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Title: Regarding reported depiction of pictures of U.S. soldiers as the protectors of our nation in certain advertisements of State Bank of India.

DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Madam Speaker, on the World Tribals Day, on behalf of my Party the CPI(M) and myself, we would like to express, through you, our greetings.

We are going to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Independence and also the Platinum Jubilee Year of the Quit India Movement.

I would like to invite the attention of the Government of India, through you, and say that we are all proud of the services of our great Bank, the State Bank of India. Even though we have certain reservations regarding the merger of the State Bank of Travancore etc., in the State Bank of India, I would like to show a photograph. I myself own the responsibility for this photograph. I have taken this photograph of the State Bank of India. This is a photograph of a bill hoarding in front of the Cantonment area of Aurangabad in the State of Maharashtra. With your permission, I would like to quote from this advertisement.

### **13.00 hours**

Madam Speaker, it says: "A humble tribute to those" and "entire nation banks upon". In the back, you can see the national flag of India and in the forefront, it is the US Marines. ...(*Interruptions*) So, I would like to know whether the State Bank of India is paying tributes to the services of the US Marines.

It has become a habit of the Government of India – whichever party rules this nation – to outsource most of the services. I would like to know whether Defence is also being outsourced or if the State Bank of India has engaged in giving thousands of advertisements like this. I demand through you with the humblest humility that the State Bank of India owes an apology to the Armed Forces of this great nation and the Government of India should conduct an immediate inquiry upon what has happened in the advertisements and the billboards which have been placed in front of many of the cantonment areas of our nation. We are spending precious money from our public exchequer paying honour and paying tribute to the US Marines.

If my information is true, this photo has been taken in a foreign nation where the US Marines were sent for invasion of that country. The US Marines were in action invading another country and our State Bank of India is showing this advertisement in front of a cantonment area.

I request you to give a direction to the Government of India to conduct an inquiry and a public apology from the State Bank of India regarding this matter as a proud Indian. I can only request you. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Do you want to take cognisance?

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. A. SAMPATH: This is a very important matter. We have the fourth largest Army in the world. ...(*Interruptions*) At the same time, the biggest and largest bank of India is humiliating and insulting the members of the Armed Forces, the members of the Services, and the family members of the Armed Forces ...(*Interruptions*) The Minister is here.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Mohammad Salim, Shri M.B. Rajesh, Shrimati P.K. Sreemathi Teacher, Shri P. Karunakaran, Adv. Joice George, Shri N.K. Premachandran, Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena and Shri Mullappally Ramachandran are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. A. Sampath.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Do you want to take cognisance of this?

...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : सम्पत जी, इतने जोर से चिल्लाने की क्या जरूरत है? इस बारे में सब लोग जानते हैं।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

HON. SPEAKER: I am saying they should take cognisance.

...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : क्या आप भेरी बात नहीं सुनेंगे?

â€¦(व्यवधान)

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): The hon. Member who is a dear friend of mine has raised a very important issue. I will bring it to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister to take corrective measures. ...(*Interruptions*)

