

Title: > Regarding utilisation of MP Local Area Development Fund and release of MPs' quota in respect of LPG and telephone connection.>

12.13 hrs.

श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार (चायल) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपका ध्यान सांसद निधि में से क्षेत्रीय सांसद को जो पैसा जिलाधिकारी द्वारा दिया जाता है, की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। मैंने ५-६ महीने पहले अपने क्षेत्र की पूरी योजना के लिये लिखकर दिया है लेकिन जिलाधिकारी किसी भी योजना के लिये धन निर्गत नहीं कर रहे हैं जिससे पिछला बजट भी नहीं मिल पा रहा है। मैं आपसे मांग करूँगा कि सदन की जनभावना का आदर करते हुये यह राशि एक करोड़ रुपये से बढ़ाकर दो करोड़ की जाये ताकि सांसद के क्षेत्र में विकास कार्यों के लिये कर सके। साथ ही साथ एक बात और कहना चाहूँगा कि सांसदों को अपने क्षेत्र के विकास कार्यों का मूल्यांकन करने के लिये जिलाधिकारी वाहन मुहैया कराते हैं लेकिन मेरे क्षेत्र से राज्यसभा के सांसद बीजेपी से हैं, उनको क्षेत्र में जाने के लिये गाड़ी दी जा रही है, लेकिन लोकसभा के जो सदस्य चुनकर आये हैं उन्हें यह सुविधा नहीं दी गई है। मैं इस बारे में आपका ध्यान बार बार आकृष्ट कर चुका हूँ। चूंकि विकास कार्य बाधित पड़े हुये हैं, इसलिए आपसे आग्रह करूँगा कि आप माननीय सांसद की जनभावनाओं की ओर ध्यान देते हुये संरक्षण प्रदान करें और सरकार की तरफ से जल्द ही विशेष कार्यवाही हो।

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): We have to decide also about the interest earned on the allotted money.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the hon. Minister would like to reply.

श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार : माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, मैं इस बारे में माननीय राज्यपाल महोदय को धन्यवाद देना चाहूँगा कि जिस धन का दुरुपयोग हो रहा है, उन्होंने जिलेवार इसकी समीक्षा की है

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श्री प्रभुनाथ सिंह (महाराजगंज): अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय मंत्री इस मामले में बिहार गए थे। यह मामला पहले भी सदन में उठा था। प्रधान मंत्री जी के आश्वासन के बाद बिहार में जाकर मंत्री जी ने बैठक की। बिहार के सभी अधिकारियों को इन्होंने बुलाया और मीटिंग में इन्होंने निर्देश दिया, लेकिन इनके निर्देश को बिहार के पदाधिकारी नहीं मानते हैं। वह कहते हैं कि हम केन्द्र सरकार को नहीं जानते और इनका जो भी आदेश गया, वह एम.पी. की अनुशंसा पर खर्च करने वाला

... (व्यवधान)

श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार : बिहार पर आरोप लगाया जा रहा है।

... (व्यवधान)

श्री प्रभुनाथ सिंह : इसलिए जितना भी एम.पी. की अनुशंसा पर पैसा जाता है, उसका खर्च सही ढंग से नहीं हो पाता है और कलेक्टर हर जगह मनमानी कर रहे हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश में तो भारतीय जनता पार्टी के सांसदों को गाड़ी दी जाती है जैसे कि माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है, लेकिन बिहार में किसी पार्टी के सांसद को गाड़ी नहीं दी जाती है। इसलिए हम आपसे कहेंगे कि आप यहां से निर्देश जारी कीजिए कि जो भी स्कीम है, अगर उसकी समीक्षा करनी है, जांच करनी है तो जिले के समाहर्ता, चाहे वह किसी भी जिले के हों, वह सांसदों को सुविधा मुहैया कराएं ताकि उनकी अनुशंसा पर किये जा रहे कार्य का वह निरीक्षण कर सकें।

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डा. रामकृष्ण कृष्णमरिया (दमोह) : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस संदर्भ में कहना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री महोदय द्वारा कहा गया था कि हम दो करोड़ रुपये सांसदों को देंगे। हम लोगों ने क्षेत्र में प्रस्ताव भी कर दिये हैं और अब जब पैसा वहां नहीं पहुंच रहा है तो हम सब लोगों की बड़ी बदनामी हो रही है। पहला मेरा निवेदन है कि यह दो करोड़ रुपये की जो राशि है, उसको स्वीकृत करके जारी किया जाए। दूसरा निवेदन यह है कि सांसदों को दौरा करने के लिए राज्य सरकारें वाहन उपलब्ध नहीं करातीं। इसलिए वहां पर जमा रकम का जो ब्याज है, उसमें से वाहन खरीदकर दौरा करने का प्रावधान किया जाए।

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI): Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has given us an assurance.

उन्होंने हमें ऐश्वोरेन्स दिया कि दो करोड़ >रुपये करेंगे।...(Interruptions).

>SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO (KHAMMAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two things in this. Now we are in December. Even the first instalment of Rs.50 lakh is not yet received. It is reported by the nodal officer. I

asked the nodal officer and he has said that he has not received even the first Rs.50 lakh. They are showing it only in the budgetary provisions. No money has been released so far.

The second thing is that it should be raised to Rs.two crore. This is our earnest request.

>SHRI P.M. SAYEED (LAKSHADWEEP): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the complaints about the implementation of the M.Ps' Local Area Fund have come from all parts of the country. I would suggest that like other committees, you may kindly constitute a committee to look after the M.Ps' Local Area Fund, after consulting all the leaders. It is already there in the other House...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, no running commentary please, when the hon. Member is speaking.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Sir, what I was driving home is that it was announced that the M.Ps' Local Area Fund is going to be raised from Rs.one crore to Rs.two crore. Already this Rs.one crore is not being implemented properly because a lot of non-cooperation comes from different implementing agencies. I suggest that let there be a committee constituted under your own supervision, in consultation with all the leaders, in order to monitor this Fund because in Rajya Sabha it is already constituted. I would submit for your consideration that such a committee be constituted so that this M.Ps' Local Area Fund can be implemented effectively.

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डा. सुशील इन्दौरा (सिरसा): अध्यक्ष महोदय, कहा जाता है कि इस स्कीम का पैसा लैप्स नहीं होता, लेकिन पिछली बार किसी कारणवश अगर किसी सदस्य ने पैसा खर्च नहीं किया तो वह पैसा अब रिलीज़ नहीं किया जा रहा है। मुझे इसके बारे में पूरा विवरण दिया जाए कि वह पैसा क्या लैप्स हो जाएगा, या वह पैसा हम खर्च कर सकते हैं ?

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Minister will speak.

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श्री अशोक प्रधान (खुर्जा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पिछली सरकार के समय भी यह बात तय हुई थी और अब हमारी सरकार है जो लगातार यह कहती आ रही है कि हम इसको लागू करेंगे, लेकिन यह कब तक लागू होगा, इसका एक निश्चित समय दिया जाए। सदन में आश्वासन के बाद हम इसके लिए दो करोड़ रुपये का ष्टाव दे चुके हैं। हमारे क्षेत्र की जनता हमसे दो करोड़ रुपये का हिसाब मांगती है और हम हिसाब नहीं दे पाते हैं। इसलिए सरकार इसको जल्दी से जल्दी लागू करे, चूंकि सरकार इसको लागू करने के पक्ष में है।

B >MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

श्री लाल मुनी चौबे (बक्सर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जो एक करोड़ रुपये दिये जा रहे हैं वे भी वापस लिये जाएं, दो करोड़ रुपये देने का तो सवाल ही नहीं उठता ... (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chaubey, please take your seat.

श्री लाल मुनी चौबे : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जो एक करोड़ दिया जा रहा है, उसका सूद वहां के अफसर खा रहे हैं, पैसा बैंक में जाता है, उस पर सूद निकलता है, लेकिन काम कोई नहीं होता है। उस सूद का हिसाब नहीं आता है। वहां टोटल करप्शन है, इस करप्शन को बंद किया जाए।

... (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

>THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): Sir, three or four important issues have been raised during the discussion. The first important point which has been raised is that there should be a committee of this House to supervise the implementation of the Scheme. Sir, it is your domain. As it has been done in the Rajya Sabha, if you feel that such a Committee should be there in this House, Sir, we have no objection. We would welcome any such committee which you would decide to constitute.

MR. SPEAKER: Both, Shri Khurana and you are shifting everything to the Speaker.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, it is about the committee.(Interruptions)

श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव (सम्भल): अध्यक्ष महोदय, अगर कोई काम नहीं करना है तो कमेटी बना दीजिए(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This is an important subject.

SHRI RAM NAIK: The second point is about increasing the annual amount under the Scheme from rupees one crore to rupees two crore. Sir, you are aware that the meeting was held in your office, with all leaders. The Finance Minister and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs were also there. It was agreed there by all leaders. Similarly, it has been agreed in Rajya Sabha also. Now, the Cabinet is actively considering this issue of increasing the amount from rupees one crore to rupees two crore.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is giving proper reply. Let him complete.

SHRI RAM NAIK: It is being considered by the Cabinet and I hope that the decision will be taken soon so far as this particular item is concerned.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is giving proper reply.

SHRI RAM NAIK: So far as the other aspect of interest accrued which is raised by some Members is concerned, in the meetings of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on that point, it has been decided that whatever interest is accrued, it can be used for the same purpose for which the guidelines indicate. That means, we can use the amount of interest accrued for that purpose. This is also the point on which the Cabinet has to take a decision.

Item number four is that some hon. Members have said that the next instalment of Rs. 50 lakh has not come.

Sir, I have examined each and every requirement of the hon. Members and it has been found that there has been some lack of coordination. I must explain that here so that other hon. Members could give the information.

As and when we have sent the sanctioned balance, for example, Rs. 50 lakh, and subsequently some plan projects have been sanctioned, and if there is an unsanctioned balance in the account of the hon. Member, say, Rs. 70 lakhs, then as soon as that balance goes below Rs. 50 lakh of the sanctioned amount, not the spent amount because actual expenditure takes some time, as soon as the sanctioned balance goes below Rs. 50 lakhs and the Collector intimates to us that this has been done, we send the second instalment. Many hon. Members who had given me such details, in those cases I saw to it that the amount was sent.

Now, I would like to make a suggestion to the hon. Members that if they could get the letter from the Collector and give a copy to me, then that would help in expediting the matter. We have also been writing about it but some Collectors do not respond to such letters, as has been pointed out about the State of Bihar. I had three meetings with the hon. Members from the State of Bihar in this regard. Some Collectors have not sent the information. I would like to appeal to the hon. Members that whosoever have not received the second instalment, if they could procure this certificate from the Collectors and give to us, then that would help us... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Sir, what is 'under active consideration' for the last six months?

... (Interruptions)

श्री अशोक प्रधान : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पिछले आठ महीने से मंत्री महोदय लगातार यही कह रहे हैं।

... (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak one by one.

... (Interruptions)

श्री अशोक प्रधान : मान्यवर अध्यक्ष जी, आप इसमें इंटरवीन करके डायरेक्शन दें, नहीं तो सरकार तो सोचती रहेगी। पिछली सरकार भी सोचती रही। पूरा सदन आपसे इस बारे में सहमत है। आप इसमें कोई डायरेक्शन दें।

... (व्यवधान)

MR.SPEAKER: Yes, Shri Yerrannaidu please.

... (Interruptions)

>SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two issues here. First is, six months ago we had taken a decision in your Chamber in this regard. But the hon. Minister is saying now that 'it is under active consideration'. What is the meaning of 'active consideration' for the last six months?

Sir, the second point is about the LPG and telephone connections. We do not know about the real and the latest position in this regard. We are unable to get any reply from the Ministry of Communication and the Ministry of Petroleum.

Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Government about the latest position of the LPG and the telephone connections... (Interruptions) >information about the gas connection and telephone connection from the concerned Ministries. It is because court cases have been filed and I would find out whether the court cases have finally been disposed of or not. I would have to find that out ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you like to respond to it?

श्री रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बात ठीक नहीं है कि राज्य सभा के सांसदों को ये सुविधाएं मिल रही हैं और लोक सभा के सांसद इनसे वंचित हैं जिसके कारण जनता में बड़ा भारी कन्फ्यूजन है। इस बात की सफाई होनी चाहिए। ... (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. The concerned Minister, Shri Ramamurthy, is on his legs.

... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH): Sir, I have a point ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Mr. Minister, please wait for a minute. Ms. Banerjee wants to make a point.

... (Interruptions)

>KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH): Sir, it is most unfortunate that we being the representatives of the people, our sentiments are not being properly respected.

I do not have any grudge against the Members of Rajya Sabha, they have been lucky. But why is this discrimination against the directly elected representatives of the people? There should be no such discrimination. I urge upon you to stop it. We do not want this discrimination to continue. You stop this practice in Rajya Sabha also. When public representatives in Lok Sabha are not getting these facilities, Members of Rajya Sabha also should not get these facilities. If you think that giving LPG and telephone coupons to Members is not proper, do not give it to any Member of Parliament. But do not discriminate against Lok Sabha Members by giving it to Rajya Sabha Members. If the Parliament itself discriminates like this, what would common people think? The people's representatives should be given due importance.

Regarding MPLAD Scheme, it has been pointed out in the C&AG Report say that money under MPLADS is lying unused. I am a Member of Parliament for the fourth term. Do you know that my schemes are pending for three terms? What is this? Why proper action is not taken in this regard? We give the schemes, they do not give the money and we sit here quietly. Sir, we leave it to you. You take a decision on this. Somebody should take interest in this public money. They are not utilising this money for water supply, for electricity, for school buildings, for road construction, etc. We are giving the schemes but they are not being implemented. They just talked about the second instalment. We have not received even the first instalment. Schemes are still pending. Do you not think that it is a very serious matter? Rajya Sabha gets all these facilities and Lok Sabha does not. Members of Lok Sabha are put in a position to fight a battle for their facilities.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, Sushri Mamataji is very right when she says that her MPLAD schemes are not being implemented properly. I have examined practically all the States. As I had gone to Bihar earlier to take stock of the situation, I have taken stock of the situation so far as West Bengal is concerned. I have seen that in Calcutta city, amounts are not being spent. In Calcutta, the Municipal Commissioner of Calcutta is the implementing authority. We have written to them that they should give us a report as to why the scheme is being delayed in implementation. I am expecting the report. I had a discussion with Shri Basu Deb Acharia also. I will be going personally to West Bengal and I will ensure that their work is not suffered.

श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार : माननीय मंत्री जी, उत्तर प्रदेश के बारे में बताइए। ... (व्यवधान)

>THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I share the anxiety of the Members, particularly on the point that the facilities available to the other House have not been extended to this House. As far as the facility of issuance of LPG coupons is concerned, if your good self orders today, we are in a position to issue them tomorrow because we have got them printed and kept them ready. I would like to submit that these facilities are extended by your good self to the Members of this House and you announced it on the floor of the House. If any court is to interfere like this on the wisdom of the Speaker, from my little experience I am unable to understand that kind of a thing. The Speaker also should not oblige this kind of a blackmailing of the House. Since a decision has been taken on the floor of the House, you must come forward and say that these should be issued tomorrow.

श्री चन्द्रमणि त्रिपाठी (रीवा): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं तीन दिन से नोटिस दे रहा हूँ।

... (व्यवधान)

>SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI): Sir, we all appreciate what the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas has submitted before the House.

The hon. Speaker had issued his order but that has been stayed, with some intention or something, by one of the courts in a public interest litigation in respect of only Members of Lok Sabha. This is also applicable in the matter of telephones. All the hon. Members of the other House are getting this facility. But the Members of this have been denied this facility. Sir, what is the justification for all this? Even if it is brought to the notice of the hon court, the hon court will also take an appropriate decision. But the Government has not moved the court. The Government has not submitted before the court... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : It is the discretion of the hon. Speaker. We need not move court for a counter litigation. The House is supreme... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please understand.

>SHRI T.R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to put the records straight. Some words uttered by the hon. Minister, Shri Ramamurthy are not correct. He has used the words, 'blackmailing by the court'. It is not fare on his part or on the part of any hon. Member to use such words. So, these words may please be expunged from the proceedings of the House... (Interruptions)

>SHRI RAGHVENDRA SINGH (SHAHABAD): Sir, the hon. Minister has just now informed the House that he is prepared to release the coupon quota but there is some interim order by the court. But Sir, everyday the courts are interfering in the proceedings of the House. Now, it is high time that you issue the 'contempt notice' to the judges who have interfered. I may inform the House that this has been done earlier in Uttar Pradesh, and ultimately the matter has been contested upto the Supreme Court. When the decision has been taken in the House, the High Courts cannot interfere like this everyday. The High Court has interfered challenging the issuance of the orders of the hon. Speaker... (Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (GARHWAL): This is not correct. You cannot have confrontation... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister, Shri Madan Lal Khurana.

... (Interruptions)

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह (बांका): अध्यक्ष जी, इसमें मंत्री महोदय की तरफ से नहीं, आप रूलिंग दीजिए। सभी ने आपके सामने सर्व-सम्मति से यह प्रस्ताव रखा था, तब आपने हम लोगों को यह कोटा दिया था। अब अगर कोर्ट ने रोका है तो इसमें आपकी क्या राय है, आप बताइये। इसमें मंत्री कहां आते हैं ?

... (व्यवधान)

श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार : केन्द्रीय विद्यालयों में एडमीशन का मामला भी है।

... (व्यवधान)

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संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री मदन लाल खुराना): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं दो पाइंट्स स्पष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। एक तो जो यह कहा गया है कि लोक सभा के लिए स्टे है, राज्य सभा के लिए स्टे नहीं है। वह इस कारण से, क्योंकि यह जो ऑर्डर हुआ था, यह केवल लोक सभा के लिए हुआ था। राज्य सभा के सदस्यों को कोटा पहले ही मिल रहा था।

... (व्यवधान)

आप पूरी बात तो सुन लें। अध्यक्ष जी, तीन और चार तारीख को केरल हाई कोर्ट की डेट थी, एडीशनल एटार्नी जनरल को मैंने कहा था कि वे पेश हों और वे जाकर अपनी स्थिति स्पष्ट करें। मुझे एक दिन और दे दीजिए, वहां क्या हुआ है, उसकी सारी जानकारी लेकर मैं कल आपके सामने आऊंगा, उसके बाद जो भी आप चर्चा करेंगे, मैं जवाब दूंगा।

... (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the matter is over.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. I have called the name of Shri Krishana Kumar Chaudhary, now.

... (Interruptions)

श्री कृष्ण कुमार चौधरी (गया): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं पांच दिन से नोटिस दे रहा हूँ।

... (व्यवधान)

>SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (BALLIA)(U.P.): Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to say about the whole debate that has taken place.

But the remark made by Shri Madan Lal Khurana is very objectionable because he has said: 'You wait for a day so that the Additional Solicitor-General goes to some court' - I do not know what Court is there 'and, after taking a direction from that court,' (Interruptions)

श्री मदन लाल खुराना: मैंने यह नहीं कहा था।

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Please hear me.

There are occasions and occasions where the court summons have been rejected by this House and even by the Assemblies. I do not know what your decision would be but the decision of yours should not be deferred on the plea that there is some clarification to be made by some judge in some court at the advice of the Additional Solicitor-General.

I have been saying this time and again for the last many years that the courts are going beyond their jurisdiction. I tell you that every time we have to respect the honour of the Judiciary but the Judiciary is indicating to the whole world that they have no respect for Parliament. This cannot continue. There should be responsive respect for each other. This is not happening.

I am sorry that Ministers are succumbing under pressure. I do not know what their weakness is. They are not asserting their own rights and they are not able to defend the dignity of this House. This is why I thought it necessary that I should take objection to it.

श्री मदन लाल खुराना: अध्यक्ष जी, मैंने यह नहीं कहा कि इंस्ट्रक्शन लेंगे ... (व्यवधान) मैंने यह कहा है कि वहां क्या हुआ, इसकी जानकारी लेकर मैं कल आऊंगा। वहां से इंस्ट्रक्शन नहीं लूंगा।

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, how is it relevant what happens in the court? You take a decision this way or that way; it is your authority and it is your decision. I do not say that you should give the decision today. You give the decision after a month but this should not be the condition. The suggestion made by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs was totally out of place and against the dignity of this House.

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श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव : माननीय चन्द्रशेखर जी के बोलने के बाद सुप्रीम कोर्ट या कोई अन्य न्यायालय यह कह दे कि तत्काल यहां की कार्यवाही बंद कर दी जाए तो क्या कार्यवाही बंद कर दी जाएगी। इसलिए हम आपसे निवेदन करना चाहते हैं कि मंत्री क्या कहते हैं, क्या अदालत कहती है, यह घोषणा कर दी जाए कि यह सुविधा लोक सभा के सदस्यों को मिलेगी या नहीं मिलेगी। लेकिन सुप्रीम कोर्ट के दबाव में आकर इस तरह रोजाना की कार्यवाही में बाधा डाली जाए

... (व्यवधान)

जब तक लोकतंत्र जिंदा है, तब तक जनप्रतिनिधि सर्वोच्च हैं। जितनी भी पावर सुप्रीम कोर्ट को दी गई है वह डेलीगेटेड पावर है, चाहे एक्जीक्यूटिव हो, चाहे ज्यूडिशरी हो। लेकिन आज लोकतंत्र के अंदर सुप्रीम जनप्रतिनिधि है, इसकी भावना का आदर करते हुए अध्यक्ष महोदय आपके सामने जो यह मामला आ गया है, आपको हिम्मत के साथ इस पर निर्णय लेना चाहिए। सुप्रीम कोर्ट में जो होगा, देखा जाएगा।

>SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (MANGALORE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister concerned has very clearly stated that he is only seeking your direction. He says, 'You issue a direction, immediately the coupons

will be distributed'. He will not wait for further directions from the court. We are only seeking your direction. You may please issue a direction. The House is seeking your direction; the Government is also seeking your direction. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

We have discussed this in the House during the last Session also. Many hon. Members want the issuance of LPG coupons and the quota for telephone connection restored. As far as my knowledge is concerned, the matter is pending before the Court and they have challenged the discretionary power of the Minister. I ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to get the full details of what is pending before the Court in Kerala and we will take a decision tomorrow.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, please allow us to make some submissions.

>SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to interfere. The Court has not served any notice on us. So, it does not concern the discretionary power. You give the direction, we will distribute the coupons.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Please understand that I have asked the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to get the information by tomorrow. We will decide it tomorrow.

>... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, when this quota system was first introduced, that was made available to the Members of both the Houses. But, Sir, in the last Lok Sabha, the hon. Speaker, that is, your predecessor had looked into the matter because some of us had expressed certain views on it; it is because the system of quota is being frowned upon in many areas and in many respects regarding housing and all that. Thereafter, a conscious decision was taken by your distinguished predecessor and he made an announcement in the House that it will no longer be available to the Members of Lok Sabha. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (RAMANATHAPURAM): That is not the question. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have not made any comment about you. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow him to speak.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sathiamoorthy, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (RAMANATHAPURAM): No. That is not the issue. The issue is whether the court can interfere with this or not. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Please take your seat. I have allowed Shri Somnath Chatterjee to speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : After that, Sir, in the present House, many hon. Members had made representations to you; and in your kind judgment you had decided that it should be again made available. Whatever happened thereafter, we do not know; and if the hon. Minister says that there is no order on the Government or on the hon. Speaker, staying the applicability of this decision, I do not see any reason why the

Government is not issuing it again. ... (Interruptions) Kindly allow me. We were hearing all of you. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, we were asked by the hon. Speaker to stop it and so, we stopped it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Then, the hon. Speaker, in his wisdom, has done it. We do not know the order or any such thing. My only submission is this. Many of us feel very much aggrieved that in various spheres which are within the domain of the hon. Speaker, orders have been made by the judiciary. There is already some misunderstanding, if not a tension in this matter. Many of us are approving Public Interest Litigation when it suits us, but when it goes against us, we are opposing it. I have been in this profession for some time and I have the great honour of being here in this House also; and so, some lines must be drawn here. This was the matter, I remember, Shri Chandra Shekhar and other hon. Members had raised in the last Lok Sabha. I would implore the House to discuss this very serious matter in depth. But let us not commence it this way -- I am sorry that a very responsible Member of the House and a Minister for that matter Shri Ramamurthy has used the word 'blackmailing'.

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY: I am sorry. It was a general comment. I am a responsible person and I am not shirking from that responsibility. I am a lawyer, but I am not practising.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Kindly wait for me to finish it. Sir, I understand that there are strong feelings.

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, in a general sense, I have commented that courts are blackmailing. That is all.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Therefore, Sir, on a vital matter where the future functioning of the parliamentary democracy is involved, the Parliament has certain rights and certain obligations. The Constitution of India is very clear -- laws passed by Parliament can be set aside by the courts. That has happened many times. Therefore, if necessary those matters can be reviewed. But just saying that we are not governed by any High Court order or Supreme Court order, does not behove us. That is my respectful submission.

Sir, it is entirely for you to take a decision as to whether these facilities should be made available to all the Members of the House immediately or not. I do not know and I never had the occasion even to know what type of order it is. But we are supreme in our areas.

Judiciary has also certain rights under the Constitution. Let us not create conflict amongst us. Let us try to carry on in a manner which will help our country as a whole. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This matter is over.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) *

* Not Recorded.