

12.00 hrs.

RE. ALLEGED THREAT OF ARREST TO
THE SPEAKER LOK SABHA BY
SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY, A UNION
MINISTER — *CONTD.*

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: First of all, please let us know as to why he had come to you for an apology. A clarification to this effect must come in the House. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[*English*]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Jodhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I submit that this issue does not relate to any individual. This issue is a matter of propriety and privilege of an institution. If it was an individual matter, the individual Member of Parliament can come and meet you in his individual capacity and have whatever conversation or whatever exchange of views etc., that that individual Member decides to have with you. I submit that the issue is not individual; the issue is institutional and because it is institutional, it is outside the ambit of individual choice or individual decision-making. I have no reason to disbelieve when the hon. Prime Minister stands up to say that even if such rumours come about, it merits an immediate individual apology to you. I am given to understand from what the hon. Prime Minister said and subsequently what the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs said,

[*Translation*]

"It is not true. It is far from truth. What has come in the newspaper is not true. It is far from truth.

[*English*]

Between what he has said, what the hon. Prime Minister has said and what has been reported in the Press, the issue still

remains that of the privilege and propriety of an institution.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order to raise. Sir, just now the hon. Prime Minister informed the House that he begged an apology from you. Thereafter, the hon. Minister said that the report is incorrect. I would like to know the reason as to why the hon. Prime Minister begged apology from you? Is it so that he goes on begging apology from you from dawn to dusk because his Ministers usually do such behaviour. Sir, it has to be clarified as to why the hon. Prime Minister begged apology from you.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a point of order. Please take your seat. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if nothing had happened, why did the hon. Prime Minister come to you for an apology. Is he in the habit of begging apology from you everyday? Please tell us as to why he had come to you for an apology. (*Interruptions*) First of all, we should know the reasons for which the hon. Prime Minister had come to you for an apology. This point needs to be clarified. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You wanted to raise a point of order, but it is not a point of order.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: As my senior colleague Mr. Advani, as the Leader of the Opposition, has suggested, either way a grave impropriety has been committed; either there has been a commitment of a grave impropriety by a Member of the Union Council of Ministers as reported by the Press or the Press has committed an impropriety as reporting or as allegedly reporting as to what might have been transpired between you and a Member of the Union Council of Ministers. Either way, you cannot now take a

non-aligned attitude as a decision requires to be taken. You cannot say that no decision need be taken after what the hon. Prime Minister has said or what the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has said; either way, a grave impropriety has taken place and one or the other is guilty of grave impropriety; either a Member of the Union Council of Ministers or a member of the Press. Either way, you have to take a decision not in your individual capacity, but because an institution is involved. I lend entire support to what my leader has said. If the *Hindustan Times* has carried the report which is entirely incorrect, is tendentious, then it is incumbent on us, on you particularly that the *Hindustan Times* be called to account. If the *Hindustan Times* has not so carried the tendentious report, then obviously the member of the Union Council of Ministers who is reported to have said all this be called to account.

There is only one way-out that the matter be referred to the Privileges Committee. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Tripura, West): Sir, Question Hour is over.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already announced that the Question Hour is over.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, you cannot say that nothing will be decided. You have to take a decision because it is not your individual matter. It is a matter of the institution. *(Interruptions)* I do request you, you must please say that you will ponder over it, you will reflect on this matter and you will come back to this House and say what you have decided. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have already had your said. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order to raise. My point of order is that in our country Constitution is the Supreme. According to our Constitution you are the symbol

of the House. You are not only the Speaker, the patron of the Parliamentary privileges, but also you are the symbol of the entire Parliament. It is not the question of Parliament only, but the dignity of the entire country. Where the constitution is violated, the question of point of order arises there. Sir, according to our Constitution, the question of privilege arises when an hon. Member is prevented from discharging his duties. I am an ordinary Member. I want to discharge my duties as a Member of Parliament and somebody puts hindrances in it, then it will be a case of breach of privilege. If somebody threatens the hon. Speaker who is regarded as the symbol of the Constitution and patron of Parliamentary privileges and causes obstructions in discharging of his duties and dares to say "we will get you arrested" he violates the Constitution and he has no right to continue in the council of Ministers even for a moment.

The hon. Prime Minister clearly said that he begged apology from you. He did a very good thing and in fact he should do so. When he begged apology, it is indicative of the fact that something has happened. Had there been nothing, he would not have begged apology. From his statement in the House, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has made the matter more complicated. The matter does come to an end by just saying that "it is not true, it is far from truth". Sir, after the promulgation of our Constitution in 1950, it is for the first time in our country that a Minister has threatened the hon. Speaker. It is the first occasion in the history of the country. I would, therefore, like to request you. Sir, not to take it lightly, I am not feeling well. I had said whatever I have to. But the matter is so important that I could not keep quiet. That is why I placed this matter before you. There is no other point more suitable than this which should be given to the Privileges Committee. *(Interruptions)*

If this matter is placed before the Privileges Committee, Shri Swamy should be kept away from the cabinet till such time.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): I have a very simple demand. If the threat is made, the person concerned should be arrested. If the report is false, then the person who has reported, the proprietor of The Hindustan Times should be arrested because of the gravity of the assault on the country and on the Constitution. This cannot be given a go by, by referring it to Privileges Committee. If the report is false, then the proprietor or the reporter of the newspaper which has circulated the false news should be immediately got arrested. Either of the two courses must be followed by the Government. This is the demand that I want to make.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You take your seats.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): We want a full debate on this. This is not a very simple matter.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard you. You take your seats. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to you only this much that you should consider the views of all the hon. Members who spoke on this matter. We do not ask you to take an instant decision now. You can inform us of your well considered decision tomorrow. We understand that it is not a personal matter. (Interruptions) I can forgive the people who show much more disrespect. But it is the question of the House and its dignity. Nothing personal is involved in it. You may please take a decision after due consideration. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Let us adjourn the House and discuss how it should be taken up. Let us adjourn the House and discuss. We cannot continue with such a Minister.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We must have a full discussion on this.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Let us work out what the next step should be. You adjourn the House. We will sit in your Chamber and discuss the matter.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN (Bahraich): You have indicated that you will take the House into confidence (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I would not like to infringe upon your rights. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given a notice of Adjournment Motion. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Let us sit in your Chamber. You adjourn the House.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Members of various parties have expressed their views rising above the party. Now doubt, Prime Minister made an intervention. Shri Satya Prakash Malviya also made a certain statement and reacted further complication because if he says that the entire report is wrong, it could mean that Dr. Subramaniam Swamy did not meet you also. It may mean anything. Therefore, what I say here is that you have already

listened to the point of view of various hon Members Mr Speaker, Sir I would like to say that there is a strong feeling in this House (*Interruptions*) I would like to quote a precedent There has been a precedent in this House. On one occasion, on the same day, five hours of discussion took place on a question of Privilege that was raised Now, there is a strong feeling in this House that because the matter is so sensitive, you are also feeling embarrassed you feel that it is concerning you I would suggest to you to meet the leaders today itself as many Members are saying Please fix up the time (*Interruptions*) Let there be threadbare discussion Please don't try to rule out the Privilege notice Let there be a thorough discussion today only You may fix up any time Sir, you can call the leaders in your Chamber You can fix up the time After all, the Adjournment Motion is also done like that Let there be a discussion on the Motion itself That had happened in the past also We had five hours discussion in this House on a Privilege Notice (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA. This is a serious matter We consider that this matter should be discussed today itself.

[*Translation*]

MR SPEAKER Shri Bhogendraji, you please speak, you are a senior Member

SHRI BHOGENDRAJHA (Madhubani) This incident has got two parts. First part concerns with the dignity the Lok Sabha which is the highest democratic institution So far the facts are concerned, you yourself were present there It happened in your presence It is not a personal matter It is the matter of the entire country as well as the whole House. (*Interruptions*) Please don't make noise, allow me to speak

MR. SPEAKER You please address the chair.

SHRI BHOGENDRAJHA: I request you to consider this and after taking people into confidence fix any procedure for it. You listen

to people and have the reactions of the people so that it is taken up in the House as early as possible Honourable Members have said that the Minister has passed derogatory remarks or used such words which conveys derogatory feelings and this attitude is not tolerable This is not the individual affair of the Prime Minister nor a matter of decision for the cabinet This is the matter of a Minister's attitude If he has not said then how it has been published in the newspaper. This is a serious matter that some newspapers want to entangle the entire country and this House This is in no way a matter of negligence or ignorance You ask for time from the House and discuss with various leaders so that the proceedings of the House may continue This is my submission.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi). Please adjourn the House for half an hour and invite all the leaders to your Chamber. This is an extremely serious matter and it will have its reactions in the entire world. The speaker of the greatest democratic institution of India Lok Sabha is being threatened that he would be imprisoned Keeping in view the seriousness of the matter, I request you that the House may be adjourned for half an hour. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please adjourn the House.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir please call a meeting of the leaders in your Chamber (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA. Sir, the matter is so serious that Members are agitated and you please call a meeting of leaders of all the political parties and fix the time for discussion today. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NATHU SINGH (Dausa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Nathu Singh ji, first

Advaniji will speak, then Jaswant Singh ji and other leaders will speak After them you may speak something

SHRISATYNARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain)
Mr Speaker, it is a serious matter

MR SPEAKER Please speak in one sentence

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA Mr Speaker, Sir such a serious thing has happened and how I can express in a single sentence This is a serious matter related to the contempt of the House "Truth is surrounded by falsehood, Light is challenged by Darkness" Nobody is allowed to disregard Parliament in this way We won't tolerate this (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER Nathu Singh ji, please say in one sentence

SHRI NATHU SINGH I thank you very much for giving an opportunity to the back-benchers also (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER You know that I take care of the Members who are back-benchers

SHRI NATHU SINGH Some honourable Members have demanded to refer this matter to the Privileges Committee

MR SPEAKER No No

SHRI NATHU SINGH I do not agree with this This is not the question of one Member It is the joint responsibility of the Council of Ministers as a whole (*Interruptions*) Mr Speaker, the Minister has said a word which is expressive of the tendency and attitude of Government, Mr Speaker Sir, it is an extremely dangerous matter if the Government is threatening the Speaker, This means that nothing can function In India in a democratic way When within the Parliament the proceedings are not carried in a democratic way how can government function in a democratic way outside it? So far the basic fundamental rights are concerned..

AN HON MEMBER What is the condition of the public?

SHRI NATHU SINGH This the question of the basic principle of constitution, so it should not be taken lightly I have worked with Dr Subramaniam Swamy I know his mentality and I am acquainted with him very well (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER I have listened to everybody Do I ignore anybody? (*Interruptions*)
[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE Sir, you would agree that if there is a threat to arrest the Speaker, that is a crime against the country If there is no threat and if some paper publishes that such a threat has been there, then it is a double crime against the country

MR SPEAKER Nirmalbabu, you have already had your say

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE Therefore, the matter is very serious The unfortunate situation is that these statements made by the Prime Minister and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister have complicated the issue So you alone can say that is the truth (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (Delhi Sadar) Mr Speaker, Sir, please decide so that the proceedings may continue

MR SPEAKER Please listen to me All of you, please be seated Mr Kundu, please be seated Lokanathji, what is the problem now?

(*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER Please sit down, Shri Joshi Didn't I permit you to speak? Nathu Singhji, be seated [*English*]

Lokanathji I have already heard your

statement, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Sir, can he put the Speaker in an embarrassing situation? It should be discussed today. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Lokanath Choudhuryji, please be seated. I have listened to your submission already. Please be seated. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri A. K. Roy.

SHRI A. K. ROY (Dhanbad): Sir, I think you have allowed me to speak on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, How can I prevent you?

SHRI A. K. ROY: Sir, some hon. Members are monopolising their concern for you. I also want to extend my concern.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I have allowed you.

SHRI A. K. ROY: Sir, my point is this. We, the hon. Members of this House, would like to know, before you conclude, before you reflect on this matter, before we discuss this, as to whether such a thing has really happened or not. We want to know, 'yes' or 'no'. You please tell us that. After that, you decide, whatever you want to *(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the gravity of the situation had greatly increased after the Prime Minister's intervention. He made the point that he did not know the truth. You alone know the truth and Dr. Swamy also knows the truth. Since Dr. Swamy has gone away, you alone can tell us, what the truth is.

Secondly, the Prime Minister also left an impression on our mind that something was said to you. It is not a personal matter. It concerns the dignity of the House, if something was said to you. You have no right, Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I may say so, in all humility, to decide that the issue is not serious. The expression used by the Prime Minister was that you had told him that the issue was not serious. I think it is for the House to decide whether the issue is serious or not because it concerns the dignity of the House. Therefore, I strongly urge that the matter be discussed in full and be referred to the Privileges Committee. *(Interruptions)*

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No, it should be discussed here. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDER JIT: Yes, it should be discussed here, Sir. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU (Balasore): Sir, I want to make a point.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, you are an experienced parliamentarian; you can express it in a few seconds.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Yes, I will do it. Sir, as I said, another third party has been brought into it Mr. Malviya. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have already referred to Mr. Malviya's statement. How many times you will say this? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Sir, I am told that Mr. Malviya has stated that it is not true. But my information is that much more things have happened, which have come in the newspaper. I was told that the Minister has threatened you that you will be voted out, if you do not extend indefinitely, the time given to the Janata Dal (S) Members to send their replies on the defection case. The newspaper has published it with great sobriety. Now, the hon. Minister has complicated it by saying that it is not true. But, my information is that there are much more things have happened than what is

published in the paper. I am told that you had asked him to keep quiet and that you would not listen to him. Then, he had said that if you do not allow indefinite time for the replies, since the case has been filed in the Court, he would get you arrested, for committing contempt of Court. Then also he did not leave and Mr. Malviya pulled him out of the room. *(Interruptions)* This is the situation. It is not only that. Your Chamber is also a part of this House. The other day we were there in the Treasury Benches and now we are here. It is not the question of Opposition versus the ruling party. I appreciate the Congress friends who are giving their silent support. *(Interruptions)* Therefore, my fervent appeal is that you have to take a decision here, in this Lok Sabha today itself. *(Interruptions)* That is my humble opinion.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly, keep silence. Actually, I have listened to Shri Advani, the leader of the Opposition, the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and all hon. Members who have spoke on it. This issue is such that all of you are very much exercised over it.

[*English*]

You are very much exercised over this issue. I have heard your submission. I will give due consideration to your pleas. Let us proceed with the business of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
This matter has to be taken first. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: With this I would say that.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: First of all, please take your seats. I want to add that when the

House adjourns for lunch, leaders of all political parties may please come to my chamber to discuss this matter.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that. I am sure you understand Hindi very well. I have said that whatever submissions have been made one under my consideration and I have called the leaders of all parties to my chamber for this purpose. I request you to come to my Chamber when the House adjourns for Lunch.

Now Papers laid on the Table.

12.31 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review on the working of Sports Authority of India for 1988-89 etc.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAJMAN-GAL PANDE): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sports Authority of India for the year 1988-89, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Sports Authority of India for the year 1988-90.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in library See No. LT-1619/91]