

an>

Title: Need to set up a Legislative Assembly in Lakshadweep.

MOHAMMED FAIZAL (LAKSHADWEEP): Thank you very much, Madam. Today I am going to raise a very important issue, which is pertaining to my constituency Lakshadweep. The subject which I am going to take up here is 'Need of a Legislative Assembly in Lakshadweep'. I am also very happy today because the hon. Home Minister is present in the House while I am taking up this issue.

Madam Speaker, as I am elected to this House by the people of Lakshadweep, I am standing with a lot of emotions with me. They sent me with a lot of hopes and aspirations that their problems would be addressed and solved by my raising them here after I have become an MP. But the poor people do not realize that my powers are very limited. That is why I am raising the matter before you; I take your shelter because we all believe in democracy.

Lakshadweep is an area where the ruler is an Administrator, precisely an IAS officer. Every year the Government of India allocates a huge fund, crore of rupees, for the development and benefit of the people of Lakshadweep. In turn what happens is that every year we witness that 50 per cent of the fund is surrendered back to the Government. The only reason behind it, which I feel, is that there is not a single participatory government in place. We do not have democratically elected representatives there. Even MPs and Panchayat members do not have a voice or a sharing in the process of development. It is all because of bureaucratic set up. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS): Madam, the same thing happens in Andaman. ...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : पहले उनकी बात पूरी होने दीजिए, आपकी बात सही है, दोनों की बात समझ में आ रही है।

MOHAMMED FAIZAL: Madam, local representation is very less in the sense that there is no say for an elected representative, even for an MP as I am. Even I do not have my proposal for any developmental schemes. It is under the mercy of the administrators sitting there whether to take it forward or not....(*Interruptions*)

For the last 30 days the entire Lakshadweep is going on strike because of an act of an Administrator who has not honoured democratic values for representing an issue before him. The person, the employees' union president, who has represented the issue before him has been suspended. Against that, a 30 day strike is going on. No one in the country knows that because there is no media presence in the island; it is not known to the outer world and that is the only courage the Administrator is having.

Madam, I take pride that Lakshadweep is the most peaceful area supported by the UNO. Though no crime happens in Lakshadweep, I do not know why till today every year for 365 days the Police Act is prevailing there. No one can go and speak to the Administrator democratically. Even elected representatives have no value.

On this issue of suspension, I spoke to the Administrator the same day. I asked him that you are the appellate authority and you should have give opportunity to both the persons. After hearing both persons, you should have taken action. But he emotionally took the action and suspended him. When I requested him, he said that I have no right to talk and if President of Union disagree with his action; he can go to the court.

13.00 hrs.

If such is the behaviour of the Administrator of Lakshadweep towards an elected representative from where I belong and from where people have sent me with a lot of emotions, then where should I go? Madam, I have to beg before you as there is no other way before me.

Madam, I am concluding. From 1995 onwards, the Home Ministry has started sending DANIC officers to Lakshadweep. They do not know the language and the aspirations of the people because they go for two years. They enjoy the time there, and come back. Before this, there were local officers from the ethnic people of Lakshadweep who were promoted to the level of Directors and other levels. It is speaking evidence that they surrender the awesome amount of funds back. This is the situation happening so far.

I would urge the Government because the hon. Home Minister is sitting here, and I have shared my views with him also. I would like the hon. Minister ...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : वह बहुत अटेंटिवली आपकी बात सुन रहे हैं।

MOHAMMED FAIZAL : Madam, I am putting my demand in short. The final decision on any issue should be taken only after the approval of the democratically-elected representative or body or through them. Therefore, I would urge the Government of India, through you, Madam, to kindly constitute a Committee from this House to evaluate the situation in Lakshadweep, and to form a legislative setup and ensure one of their fundamental rights, that is, to choose people to govern them.

I would request, through you, the hon. Home Minister to spare his views on this issue. I would be very happy, and the people of Lakshadweep will also be very happy because their voice is raised in this House and hon. Home Minister has replied to it. Thank you very much, Madam.â€¦(*व्यवधान*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : सबके नाम आ जाएंगे।

â€¦(*व्यवधान*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : मुझे मालूम है, इसीलिए मैंने उनको अलाऊ किया, उन्होंने सही बात उठाई।

â€¦(*व्यवधान*)

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri P. K. Biju,

Adv. Joice George,

Shri M. B. Rajesh,

Shrimati P. K. Shreemathi Teacher,

Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia,

Shri N. K. Premachandran,

Shri K. C. Venugopal, and

Dr. A. Sampath are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mohammed Faizal.