

the Government and the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation on long term policy for vegetable oils was signed in New Delhi on February 7, 1992; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. It was signed on February 6, 1992.

(b) The agreement is on long-term Policy Strategy for Vegetable Oils (Phase II). The first phase related to studies on various aspects for the development of the oilseed sector and their long-term implications for production, processing, marketing and consumption. The present project is extension of the same studies i.e. to deliberate on strategies and policy issues for development of oilseeds and identify specific areas for immediate action and technical assistance priorities. The project is financed by FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme with an allocation of US \$ 30000.

12.00 hrs.

US ACTION AGAINST INDIA IN  
PROMULGATING SUPER 301

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: (Katwa): We demand a fuller discussion on US action against India in promulgating Super 301. The whole House is unanimous in condemning this.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I think that you want to discuss this matter. I am inclined to allow you to have your say on this point. But please do it after the other.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now please understand. Do not direct from your seats things like this. If you have a Call Attention, only four can speak. If you have something to discuss here, more can speak. If you want under 193, there would not be any time because there are other issues to be discussed. Please do not think that the decision making of the Chair is in your hands because you do not have all the knowledge on all the matters which are pending for disposal.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Sir, you have given permission to have a discussion on it and therefore, I request you to ask both the hon. Minister of Commerce and the hon. Minister of External Affairs to sit in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have no doubt in my mind that if they are not otherwise engaged, they are likely to sit in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL (Chandni Chowk): The Minister of Home affairs should make a statement on the bomb blast in Delhi, yesterday. I would like to say something on this issue.

SHRI GEROGE FERNANDES: My submission is that the statement should be made first. (Interruptions)

[English]

Let the statement come.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to speak to the Home Minister. I will just come back to it. This whole matter is also very important. Yesterday I was given this statement by the Home Ministry. Probably, they have some more information and they want to modify that statement.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRIS. B CHAVAN). The statement has to be updated and it is also to be translated into Hindi and, that is why, by 2.30 PM or 3.00 PM, it will be ready for distribution

MR SPEAKER It will be given to you At that time, you can discuss it

[Translation]

SHRI TARA CHAND KHADEWAL (Chandni Chowk) I would like to make a submission about the situation there before the statement is made so that a reply to my points is also made in the statement

MR SPEAKER Alright First you make your submission, then there will be the statement After you speak I will call Shri George Fernandes

SHRI TARA CHAND KHADELWALL Mr Speaker, Sir, with great distress I would like to say a few words regarding yesterday's powerful bomb blast in Delhi. There have been four bomb blast in Delhi during the last six days and that matter has been raised here but the Government has not made any statement as far as action in this regard is concerned and it seems that the Government did not give any importance to the matter. Had it been so, I dare say yesterday's incident would not have occurred. 29 people died in this bomb blast. Four dead bodies were recovered today. I had gone there today morning also and yesterday also I was there for about two hours. Some headless bodies were also found and some are still under the debris. Some bodies were without limbs. The bomb blast occurred at 10.20 a.m. yesterday. The Commissioner of the Corporation reached there after 20 minutes but the Chief Engineer reached when all the three buildings were destroyed and people died under the debris. The Corporation should have tried to rescue the people by removing the debris. The chief Engineer is "

[English]

MR SPEAKER The name will not go on record

[Translation]

SHRI TARA CHAND KHADELWAL The Chief Engineer came there at 1.30 p.m. when the buildings collapsed. 12 labourers reached there at 12.30 noon and most of them were women. Mr speaker, Sir, I would like to speak in brief, but the matter is so important that I would like to give a few details. The residents of that area recovered some dead bodies after removing the debris till 3 p.m. Some more labourers came at 2 p.m. they had spades, but the labourers who had come before these, had nothing with them. When a building collapses, can labourers remove debris without spades and shovels? When the situation was so tense, the behaviour of the Chief Engineer with the irate mob was indecent.

Mr Speaker, Sir, earlier the police said that the reasons of this blast was bursting of the gas cylinder, which is the stock reply of the police. The reason of the explosion of Paharganj on 23rd was also stated to be bursting of a gas cylinder.

MR SPEAKER Mr Khandelwal, why are you going into the reasons? Let the statement be made in the House.

[English]

SHRI TARA CHAND KHADELWAL Sir, I will not take much time of the House, I assure you that I will finish within two or three minutes. Please give me time.

[Translation]

MR SPEAKER It is not a question of time only. Say effectively what you want to say. Please wait till the statement is made. Listen to what the Government would say in this regard.

SHRI TARA CHAND KHADELWAL. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know when the statement will be made and moreover whether I will be here or not is not certain.

MR SPEAKER: You should remain in the House. It is a very important matter.

SHRI TARA CHAND KHADELWAL:  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would have concluded by now. Earlier the police said that the reason of the blast was bursting of a gas cylinder and later on said that the fire broke out due to a chemical. Three buildings have been destroyed and two adjacent buildings are hit so badly that they will have to be demolished. All the house within a radius of half a Kilometer have developed cracks. It was a horrible explosion. The police always gives a twist to the case. It is not good. I would like to make two or three demands. When the Hon Minister of Home Affairs makes the statement he should give the reaction of the Government also. I demand that Rs. 2 lakh each should be given the next of kin of the deceased and Rs. 50,000 each to the injured. I know the hon. Minister of Home Affairs will inform the House about the ex-gratia relief, but I would like to seek your protection and would like to know as to why the Government is indifferent to the demands for compensation in such cases. The Government neither reacts nor gives any reply to it. Let the Government say that it will give Rs. 20. thousands as compensation. At least people would know the price of human life as determined by the Government. I would like that the Government should give Rs. 2 lakh each to next of kin of the deceased and the Hon. Prime Minister should also give from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for this incident.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, besides the responsibility of the Government I would like to submit that the Members of Parliament too have a responsibility to the people. Members who are from outside Delhi live in Delhi at least for six months. Delhi is their second home. They are a part of this family. I would like to submit that it would be a goodwill gesture on the part of the Members if they contribute Rs. 500 each for this tragedy. Let us not make it a matter of party-politics. I would also not like to set a tradition. It is merely because we live in Delhi and a rare tragedy has occurred. Many Members have welcomed it and have assured me to

extend their help. I express my gratitude to them and the people of Delhi will also express their gratitude to them...

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister wants to say something.

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri):  
On this point I want to say something. In fact I have visited the place.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roseria):  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will not allow clarification after the statement is made in the House. It is a matter of concern that such incidents are continuously occurring in Delhi and people are in panic. This issue comes under the jurisdiction of the Central Government and the Government should own responsibility. We will have no right to seek clarification after the Minister makes the statement. I would like to submit that if the statement of the Hon. Minister is not satisfactory you should allow a discussion on it in some form (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to discuss all the issues, but you have no time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Can you not include it under Calling Attention? It is my suggestion ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Sir, I had visited the place where the explosion took place.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not necessary

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Sir, I want to make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to

make a statement. You are not bound to do that.

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: I wish to make a statement on the Delhi explosion. I had visited that place.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member in whose constituency that has taken place, he has already stated it, so it is not necessary and if you have any information give it to the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRIGEROG FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it would have been better if the hon. Minister of Commerce speaks later on.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He would initiate the discussion, then you may speak on this issue. (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Speaker, I think this matter has to be discussed. And as I understand, Shri Basu Deb Achana, Shri Fernandes and other hon. Members, they would like a discussion in a suitable manner. I would suggest for your kind consideration that you consider admitting a Calling Attention on Monday because I expect to receive the copy of the notification during the course of the day from our Embassy. I feel that this action is unjustified and unwarranted.

Secondly, in the last ten months, misgivings were expressed in certain quarters that India will yield to pressure and will not defend its vital national interests. In fact, there is an ironical side to this decision. This decision underscores the point that in the last ten months, we had indeed defended out vital national interests. And, therefore, Sir, I would submit that I expect to get the copy of the notification during the course of the day. And, therefore, a Calling Attention or in any suitable manner it can be scheduled

for discussion on Monday.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already expressed my view on that point. If you have a Calling Attention, hardly four people can speak. We would like to hear the views of others also, which may also help you.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You can decide in a suitable manner.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think that we should express our opinion regarding the statement of the hon. Minister. Later on, we will welcome whatever you wish us to do....

MR. SPEAKER: If that would be possible.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: We will welcome that. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just stated that the matter has been going on for the last 10 months and that there came a point when our Government seemed submitting before America and now he states that it has been proved that we are not yielding before America. I however, fail to understand as to what proof the hon. Minister has put forth or what proof has been received from Washington to prove that the Government is not conceding.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fact remains that many members of this House and several people of this country have been raising their voices for the last 10 months that America is trying to suppress this country, it is trying to obstruct the development process of this country in several ways. Development does not only imply economic development, rather America and white-skinned people are averse to India's becoming self-reliant and her coming up before the world as a strong nation. This we have been feeling and also speaking about since long. Here is now one more example of that before us.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let us clearly understand as to what has happened. The name of Carla Hills has been mentioned several times within this House and outside

also, but today's pronouncement is not on the part of Carla Hills. This has been pronounced by the President of America who in his Presidential decree ordered yesterday that action should be taken against India and he resolved to stop help in duty-relief under G.S.P. (General System of Preference) on the goods of import from here. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know to what talks our Government has had with them before the announcement of this decision. Our hon. Minister of Defence had been to America recently, our foreign Secretary was also in America and our ambassador there is also a very able man. They are the men who can safeguard the interest of this country. We do not know as to what talks were held between American officials and those people. I would therefore, like to say to the hon. Minister that I do not know as to how much time the notification taken to reach here, but it is said that it takes only two minutes to send any message through fax, yet you are asking us to wait for 10 more hours. Mr. Speaker, Sir, at least I am not ready to accept it.

I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister as to what talks on this issue were held before the coming of the President of America or before the coming of American Government. What role did you play before them that prevented American Government from coming to this conclusion?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement of Carla Hills in this regard has also been published in the papers of our country today and once again we have been called thieves. In her statement she says that...

MR. SPEAKER: Listen, I have allowed you to speak on this matter in the House but you should keep it in mind that the representatives of other countries are also present in the Galleries and you should not say any such thing in this regard merely on the basis of newspaper reports. However, you should try to solicit the information as to whether such a thing has been said or not.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I said we can have a discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do promise that I will not make use of any such sentences and words about which there is even a little doubt. I would like to put here the statement of Carla Hills only putting that within quote and unquote.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry for interrupting you, but I would like to say that the hon. Minister of Commerce is likely to make a statement to give the factual position. You, however, need not quote newspapers when I have allowed discussion. I agree that whatever is written in the newspapers is written sensibly, but their news is also at times based on hearsay evidence.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not referring to the views of newspapers persons, but what has been stated by Carla Hills is here before you. The statement goes....

[English]

"This is not academic question..." "We suffer in this country a loss of 60 billion as a result of theft of patents worldwide".

[Translation]

Here, we have been accused of piracy of patents from abroad that is to say from America. I do not know as to what we steal from there, but it is my personal view that we do not steal anything from any country. I also think that there is a good deal of research in our country to make medicines, chemicals etc. Here we give chance to others. There is a possibility to make many things in our country. The way we are giving free have to multinational companies in India at the behest of International Monetary Fund and

which have given them a liberty has resulted only into such allegation that has been leveled against us. We would not like to tolerate such allegations.

If we have to take the matter of theft, Mr. Speaker, Sir, has the price of commodities like sugar, pulses, iron, iron-ore or of all the primary produce that are exported from our country, not gone up in the last 5 to 10 years? Is it not a theft? Is it not a day-light robbery? Do the nations who have indulged in such practices not working under the influence of America? On the one hand we are being looted on the export of goods from our country, while on the other hand action is taken against India even if those disputed matters can be solved in the mutual understanding or dialouge. We are not ready to tolerate it. I therefore request you and I would like to put before the Government and before the hon. Minister through you that our Government must do three things immediately—

(1) You should convey to America irrespective of whatever you have to import from there that we cannot tolerate, as has been said to the people of India, any such arm twisting and the trend of suppressing us.

(2) Mr. speaker, Sir, it had been raised in the House one or two times earlier that so far as the matter of Joint Naval Exercise is concerned—

[English]

If you are really meaning to stand up to Americans, you call off this Joint Naval Exercise and tell them that this is not acceptable to us.

[Translation]

We will then be able know the might of the Government and thirdly, Sir, we would like to tell the Government that we people hesitate to say certain things. Israel's attack can be discussed and we can discuss other things, but we do not like these two words - non- alignment and SAARC - because

multinational companies and I.M.F. are putting pressure upon us. Mr. speaker, Sir, it is my appeal to the Government that you should immediately call the meeting of the committee of the non-alignment movement and try to challenge the America attack which is 'eugulfing the whole world. America has stopped us from giving rice to Cuba, sanctions were imposed on Libya, Russia was told to stop giving space technology to India and today an attack was made on us directly. The Government must call the meeting of S.A.A.R.C. and non-alignment movement America should be told that these countries are not under your subordination; they are fully competent to face you.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Ulubena): Sir, I gave a notice to suspend the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: You should not do it and please to not repeat it now.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: It is because of the seriousness of the situation, because it is a an affront, an economic war against us. This international hooliganism, we should all condemn unequivocally. I am happy that the indication has been given by the Minister and it should be strengthened further. You know that this is continuing for the last several months. They are trying to force us to surrender in their way. Now, they are accusing us of 'theft'. We should condemn that attitude expressed by them.

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing said against India as such. Let us not extend it.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Those who are looting other countries are using the word like, " theft ".

Sir, therefore I would say that the American Ambassador should be called at once and should be said that India will not tolerance this type of international hooliganism. We should also categorically say that the third world countries are being

continuously pressurised; and they are also trying to force us to surrender, to accept TRIPS, etc. The Government's attitude should be very firm on it, that we are not going to surrender our patent right and other things. In this situation, I hope that the Government will make comprehensive statement; and a full fledged discussion should be there. On the basis of that, we should make our minds clear and a message should go to the Third World countries so that they also get mobilised and come behind us. As a leader of the Non-aligned Movement, we should stand firmly against this onslaught on our economic rights, and it may be even extended to the political sovereignty. We should stand by that and I hope that the Government will stand firmly. The whole nation will stand by them, if they take a correct stand. Otherwise -if they surrender -the people will not tolerate. I hope that the Government will stand by it, correctly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for being brief and to the point.

SHRI A CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, we on this side of the House, are equally concerned about this sudden development. The United States has retaliated against India for its allegedly inadequate protection on patents in the pharmaceutical industry. As a result, Indian pharmaceutical export will no longer enjoy the duty benefit under the general system of preferences. It is rather very unfortunate that we are now included in the priority list kept by the US Trade representative Ms. Carla Hills along with Taiwan and Thailand. A few months back, they threatened China also; but somehow, China is now outside the list. This is not a sudden development or rather an isolated incident. They are putting all pressure tactics, so that this country may not come up. They are unhappy about the discussion that is going on in Russia regarding the supply of cryogenic engine for our space programme. They are unhappy about the coming up of a Third World country in the space programme. But we are using it only for peaceful purposes. So, we have to be very careful in dealing with this situation.

After the Kuwait-Iraq war, an attempt is being made by the United States to force themselves as the only super power. We have to realise this. We have to strengthen the Non-alignment Movement. This is the only way to keep our interest. But at the same time, I am very sad to hear how our hon. Member, Mr. George Fernandes, is accusing this Government. For the last ten months, the whole Opposition is trying to give a message that this Government is crying to surrender the economic sovereignty of the country. This is most unfortunate. (Interruptions) We are fighting against the foreigners. We are fighting against all the attacks made on us. The IMF conditionalities have to be resisted. It is only because of that we are able to continue the food subsidy. We have selected 1,700 backward districts for the public distribution system. We are continuing the subsidy for fertilisers. So, it is because of this fight that the United States is annoyed against us.

It is unfortunate that the Opposition is now having a double game -attacking America and, at the same time, attacking this Government. This is the time when we have to stand united. I appeal to the Opposition to stand united and oppose all attempts either by the United States or any other country either for destabilising or for taking action against us. So, I hope that unanimously this august House will pass a resolution condemning the action of the United States and protecting our interests.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: (Chittorgarh): Mr. speaker, Sir, I believe that this question has arisen because yesterday's discussion on the demands for grants of the Ministry of Commerce were unfortunately, because of paucity of time, truncated. We have had a full discussion for the demands for grants of the Ministry of External Affairs. We have separately considered the question of the attitude of the Government of the United States of America both on the issue of the supply of cryogenic engines for space research which we were seeking from another country. The demands for grants for the Ministry of External Affairs, of course, being at the hard core..

**MR. SPEAKER:** A private Member's resolution is also being discussed.

**SHRI JASWANT SINGH:** There is a private Member's resolution. All that has taken place. But I think, what has arisen and what is at the substance of this morning's concern, which the House is rightly voicing, is really the question of economic sovereignty. I am basing my observations on what I have read in the newspapers, about the statement attributed to an official of the Government of United States of America. If my interpretation of it be correct, I will be happy if the hon. Minister would illuminate us. The subject is that a certain official of the Government of the United States has commented on patent laws, mis-application of them globally, according to their perceptions and specifically relating to the question of pharmaceutical industry. Now as that happens, the pharmaceutical industry in India is the one crucial aspect of this entire matter whether Dunkel or special 301, etc

If the economic sovereignty is on test, it is really on the question of how much we buckle on the question of pharmaceutical prices. I am somewhat reassured by what the hon. Minister of Commerce has said, if a certain official of the Government of United States of America chooses to employ certain phraseology, that is their right and they are free to do that. I would like to share with my friend, Shri George Fernandes, an old Arabic saying that if a caravan were to stop every time, the village dogs bark. Then the caravan would never reach its destination. The caravan of a great country like India is in motion and this caravan is not going to stop, having chosen the path and direction as it has. Everytime when some village dog yelps, this caravan is not going to stop. But the reassurance that is needed from the Government is particularly on this aspect that, so far as pharmaceutical industry is concerned, as the drugs, pharmaceutical preparations and medicines are perhaps the cheapest in India, India just cannot afford to buckle under anyone's pressure, when it comes to drug pricing and pharmaceutical industry, be it the United States of America

or any other country. I think this is the assurance that is needed from the Government. That is all that I have to say.

**SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYER (Mayiladuturai):** Mr Speaker, Sir, we are really faced with an extremely important crisis in the life of our country. I would plead with the Minister of Commerce and other Ministers of our Government not to treat this matter as a purely technical issue. This is not matter of only commerce and economic sovereignty. It is a matter of India's standing up against the quest for dominance by the United States which constitutes the essence of the new world order which the Americans are seeking to impose upon our country. I would, therefore, plead with the Government not to give us, whenever this matter is discussed, an answer that is narrowly based on questions of pharmaceutical or only of patents or of the consequence of our not obtaining GSP treatment in the US market for our pharmaceutical products, but to explain to us whether they are prepared to reassess our entire relationship with the United States in a situation where instead of talking to us, the Americans are attempting to threaten us. This is the litmus test for our Government to prove that we are a non-aligned country, that we are a self-respecting country, that our regard for our sovereignty extend beyond matters of purely economic sovereignty, which is the expression used by my friend, Shri Jaswant Singh, to all areas of sovereignty. This specific action represents the symbol of an attempt to reduce all of us in this world in to a kind of vassal state to the paramouncy of the United States. I would, therefore, plead that we should not treat this as a technical matter. I would plead that we should take into account the points made by my friend, Shri George Fernandes, very seriously as they are extremely relevant with the matters at hand, I would very very strongly support my friend Shri Charles's proposal that the House should unanimously adopt a suitably worded resolution on expressing the unanimous determination of India, of this House and of our people to stand up against bullying by the United States of America. (Interruptions)



**SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura):** Sir, I am in full agreement with the sentiments expressed by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. This is not an isolated matter, that is, the attack and threat by the US Government. After the dismantling of the Soviet Union, there is a change in the international situation. The United States of America are threatening India and they want our country to surrender, that we should change our foreign policy and the policy of non-alignment which we have been pursuing since long. We used non-alignment policy against the US imperialism and US domination. Their main intention is to change our foreign policy and our economic policy. Once our economic independence is attacked, our political independence will also be under attack. There are already many such instances. Our recognition of Israel is also because of the pressure from the US Government, our role in abstaining and not opposing the motion in the Security Council to take action against Libya, and our joint naval ventures, all these prove that we are surrendering all our policies, one after another. Time has now come to act on what Shri Mani Shankar has suggested, viz. we should now review our relations with the United States. We should not succumb to their pressure. If we surrender our economic sovereignty, our political sovereignty also will be in danger.

Sir, there is another matter. The Finance Minister is present here. Today, 10 lakhs of bank workers on strike...(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** No, no. Please sit down. This is all mixing up. You should not do it.

**SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad):** I join my friends in expressing on the action by the President of the United States in proclaiming that certain Indian goods will now attract retaliatory penal duties. We have to specifically note this is not an action taken under the Special 301 of the US Trade Act, but this is an action taken by the US President. Action under Special 301 is still awaited and it is still hanging over our heads. We do not know what further action they will take. I would ask the Commerce

Minister one point specifically. The US Trade Representative, Ms. Carla Hills while talking to reporters yesterday, has stated that India is still being retained on their watch list that she is not satisfied with the bilateral and multi-lateral negotiations that are going on. We know that China has concluded the arrangement under TRIPS with the United in a bilateral negotiation.

**SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum):** China has accepted all the points.

**SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN:** Yes. They have concluded their bilateral agreement. But I want to know from the Commerce Minister as to what our stand is, in the bilateral discussions now going on with the United States regarding TRIPS. We should know what is going on in our bilateral negotiations.

**SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum):** I would just add a few points. We all know that the Uruguay Round of Negotiations are not in a happy state. The action taken by the United States representatives is precisely because they are not sure about the results of the GATT negotiations. Therefore, they have started acting on their own. These pressures will be mounting in the immediate future. I entirely agree with Shri George Fernandes that we should, first of all, indicate to the world via a retaliatory measure such as cancelling the Indo-US naval exercises, that we can stand on our own. The second point to which, we would also agree, is that an immediate summoning of the Non-Aligned Meeting or the meeting of the G-77 should be attempted to have a joint rally against such blatant domination.

The third point that I want to mention and which is not made by others up to now is that all these issues are related to the giving up of our developmental approach on the basis of self-reliance. As long as we sacrifice our self-reliant approach to economic development and choose to approach the IMF and the World Bank for help, it would be difficult for us to resist such pressures. In this sense our approach about

the entire economic policy also should be changed so that we can really stand up against this old bully. As has been said, it is not only a super power but is attempting to become the supreme power. Therefore, all these points should be covered when the Commerce Minister gives his reply and if a resolution has to be adopted unanimously, we should try to incorporate all these ideas in the resolution. That alone will prove our point before the U.S. Power.

**SIIRIE AHAMED (Manjeri)** I fully share the views expressed by the hon. Member on this point. I request the hon. Minister to accept the suggestion made by Shri George Fernandes to call off the joint naval exercise which we propose to have with America as an expression of displeasure of the American muscle flexing and arms twisting and muscle flexing policy against the nations standing against her. Sir, we cannot surrender our self-respect to any country. America will never agree or allow India to grow and have domination in the trade and other regions. America will definitely try to subdue India. Therefore, Sir, it is time for our Government to show our self-respect. I am glad to hear the Commerce Minister saying that India will not yield to American pressure. I hope India will continue this stand and all of us will stand behind the Government of India in this regard.

**SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha)** Sir, our country is becoming more and more self-reliant and we are marching towards progress. A stern step has been taken by us in various fields including the new economic policy itself, and we have marched forward to a great extent. It is clear to the other nations, especially to the Super Power that India is not going to succumb to any of the pressure and yet they are putting more and more pressure.

I firmly stand by what has been said by almost all the Members here and I would suggest that a stern signal should go from this House as well as from the Government and from people of India against this oppression and against this so-called steps taken by US to see that we bow down to their wishes.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa):** Sir, it is not the first time that the whole House is, in a unanimous manner, condemning the U.S. action against the dignity and honour of our country. Now, when Shri Chidambaram comes forward and says that the U.S. action is unjustified, we can understand how serious the situation is.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolgpur):** Even how serious Shri Chidambaram is.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY:** I have no hesitation to say in this House that if to protect the dignity, honour and interest of our country this Government comes forward and takes a firm stand against the bullying tactics of this super power, then the whole country will be behind them. That is why it is necessary that even now we come together and take a firm decision to express the opinion of our people that even in this changed world situation our country will stand on its feet, the attack of super power and against the attack of imperialist forces.

In the same line even now if they try to really pursue their line of domination, then India would stand up against that and the whole country, its people, and its Parliament will be fully supporting that stand.

With this I also support the demand for a Resolution of this House and consequent action that will really be a projection that we are firm to protect our dignity and honour and as a taken, I also demand that you take a decision to cancel that Joint Naval exercise which has no meaning in this changed context.

**SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a point to add. The U.S. Government, particularly, the U.S.T.R. already, sometime back, had taken certain measures against the Indian interests on the basis of evidence submitted by American Motion Pictures Association. Ms. Carla Hillis had said that after investigation, it was found that Indian patent regime was very much

against their interest and on pressure by them, the Commerce Ministry had allowed the American Films to be under OGL and taken away the rights from NFDC. It was part of the cultural invasion had been taking place while we are considering unanimously the threat being given by Ms. Carla Hills and the U.S. Government. We should take note of the past surrenders that had taken place by our Government.

[Translation]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurduars): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole House is unanimous on this proposed resolution. I would like to say only this much that in view of the sovereignty of the country as well as the feelings of the member, we should not bow down before any pressure of any country whether it is the largest country or it is a Super Power. We should frame our policy keeping in view the interest of our country and the entire House is unanimous in this regard. I therefore, request you kindly to move this resolution. The world knows that India may be poor but it shall maintain its self-respect and pride.

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI (Kaiserganj): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I strongly oppose the pressure being put by America through economic sanctions and I totally agree with the opinion expressed by the hon. Members in this House. Sir, I quote a shlok in this regard :-

"Yawat Jiwet, Sukham Jiwet, Rinam  
Kritwa Chritam Piwet, Bhasmi  
Bhutasya, Dehasya,  
Punragamanam Kutah".

Our tendency has become to take loans and to lead a happy life and only due to this tendency, United States of America is putting pressure upon India today and that pressure is gradually increasing upon the world. Every citizen of India is prepared to protect his self respect, pride and the national interest even if he gets only one time meal, but we are not prepared to bow down before anybody's pressure. I strongly oppose the economic pressure being put on us by

U.S.A. In the circumstances, we request the Government through you that this issue should be taken up seriously and the American hooliganism, should be opposed and a consensus should be formed in this regard. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar): I 'joint' my friend and other hon. Members of this House in condemning the attitude of the USA. It is a threat our country, to our Non-Aligned Policy, to our economic sovereignty. I hope the House will move a Resolution to condemn the attitude of the USA.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We have been from time to time referring to the danger of certain policies that we have been following, that we have adopted. This is an instance where we find that our apprehension has come to be true.

In spite of our differences with the Government on various issues on this issue, I am sure that both the Government and US will be able to articulate our country's serious objection and protest in a most forthright manner without any ambiguity so that the country which is trying to act as an international bully realises that it cannot have its way all over the world as they are trying to do.

I am very happy that Mr. P. Chidambaram has already condemned and described it as unjustified action on the part of USA. I only request the Government and demand from the Government that they should continue with this approach in this issue and take a stronger approach in this matter. And I can assure him that the entire House will be with the Government in this matter. No ambiguity should be shown; no hesitation in this matter.

We welcome any hand of friendship that is extended to this country by any other country in the world. But when our dignity is sought to be compromised and we are taken as a matter of plaything by any international

agency or any country, then we must maintain our prestige and dignity

We have been progressing we have problems But we should not depend on anybody's mercy, or anybody's goodwill only Let us stand on our strength, and on this issue, let us project united, strong action on the part of the country as a whole Let the country be not, let the House be not divided on this issue I request the Government to stand upon this issue, take an proper approach so that we can join

MR SPEAKER Would you like to respond now or later?

(SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) It will be most appropriate for me to respond after I get full information But I just wish to say one thing Now that so many hon Members have spoken, I wish to say that from the very beginning we had taken a firm, fair and consistent position on the issue of IPR Despite misgivings expressed in certain quarters, we have not yielded or pressure nor have we failed to defend our vital national interests In fact, this retaliatory action as I said little while earlier, underscores the point that we have not yielded to pressure I need not cite examples of some other countries which have yielded to pressure As far as I am concerned, I have not given way to either panic or polemics We have consulted our bilateral trading partners, we have negotiated in the multilateral forums

And when the debate takes place on Monday or Tuesday, whenever you choose to fix the time, the Government will respond fully to the situation that has developed as a result of this morning's action I welcome and I am grateful for the support expressed by hon Members to the position taken by Government in defending vital national interest

MR SPEAKER In this issue, I have to make it clear to the hon Member that there is paucity of time We have this issue and the Private Members' Resolution is also being discussed There is a proposal for discussing the Dunkel proposal also, and

the time at our disposal is really very limited So, if you fix the time, probably we shall have to take up Dunkel proposal and this issue also together so that...(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: Private Member Business is there today, and if the hon. Members want to express their views, in a way, they are expressing their views there also So, I think, we will try to find out as to how it can be done

Today, one more thing which I have to bring to the notice is that there are some hon Members who want to raise some issues I am giving them time But let them be very brief please, and then we have a Calling Attention Motion also

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) And my Privilege Motion also is there

MR SPEAKER I have refused my consent to it

SHRIGEORGE FERNANDES Why did you refuse? Yesterday, I had raised an issue before the House You had assured me that I would get an opportunity to raise that issue today regarding my Calling Attention Notice I have got the information from your secretariat in this regard You must see this rule No 225

[English]

" Provided that where the Speaker has refused his consent under rule 222"

as has been conveyed to me,

" or is of opinion that the matter proposed to be discussed is not in order, he may, if he thinks it necessary",

[Translation]

I agree that all the rights are with you

"read the notice of question of

privilege and state that he refuses consent or holds that the notice of question of privilege is not in order."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the last few days there had been some discussion on this issue. On that particular issue I have given my privilege motion against the Prime Minister. I have mentioned two things in that Motion. The Prime Minister had given a statement on the first of April and he had given another statement on the 23rd April. The two statements are just contradictory. It is not an ordinary mistake; rather it has been deliberately made to mislead the House. As an evidence of it I have sorted out some extracts of his speeches and have presented them in the House.

He is the leader of the House. He is the Prime Minister and we all respect him as a Prime Minister as the leader of the House and as a person. If there is anything against him which shows that he is misleading the House, I have no alternative barring Rule 222, but to being a Censure Motion or a No-Confidence Motion against the Government. I know that the Censure Motion cannot be brought against the Prime Minister, but you are forcing me to move a "No Confidence" Motion. I request you that you should allow a discussion in the House on my Privilege Motion. If you feel during the discussion that there is something against the Prime Minister as per my notice, then there are number of capable persons in Congress like the Kumaramangalam who is a very leading Advocate, who can defend the Prime Minister. I am talking about the Privilege Motion. If it is not admitted, then what alternative is left with me to raise the issue. You please tell me what is the other measure with me except Rule 222 or raising the issue before you. If I had given a wrong statement I would have corrected it within the rules and under your directions. But the Prime Minister has given the statement on behalf of the Government and he has given a wrong statement. You may see para no. 2. I am not reading anything in this ..

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are going into the substance.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am not going into that. You should give the permission, you should read yourself. You may kindly see para 11 and 12 of my letter.

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: There is a contradiction in the Prime Minister's statement which is very clear.

MR. SPEAKER: You have spoken.

[English]

I think you are a very senior and very able parliamentarian. You have been using the devices to discuss this matter every how and then and nobody can object to that, it is your right. But at the same time, we have to go by the rules. Rule No. 222 says,

\* Any Member, may, with the consent of the Speaker".

I shall have first to decide whether I can give the consent to not; and I have informed you that I have refused consent to it. I refused the consent after getting your Privilege Motion, the explanation from the Prime Minister, I went through it and I have come to the conclusion that as far as my understanding goes, there is no inconsistency or contravention and I did not feel that there was anything misleading in it. I have come to that conclusion. I have refused that consent. After that you will not be able to raise it.

Supposing I refuse the consent, you raise it and supposing there is a breach of privilege against any Member of the House and then I refuse the consent, again it is raised, then it goes on and on and on.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am not raising it. I am obeying your orders. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I got your orders when I came to the House today that you have rejected my Privilege Motion. I have drawn your attention to rule No. 225, I am not violating any rule.

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, Rule 225 is a different issue. You may take it as that I have not given my consent on your Privilege Motion. I gave you the chance to speak. I will have to listen others also and will take a decision on it.

[English]

13.00 hrs.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: No Sir, Please see the first proviso of Rule 225. It says:

"Provided that where the speaker has refused his consent under rule 222 or is of opinion that the matter proposed to be discussed is not in order, he may if he thinks it necessary...."

[Translation]

Then I have accepted the fact that it is your right. It is my appeal to you.

[English]

Further it says:

....." read the notice of question of privilege and State that he refuses consent or holds that the notice of question of privilege is not in order."

[Translation]

It is my request to you that my notice should be read out in the House so that the members may give their opinion. Since on this topic the entire House had taken part in the discussion in the House and during this discussion when I was speaking, you people

had tried to interrupt me in a very planned way; and even then if you reject my privilege motion then it is an injustice not only with me, but with the entire House.

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not like this at all.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: That is why you should call all the leaders of the House, make them sit and talk to them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to apply my mind to the facts.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we can call the doctors to check whether soul living being is dead or not. So the question is that you are saying that there is nothing in it while we say that it has something.

MR. SPEAKER: This issue has been discussed. apart from that, there was a discussion on it in the unlisted Hour, statements have also been made 2 or 3 times, then there was an Adjournment Motion and now we have the Privilege Motion. So, I feel that it should not be extended beyond a certain limit. It has been discussed here 7-8 hours. Whereas I have said that there are so many other subjects also for discussion. It is true that you are aware of the provisions and their use and you are making use of these provisions and you do not raise objection but there are other people who want to raise other points. So my request is that if a discussion is not allowed on it, then you say that there it is not being done due to some other reasons. But what I say is that there has been a discussion for 7 hours on this issue. Everybody has expressed his views. There is no use of repeating the points. I have carefully observed the points and I have given my consent with my understanding and judgment. People repeatedly say that I should use my discretion and discretion is mine not yours. You say that it is my discretion than it is not possible.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: You will listen to me at least in your chamber.

MR. SPEAKER: But I won't allow you to raise a discussion on this topic afterwards...

SHRI GEORGE FERVIDNESS: But, at least you will try to understand me may be I may not follow you.....

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I will listen to you but I will not allow you to raise the matter in the House.

[English]

I have closed the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I will talk to you in your chamber.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Any time Members are welcome to my Chamber.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will take only half a minute.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, he cannot speak on this ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am not at the moment referring to the privilege motion. Mr. Chidambaram, the little goodwill that you have earned, you are dissipating it very soon by your unmerited obstruction (Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Now he wants to argue on a privilege notice which he admitted a minute ago that he has not even read or seen. This is the way he argues in the Supreme Court without a brief... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only he argues on law, for which he does not need any brief.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I did get it. How did he get a copy of this report?... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It was given to the Government ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do not provoke me unnecessarily... (Interruptions) Yesterday I made a little interjection. The country's honour is involved. I am not questioning your judgment. I know that you used your discretion with discretion, I am sure. Therefore, what I am submitting is that since the Prime Minister has felt that the matter is important to merit his reply ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I had asked for it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is going to reply. Therefore, the matter is not closed finally. He is going to reply within a week. I am on the questions that have been raised.. (Interruptions) Do not show your unnecessary allergy for this.

Sir, after the hon. Prime Minister gives his reply, if there is any question that has to be put in, we shall be allowed to do that. If necessary, there can be a proper discussion on issues which are coming up like allegations, insinuations, charges, complaints. What is this again and again? By your sensitivity to this issue and by your resistance to a meaningful discussion, you are only strengthening the suspicions in people's mind. This is the trouble. Therefore, I am suggesting for their benefit.. after the Prime Minister replies and before the House rises, we must have an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnathji, I am closing this matter here. Every now and then if you discuss - supposing you want a discussion on some point which is involved in it, again on some point which is involved in it, again on some point - it becomes unending.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am not asking for discussion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Please let us not do it. Let us do something. I do not know and I do not remember what was said and what was promised and all those things. So, I am not going to say do this thing or do not do this thing and all those things. I am going to say anything on that point. But one point I am trying to bring to your notice is that if a statement is made, you find some fault with something, again something and this cannot continue like this. We have limitations.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Not now.

MR. SPEAKER: Srimati Malini Bhattacharya.

SHRIMATIMALINIBHATTACHARAYA (Jadavpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, last evening, the Jamia Milla Islamia had to be closed *sine die*. This was following an attack reportedly by some students on Professor Akhtarul Waisi of the Department of Islamic Studies.

It may be mentioned here that before this Professor Waisi and some of his more other eminent colleagues like Professor A.J. Kidwai (former V.C.), Majid Ali Khan, M.G. Hussain, M. Shafiq etc. had expressed their concern and anguish in writing at the way in which some students had distorted and misinterpreted certain statements made by Professor Mushir-ul-Hassan, a well-known historian and Pro-V.C. Jamia in an interview to the *Sunday Magazine*: campaign was launched demanding his removal from his post; classes were not allowed to be held, examinations were hampered, effigies were burnt and a tirade of hatred was unleashed.

The Prof -V.C. in the interview concerning the ban on import of Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses* in India had said that the banning of a book cannot prevent any ill effect that it may have. It only lends that book a greater notoriety. As such he was for lifting the ban. But his opinions against the ban have been maliciously interpreted as suggesting that he is in agreement with the content of the book. This

is in spite of the fact that in interview he had said very categorically that R's novel had offend the sensibility of a large section of Muslim Community and he shared their indignation, and he subsequently issued a clarification saying that he in no way approves of the comments in *Satanic Verses*. One may agree or disagree with his opinion, but it is right that because he expressed his opinion, he would be submitted to harassment and attack of all kinds and anyone who supports him would be subjected to a physical attack? Is he to be denied his right to exercise his opinion? I think that this denial of his right is a challenge to the very basis of the life of University which cannot meaningfully exist without an atmosphere in which diverse views may be expressed and debated fully and also against our democratic Constitution.

I feel that this is just in a small way, it is the other side of the incident which took place some months ago in Bombay when some journalists were attacked because they had dared to say that it was bad to dig up the pitch at the Wankbede Stadium just before the visit of a Pakistan team.

I would say that this does not have anything to do with religious belief, the colleagues of Pro-V.C. who have stood up for him are also religious believers and it is on the basis of their religious beliefs that they have protested against such hooliganism. We feel that it is a misguided attempt to destroy the academic atmosphere of the University. We praise the firm attitude of the colleagues of Prof. Mushir -ul-Hassan and we praise the attitude of the Executive of the Teachers' Association there. We feel that the majority of students, although they may be silent today, cannot approve of such unwarranted attack and we think that the Government should have a positive role to play in this. The hon. HRD Minister has already been apprised of the matter ....(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER Now please conclude. We have the Calling Attention Motion hand many other things.



**SHRIMATIMALINIBHATTACHARAYA:**  
There is the hon. Salman Khursheed who is also associated very closely with Jamia Milla and I think that they and the Government and all Members of Parliament, whichever party they may be belonging to, should play a positive role in this. They stand up behind the Vice-chancellor and the teaching community and they should try to defuse the tense atmosphere which has developed in the University and they should try to restore the normal atmosphere.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Deshmukh...

(Interruptions)

**SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri):** Sir, I have also given my name on this...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: But this is properly explained. If you want on every point four-five Members to speak, then this Call Attention Motion for which you were very much agitated yesterday cannot come up for discussion because at 3.30 we have the Private Members' Business.

**SHRI E. AHAMED:** Sir, now the examinations are going on. The closure of the University is not in the interest of the students ... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: The lady Member has done it very well.

**SHRI E. AHAMED:** The Vice-Chancellor, about whom Maliniji has said so much, has acted in an arbitrary manner. Wherever there is violence and attack, we all condemn that. So, it is really condemnable and it should not have taken place, especially in a university like Jamia Milla. I do not want to go into the details. Prof. Mushir-ul-Hassan should not have given an opportunity. For creating such a situation, anyway, I leave it to his wisdom. Had he been discrete. Then clarification's would not have come in. He has said something which affected the sensibility of a large section of the people. I am given to understand subject to correction

- that some students of the High School Class in the Camp have done this assault. I condemn that. But the Vice-Chancellor could have settled it amicably. It is not such a big issue. So many students' agitations are taking place in the country but every university is not closed only on that account. Therefore, the Government should take some steps so as to open the university in the interests of the students and the issue should be settled very soon. I do not want to make any comment on other things at this juncture.

MR. SPEAKER: Now in this Hour you have spoken two times. I am reminding you.

**SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH (Washim):** Sir, the All India Community Health Guide Union has staged a dharna and hunger strike at Boat Club. This CHG Scheme is a Centrally-sponsored scheme. There are about 3,70,000 members of this Union and most of the members are women folk. Every Guide has to work about four hours every day and he has to perform about 22 duties. They are paid an honorarium of Rs. 50 per day. It has been their persistent demand that their honorarium should be increased. The Anganwadi workers and the CHG workers have to perform, more or less, the same duties. On the one hand, the Government has increased the salary of Anganwadi workers to Rs. 300 but the CHG workers have not been given their justice so far. Time and again, on different occasions different Governments have assured them. On 8th April 1988, 28th April 1989, 15th February, 1991 and 22nd March, 1991, different Ministries and different health Ministers have assured them that their demand would be looked into. What I urge the Government, through you, is that they should hold a dialogue with them immediately and they should assure the House categorically today that this dialogue they would hold with them today itself.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a very serious matter. There is a granite company at Mangol under Prakasham

district of Andhra Pradesh. On 27th April, 1992 three women belonging to the Scheduled Castes were not only raped there but after raping them they were killed and thrown into a well. The incident took place at 2 p.m. People of our Dalit Sena went there and returned after making inquiry. On that very day as soon as we got the information we decided to raise the matter in the evening but we did not raise that issue intentionally because we decided that unless we did not get a true authentic information about the incident, we won't do anything here. The incident occurred at 2 p.m. and then the police reached there at 4 p.m. No action has been taken in this connection so far. If you wish, I can give you the names of those women who have been the victims. These are B. Ramulamma aged 30 years, Rabudi Anjamma, 23 years, and Bathula Yasammal aged 14 years. Various rumours are spreading about the ownership of the company and involvement of the Chief Minister in this case. Not only that, even in Delhi a girl was raped in Sarai Basti. This way there are so many instances of rape out of which I have quoted only a few instances of Bihar and Delhi. I believe it is a serious matter. There is no crime like brutal killing. The entire House should express its sorrow on such incidents. The incident took place on 27th April. I want that the incident is investigated and a report is presented. A dead body was found there, may I know whether orders for judicial inquiry have been issued or not? Hon. Minister is present here, I am submitting it with all seriousness in the House that the Government should definitely come with a statement in this regard.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me first.

*[English]*

I have a Call Attention Motion which is to be discussed here. It is regularly fixed for discussion. Supposing we do not want to take it up, if we do not go to some other business, we will not be able to take it up. It is because the Private Members' Business

has to be started at 3.30 p.m. There is hardly one hour. You would like to rise for lunch also. I am allowing Shri Saifuddin Choudhury for two minutes only. *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, what is the opinion of the hon. Minister about the incidents that I have referred to just now or are you going to take up any Motion in this connection?

MR. SPEAKER: Let us see, what can be done.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a rape case and a very serious one. It should not be taken casually. Is it a trivial matter? Mr. Speaker, Sir, there can be serious matters of others but this is the most serious matter for us. After all poor people also have got some honour. It is the matter of rape committed with poor girls.

*[English]*

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE(Vijayawada): Since the granite company is connected with the Chief Minister, no action is being taken against the culprits. *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should give directive to the State Government under Article 256.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yours is a Calling Attention Motion. I am telling you repeatedly that you will be given time for that

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He is responding *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): I must submit that I do not have all the facts on this matter. We will definitely ascertain the facts and come up before the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have been given a chance already.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you to speak. In this hour also, you are wanting to speak more than two times. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not like this. There are other Members also who want to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: He also says that he has given a notice. If I take up business of the notices, should I drop the business on the agenda?

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Thank you for giving me time. I do not want to take much time of the House. There is one very important issue on which the entire country is concerned and that is about the developments in Afghanistan. What is really happening there? The Prime Minister of Pakistan has visited Afghanistan—Kabul. So many different conflicting news are coming

and the development of a fundamentalist Afghanistan is totally anathema to secular India. In this context, I want to know about what is the situation there. Please give us information about the position and what you are going to do in relation to the developments in Afghanistan (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Sir, I had given a notice. I will speak on a different point of view.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. In case I leave it, your Call Attention could not be taken up.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody is prepared to understand what is the business on the agenda. How can we conduct this House like this

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me to speak for just a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: If everyone requires one minute each, what would happen to the Business on the Agenda?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I will reply to the point raised by the hon. Member.

The Government of India does welcome the announcement of ceasefire in Afghanistan. The Mujahideen Council has also taken office in Kabul. We officially acknowledge that this Council is functioning as the interim Government of Afghanistan. Our Ambassador in Kabul has been in touch

with the members of the Council and had been received by the President Mr. Sibghatullah Mujadidi. These developments have raised the prospect of peace and restoration of normalcy in Afghanistan. India has always supported a political settlement in Afghanistan based on the aspirations of the Afghan people worked out by the Afghans themselves. We hope that the authorities in Kabul will reflect the aspirations of different segments of the Afghan society and opinion. We wish the President and the members of the Mujahidden Council every success in their endeavours in promoting national reconciliation and harmony, resolving all ethnic and other differences, in maintaining Afghanistan's stability, unity and territorial integrity. India, on its part, will do whatever it can to contribute towards the achievement of these objectives. We have always stood for a sovereign, independent, non-aligned and united Afghanistan and remain firm in this commitment.

The people of Afghanistan have undergone incalculable hardships and deprivation during the long years of violent conflict. The new authorities in Kabul are faced with a daunting challenge of alleviating human suffering and undertaking the arduous task of reconstruction, rehabilitation and development. The Government of India which has traditionally been involved in programmes for the betterment of the Afghan people is ready to assist the Afghan Government in these endeavours. Our close and friendly relations with Afghanistan are deeply rooted in history and tradition. We have an abiding interest in sustaining and nurturing the friendship and cooperation with Afghanistan. We do look forward to a continuous, constructive and a fruitful dialogue with the new authorities in Kabul.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

13.22 hrs

**Annual Report and Review on the working of the National Institute for the visually Handicapped, Dehra Dun for the Year 1990-91 etc.**

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI K. KAMALAKUMARI): On behalf of Shri Sitaram Kesri, I beg to lay on the Table,

- (1)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehra Dun, for the year 1990-91 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehra Dun, for the years 1990-91.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in the library See No LT - 1875.92]
- (3)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91.