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Title: Regarding hostage crisis in Sydney, Australia.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam Speaker, though, to some extent, there is a relief, I want to know about the incident and a full statement from the Minister concerned.

On Monday morning, a gunman took an unknown number of hostages in a chocolate café in Martin Place in Sydney. The drama began around 9.45 a.m. in Martin Place, a plaza in the heart of the city's financial and shopping district that is packed with holiday shoppers this time of the year. Many of those inside the café were taken hostage as they stepped in for their morning coffee.

Sometime later, five people escaped from the café. Two people inside the café held up a flag with an Islamic declaration of faith that has often been used by extremists, raising fears that a terrorist incident was playing out in the heart of Australia's biggest city.

The crisis in Sydney finally ended after 15 hours as all the hostages were rescued by police at the Lindt Chocolate Café in Martin Place. The gunman, however, has not yet been captured.

An Indian techie, employee of Infosys, was also taken hostage. In the newspaper, it is stated only one was taken but some other newspapers have said that two people were taken. That is why, we want to know the actual figure. How many people were really captured or taken hostage and how many people were released? I want a statement from the Minister concerned so that the entire country should know about the real ongoing incident.

कौशल विकास और उद्यमिता मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी): महोदया, जिस विषय को साइने साहब ने उठाया है, यह सिर्फ भारत के लिए ही नहीं बल्कि पूरी दुनिया के लिए बहुत बड़ा विषय है। जिस तरह से आतंकवादी प्रवृत्ति पूरी दुनिया में फैल रही है... (व्यवधान)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY : This matter is pertaining to the External Affairs Minister. Why is he replying on it? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: What is your problem, Sir? I am a Minister in the Government. ... (Interruptions) Who are you to ask me to stop? ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Saugata Roy ji, this is not fair. Please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: What is your problem, Mr. Saugata Roy? ... (Interruptions) Madam, this is the habit of these people.... (Interruptions) If I am representing the Government, who is he to question me? ... (Interruptions) I am responding to him, who are you? ... (Interruptions) Who are you? ... (Interruptions) I am responding to him... (Interruptions) This is not the way... (Interruptions) मैं बता रहा हूँ... (व्यवधान)

मैंडम, यह तरीका ठीक नहीं है। साइने साहब ने रिकवेस्ट किया है और मैं यह कहने वाला हूँ कि सदन में इसका उत्तर दिया जाएगा। अगर इस पर भी इनको आपत्ति है, इनको लगता है कि इनकी हर इच्छा की पूर्ति हो, यह इस सदन में संभव नहीं है, यह मान कर चलना होगा। ... (व्यवधान)

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे : ऐसा नहीं है, अगर आपके कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर नहीं हैं, फॉरिन स्टेट मिनिस्टर हैं तो वे जवाब दे सकते हैं। ... (व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: वे यही बोल रहे हैं कि दे देंगे।

â€¦ (व्यवधान)

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे : वे खुद ही समझते हैं कि यह इम्पोर्टेंट मेटर है। ... (व्यवधान) जब इम्पोर्टेंट मेटर है तो खुद ही उनको यहां आकर स्टेटमेंट देना चाहिए। ... (व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: वे पार्लियामेंट अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर हैं, I have allowed him to speak.

â€¦ (व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: कृपा कर आप बैठ जाइए। हर समय उठ कर बोलना आवश्यक नहीं है। Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) â€¦

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE : How can he question a Member, "Who are you to stop me?" ... (Interruptions) He is a Member. He has got every right to ask. ... (Interruptions) You cannot challenge a Member. ... (Interruptions) You can plead that you can answer. That is a different question. But, you cannot say, "Who are you to ask me?" ... (Interruptions) This is unfair. ... (Interruptions) It is against the principle and it is against the rules. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I have allowed him to speak. हरेक को बोलने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। कृपा कर आप बैठ जाइए।

â€¦(लक्ष्यान)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Madam, if I am speaking something and even if the Opposition is not ready to give that space to a Parliamentary Affairs Minister, I have to understand really what is my role. ...(*Interruptions*) if I wanted to say that this is a serious issue and the Government would respond, what is the problem of TMC in having this reply from the Government? What is this arrogancy? ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*) â€¦*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Every time I get up, they have to get up. ...(*Interruptions*) This is not West Bengal Assembly? ...(*Interruptions*) This is the Parliament of India, they should understand it....(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: जरूरी नहीं है, पार्लियामेंट्री अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर का अधिकार है, वे कुछ बताएं।

â€¦(लक्ष्यान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: खंडूड़ी जी, आप हमें सम्बोधित करिए।