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title: Alleged withdrawal of invitation to the Kerala Chief Minister to attend the unveiling ceremony of statue of a former State Chief Minister.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me opportunity to speak on a most important issue. I am here to raise an agonizing issue which seriously affected the emotions of the people of Kerala and the entire nation due to a severe breach of political morality. A function was scheduled in Kollam District of Kerala of unveiling the statue of Late R. Shankar, former Chief Minister of Kerala, by the Prime Minister on a request from SNDP, a social organization, through Oommen Chandy, hon. Chief Minister. This is the letter written by the hon. Chief Minister to the Prime Minister of India in December 2014 inviting him to unveil the statue of R. Shankar as per the request of SNDP. Hon. Chief Minister wrote a letter to the Prime Minister inviting him for this function.

As per the actual schedule of the programme, the hon. Prime Minister was to unveil the statue and the hon. Chief Minister was to preside over the function but due to some unfair political move by the Ruling Party at the Centre the Chief Minister was dramatically excluded from the dais plan of the Prime Minister's programme. ...(*Interruptions*)

The entire State is really shocked by hearing this. The entire State has been agitating since yesterday. The function is scheduled for tomorrow. As I said earlier, Shri R. Shankar is a former Chief Minister of Kerala and a former Pradesh Congress Committee President. He is a former General Secretary of SNDP Yogam which was founded by none other than Mahaguru Shree Narayana Guru Devan who spent his lifetime for the down-trodden people. ...(*Interruptions*)

The function is organized by SNDP. As per their demand, the hon. Chief Minister of Kerala had sent a letter to the hon. Prime Minister to participate and unveil the statue. They got the consent of the Prime Minister after a long time. Accordingly, the Organising Committee had announced and circulated the programme schedule in which the Prime Minister was to unveil the statue and the Chief Minister was to preside over the function. Unfortunately, just two days earlier, day before yesterday, Shri Vellappally Natesan, the General Secretary of SNDP asked the Chief Minister not to attend the function. I have got press clippings. ...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : प्रेस वतीफिंग नहीं।

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : He told the media that he could not disclose the reason for excluding the Chief Minister. This has to be noted. ...(*Interruptions*)

Regardless of politics, the entire Kerala community is very much shocked by this incident that has faced so much criticism especially due to the political immorality of the organisers and the BJP stakeholders on the decision.

This is the first visit of the Prime Minister to the State after he took over as Prime Minister. Already 19 months are over. This is the first visit of the Prime Minister to the State of Kerala. Everything has been arranged as per the protocol of the PM visit by the State Protocol Department. Also, the Protocol Department had sent its dais plan to the PMO for approval. I have got a copy of the State Protocol Department's letter dated December 9, 2015. As per the requirement from the SNDP Yogam organisers, the State Protocol Department sent a minute to minute programme to the PMO. That minute to minute programme shows that the Chief Minister is presiding over the function. This is the position on 9<sup>th</sup> December; on 12<sup>th</sup> December, the PMO returned it. ...(*Interruptions*) You know who decides the PM's programme finally. The PMO decides it. The PMO has given this. ...(*Interruptions*) I am ready to lay all these documents on the Table of the House. ...(*Interruptions*) On 12<sup>th</sup>, day before yesterday, the PMO had sent the final programme. Here, in the dais plan, there is no place for the Chief Minister of Kerala. Thus, it is very clear who is behind it. It is very clear who is behind excluding the Chief Minister from this function. It is very clear that the PMO and the hon. Prime Minister's hand are in this for excluding the Chief Minister from attending the programme in honour of Shri R. Shankar. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please conclude now. You have raised the matter.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: I have one more point. ...(*Interruptions*)

At present, the BJP and SNDP claim that it is a private function. This is the dais plan as I have said. ...(*Interruptions*) It was never intended to be a private function because it was the unveiling of the statue of former Chief Minister. They had earlier invited the Chief Minister earlier along with the sitting MP, the sitting MLA and the Corporation's Mayor. All of them were there in this. As per protocol, all of them were there. ...(*Interruptions*) Therefore, this is not a private function but suddenly for the political interest of the BJP the event was converted into a private function. ...(*Interruptions*) It is very sad. The Chief Minister is the custodian of the people. The position has a constitutional value also. He represents the entire people of Kerala. Humiliating the CM means humiliating the people of Kerala also and the people of the nation as well.

Our Prime Minister has a political and constitutional commitment not to do that. This is against the cooperative federalism. On the emergence of such a shameful controversy, we expected a comment from the Prime Minister but the Prime Minister like always keeps unjustifiable silence. No clarification has come from the PM's side. It is painful to see that the constitutional position has been used for political vendetta. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You have completed your submission. Now Rajnath Singhji to speak. Now you hear him. You have raised the matter and he is answering now. Please take your seat now.

...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : सभी को इसी विषय पर बोलने का मौका नहीं मिलेगा।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आप बैठ जायें। He has raised the matter. It is enough.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Rajnathji, please wait for a minute.

...(Interruptions)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : सभी को इसी विषय पर बोलने का मौका नहीं मिलेगा। ठीक है, आप अपनी बात पूरी कीजिए।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: The people has the right to hear the Prime Minister's voice and not the Home Minister's voice...(Interruptions). We are demanding a reply from the Prime Minister because the PMO has approved the final plan...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Everybody will not be allowed. You can associate yourself with him. Karunakaranji, you know it better. All of you can associate by giving your names.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Shri Jose K. Mani, Shri P. Karunakaran, Shri P.K. Biju, Shriimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher, Adv. Joice George, and Shri Innocent are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K.C. Venugopal.

...(Interruptions)

गृह मंत्री (श्री राजनाथ सिंह) : अध्यक्ष महोदया, अभी सदन के माननीय सदस्य श्री वेणुगोपाल जी ने केरल में होने वाली हमारे प्रधानमंत्री जी की यात्रा को लेकर आरोप लगाया है कि प्रधानमंत्री जी की यात्रा जिस तरीके से केरल में हो रही है, it is a case of insult to the people of Kerala. मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह आरोप पूरी तरह से बेबुनियाद है, यह आरोप पूरी तरह से निराधार है...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आप पहले मंत्री जी की पूरी बात सुन लीजिए। आप जो कर रहे हैं, वह सही नहीं है।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

HON. SPEAKER: You please hear him. This is not fair. Nothing would go on record except the statement of the Home Minister.

...(Interruptions)â€¦\*

श्री राजनाथ सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन को जानकारी देना चाहता हूँ कि एस.एन.डी.पी. एक सोशल आर्गेनाइजेशन है अथवा इसे सोशियो कल्चरल आर्गेनाइजेशन कह सकते हैं। यह केरल की एक आर्गेनाइजेशन है। केरल की इस आर्गेनाइजेशन ने प्रधानमंत्री जी को वहां के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री स्वर्गीय श्री आर. शंकर जी की स्टेचू को अनवेलिंग के लिए आमंत्रित किया था। यह बात सच है कि प्रधानमंत्री जी ने अपनी कन्सेंट दी थी। सम्भवतः उस आर्गेनाइजेशन ने इसके पहले केरल के मुख्यमंत्री श्री ओमान चांडी जी को भी आमंत्रित किया था लेकिन एस.एन.डी.पी. आर्गेनाइजेशन के अंदर ही वहां के चीफ मिनिस्टर को बुलाने के लिए संभवतः कोई विवाद खड़ा हो गया और उस आर्गेनाइजेशन ने एक यूनानीमस रेज्योलूशन किया कि इस कार्यक्रम में वहां के चीफ मिनिस्टर ओमान चांडी जी को नहीं आना चाहिए...(व्यवधान)

HON. SPEAKER: Let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Venugopalji, you have said whatever you wanted to say. Now you please listen to him. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)â€¦\*

श्री राजनाथ सिंह : आप मेरी बात सुन लीजिए। इस बात की सूचना उन्होंने केरल के मुख्यमंत्री ओमानचांडी जी को दी। यह कार्यक्रम एक सोशल आर्गेनाइजेशन का कार्यक्रम था और उनके आमंत्रण पर प्रधानमंत्री जी ने वहां जाना और वहां के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री श्री आर. शंकर जी की स्टेचू को अनवेल करके की कन्सेंट दी थी। वह आर्गेनाइजेशन किसको आमंत्रित करता है, किसे आमंत्रित नहीं करता है यह पूरी तरह से फैसला लेने का अधिकार यदि किसी को है तो उस सोशल आर्गेनाइजेशन एस.एन.डी.पी. का है।...(व्यवधान) इस आर्गेनाइजेशन के निर्णय से प्रधानमंत्री या किसी अन्य व्यक्ति का कोई लेना-देना नहीं है।

अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं यह स्पष्ट कर देना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी केंद्र सरकार किसी के साथ, किसी भी राज्य के साथ कंफ्रेंशन नहीं चाहती है बल्कि मैं दावे के साथ कह सकता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार आने के बाद इस देश में को-ओपरेटिव फेडरलिज्म को स्ट्रेंथ करने के लिए जो भी अधिकतम कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं, हमारी सरकार को-ओपरेटिव फेडरलिज्म को स्ट्रेंथ करने के लिए उठा रही है इसलिए जो भी आरोप उनकी तरफ से लगाए जा रहे हैं, वे पूरी तरह से बेबुनियाद हैं और निराधार हैं।

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Madam Speaker, Shri K.C.Venugopal has given some State plan and some sitting order on the issue of the invite. The hon. Home Minister has said that this was a decision of the SNDP and they decided not to invite the hon. Chief Minister. But one fact is that ...(Interruptions) there is a letter written by the Chief Minister...(Interruptions) there is a letter which has come from the Chief Minister of Kerala and I would like to place it on record on behalf of the hon. Home Minister.

The subject is – the VVIP visit of Shri Narendra Modi, hon. Prime Minister of India from 14.12.15 to 15.12.15, unavailability of the hon. Chief Minister,

regarding.

The hon. Chief Minister of Kerala has conveyed the decision to the undersigned that he will not be attending the function – unveiling of the statue of Shri R. Shankar, former CM of Kerala, scheduled to be held on SN college, Kollam on 15 December, 2015 and that the Chief Minister is not available is a letter sent by the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister's Office stating that he is not available.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Madam Speaker, we are walking out.

**12.17 hours**

*(At this stage, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia and some other*

*hon. Members left the House.)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: The statement made by Shri Venugopal is absolutely incorrect. There is no intervention of the office of the Prime Minister. This is a private invitation which has been suggested by the hon. Home Minister and this private invitation was from the General Secretary of SNDP to the hon. Chief Minister. So, the Government has no role whatsoever and there is no role of the Prime Minister's Office. There is no role of the Prime Minister's Office in this, again I repeat...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam, the hon. Prime Minister should not go to the function...*(Interruptions)*

माननीय अध्यक्ष : किसी अन्य माननीय सदस्य की बात रिकॉर्ड में नहीं जाएगी।

*(Interruptions) \**

PROF. SAUGATA ROY : Madam, we are walking out.

**12.18 hours**

*(At this stage, Prof. Saugata Roy and some other*

*hon. Members left the House.)*

**12.18 ½ hours**