

Answering every point. If you do not want to understand, what can I do? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In spite of the announcement in Germany on the 7th, it was not announced in India. Why? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I believe that the Prime Minister returned on the 8th morning. He could have done it here on the 8th morning itself. What would have happened? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Apologise on behalf of the Prime Minister. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: He is absolutely misconceived. If he had not done the recognition at the earliest, then many hon. Members of the House would have criticised the Government (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: With the approval of the Prime Minister, any other Minister could have done it here at the same time. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I respectfully submit that these objections are utterly misconceived. Recognition could be done anywhere and if you do not want to understand the point, what can I do?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: It is an insult to the House. He is not gracious enough to admit his mistake. It is very wrong.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This Government wants to avoid the Parliament. Why don't you have the humility to say 'I am sorry'? Has the Government not got that feeling? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI. BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why cannot you apologise for for this? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN:: Please allow the Minister to speak. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Madam Chairperson, there was no intention on the part of the Government or on the part of the Prime Minister to have any disrespect as far as this House is concerned. Myself and all of us honour the views expressed by the hon. Members on the other side and if they feel so, I must apologize and I would now request the hon. Minister to make the statement.

15.00 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Recognition by Government of the Three Baltic States, Estonia Latvia and Lithuania

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Honourable Members will recall that the New Union Treaty of USSR that was intended to be signed on the 20th August 1991, had envisaged that the constituent Republics of USSR would be sovereign States. The New Treaty could not be signed due to the attempted coup in that country on the 9th August 1991.

2. On the 6th September 1991, the USSR State Council, the highest interim executive authority of the Soviet Union, passed a resolution officially recognising the Independence of the three Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

3. The three Baltic States have been recognised by a large number of countries, including all the European Community countries, all the EFTA countries, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, all the East Euro-

[Sh. Edurado Faleiro]

pean countries except Yugoslavia and Albania, and a number of nonaligned and other developing countries, including Argentina, Venezuela, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Singapore.

4. Government of India's policy on the recognition of States is well established. It stipulates that the constitutional procedures required for the declaration of sovereignty should be proper and irrevocable, and that the governments concerned should be in effective control of the territory. In the case of the three Baltic States, these conditions were adequately fulfilled.
5. In view of the above and in view of the fact that the emergence of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as independent sovereign States is the outcome of peaceful negotiations and mutual agreement among all concerned and has been recognised by the USSR State Council, the Government of India announced on the 7th September 1991 that it welcomed the entry of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into the comity of independent States and recognised them as such. Prime Minister also sent messages to the Presidents of the three States conveying this decision and his felicitations.

15.15 hrs.

PLACE OF WORSHIP (SPECIAL PROVISION) BILL—*CONTD.*

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, whenever Km. Uma Bharati speaks in the House, she says that she is not educated. Through you, I would like to request her that she need

not say it because whenever she speaks, one can find it out easily.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am an elected Member from Tamil Nadu and I want to speak in English in the House and it seems to me that the Members of different parties who know English agree with me. I am speaking in Hindi here so that the Members of Bhartiya Janata Party, who do not have much acquaintance with English, may understand what I am saying. (*Interruptions*)

I am specially talking about Uma Bharati, who always puts forward such things on behalf of the Bhartiya Janata Party... (*Interruptions*)

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, to say that the hon. Members of Bharatiya Janata Party do not know English is an insult to the hon. Members. It is not wise to insult in such a way. He should take his words back. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI RATILAL VARMA (Dhanduka): Many BJP Members are far superior to you. They are more competent. I challenge the hon. Member. Anyway, what are his qualifications? (*Interruptions*)

[*Translations*]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful for this clarification that the Bharatiya Janata Party has adopted the foreign culture and they can speak in English also. I am hopeful that the Members of the Bhartiya Janata Party know English but I do not know as to how much they know about the Indian culture, its history and the Hindu *Dharm*.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Does he consider to be the only knowledgeable person? (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHARIMAN: I request the hon. Member to speak on the Bill only.

(*Interruptions*)