

Title: Need to clarify the matter raised in the House of Commons regarding the tampering of evidence in Purlia arms drop case.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, in December 1996, a large number of arms were dropped in Purulia district. The case is pending in a Special Court in Calcutta. A startling revelation has now come and the matter was raised in the British House of Commons.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, this is 'Zero Hour'. You should not read it in 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am not reading it. I am only referring to a news item which appeared yesterday. This matter was raised in the British House of Commons. It was said that a relevant portion of the document which was sent to the Special Court has been deleted and has been altered or tampered with. As a result, the Court has not come to any conclusion as yet. How could that happen and who is responsible for it? Sir Teddy Taylor has charged that the British Government has deliberately altered and tampered with the vital piece of evidence of a hand written note of a meeting between the main suspects, Peter Bleach and North Yorkshire Police in September, 1995. In the document given to the Indian Court, significant portions at the beginning and in the end have been removed. It has been alleged... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are not to make a statement. You just have to call the attention of the Government. I will not permit you to proceed further. You can just tell as to what do you want the Government to do.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Government of India should take up this matter with the British Government and find out as to who has tampered with the document and what has happened to the inquiry conducted by the CBI? What action has been taken by the Government of India? As this is a serious matter, I demand a clarification from the Government of India.