebrated in the Vidyalayas only and children should not be permitted to visit their homes during the festival time."

This circular was dated 13<sup>th</sup> April, 1987. Who was in the Government in 1987? They must be aware that this circular was issued during the Congress regime.

So, Madam, let us not try to create unnecessary tensions in society. Let us take advantage of this House and put the factual position before the people. Christmas will be celebrated; and Vajpayee Ji's Birthday will also be celebrated as a 'Good Governance Day'. There is no question of changing any of these two programmes.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** डॉ. सत्यपाल सिंह।

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*) अक्षर \*।

**12.28 hrs**

*At this stage, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Shri P. Karunakaran, Prof. Saugata Roy and some other hon. Members left the House.*

...(*Interruptions*)

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** मैंने बोल दिया है।

अक्षर (व्यवधान)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record, except the submission of Shri Satyapal Singh.

(*Interruptions*) अक्षर \*।

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Madam, it is a very sensitive issue and a wrong signal should not go to the country. There is no question of any disrespect towards Christmas. People should celebrate Christmas. However, they should not mislead and that too from the Lobby. They should be there in their seat and then say something. Making the charge that the Minister has misled is wrong. We have not misled anybody. People are happy and quiet. Let us not create pandemonium here and then send a wrong message to the people. Nothing is going to happen. Communal peace will be observed. Christians will celebrate Christmas; some of us may also go to their functions, and all the people will participate in Shri Vajpayee's Birthday Anniversary. That is the factual position.