

note of the feelings of the House in this regard.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would like that the Government would make a statement on this issue before the House adjourns for the day today.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention specifically that you have given the apt direction. It will be better if an assurance for restoration of power is also given.

12.34 hrs.

RE. REPORTED INTERVIEW GIVEN BY THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY, TO THE *FINANCIAL TIMES*, LONDON, ABOUT TAXATION

[English]

SHRIMATI SUDHASHINI ALI (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to bring something very important to the notice of the House through you. This refers to an interview given by the Minister for Law and Commerce to the *Financial Times*, London on the 27th of last month. He would be more appropriately known as the "Lawless" Minister. It is a sad day for this country that he has been appointed Minister of Law. In this interview to the *Financial Times* he has talked about a decision taken by a member, his colleague, the Finance Minister in raising taxes and he has given a commitment to the *Financial Times* that "once we have managed the IMF loan negotiations we will get that reversed." He goes on to say. "If I can persuade Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and Mr. Chandra Shekar to come together, and I would claim the lion's share of the credit for this, I have sufficient self-confidence to make the Prime Minister

accommodate this concept of liberalisation. Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, this interview raises several very important questions about the very principle of collective responsibility, functioning of the Cabinet and who is the spokesman of this Government. I mean, we have this Minister, some kind of a Minister, who goes abroad and make statements regarding the policies of this country; gives an assurance that taxes which have been levied by one of his colleagues are the product of a confused mind and a panic reaction; and gives an assurance that once he has negotiated the IMF loan, he will get those taxes reversed. He also goes to say, "Because my powers of convincing are so unparalleled, I could bring Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and Mr. Chandra Shekhar together and therefore I will make Mr. Chandra Shekhar to give up all his long healthy commitment to socialism, etc. etc and bring him to my way of thinking, to my understanding of liberalisation." I think, these are very serious matters that have to be taken note of. I would be happy if the Prime Minister of this country comes and makes a statement in this House as to what he and his Government stand for. He has to make this clear. He has named his party as Janata Dal (Socialism). What does this Government stand for? What does the Prime Minister stand for? I think that this Parliament has got a right to know this. We must know from the Prime Minister as to what is their policy if any... (Interruptions) Has it made a principle of expediency like this gentleman had done all these times... (Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Jodhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would lend my voice to my friend and colleague, Shrimati Sudhashini Ali. There are four specific aspects that are involved. One is when a member of the Union Cabinet says that the step taken by the Union Cabinet is a panic reaction... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to react to this...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will give a chance to you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: His name has been taken. I would allow him to react since he is here.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now let us hear Mr. Jaswant Singh.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I refer to four specific instances, wherein the collective responsibility of the cabinet has been flouted. One has been cited by my friend and colleague Shrimati Subhashini Ali, wherein a member of the Union Cabinet has said that the imposition of import duty is a panic reaction and it will be withdrawn.

Secondly, an interview was given to some paper in Ahmedabad that the IMF loan agreement will be signed by this Government on the 23rd of January and the quantum of loan was given to that newspaper by this very same member of the cabinet, whereas the union Finance Minister... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when it is all false, how can he go on speaking on this issue? This matter has been raised by the hon. member Shrimati Subhashini Ali. Sir, you should give a chance for me to reply... *(Interruptions)* There is no use in allowing everybody to speak on a falsehood... *(Interruptions)* It is totally false... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: As a matter of fact, I have given the floor to Shri Jaswant Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: After Shri Jaswant Singh finishes his speech, I will allow Shri Swami to react.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would say very briefly. The hon'ble Prime Minister has just entered the House. There are four instances of violation of the collective responsibility of the Cabinet. A member of the Union Cabinet has given an interview to the local correspondent of *Financial Times* in which he has called the imposition of import duty by his colleague is a panic reaction. He has gone ahead to say that as soon as he could arrange it that is, the Union Minister could arrange it, he shall have it reversed. This has been referred to by my friend Subhashini Ali already. Secondly, an interview is given to a newspaper that an IMF loan agreement will be signed by this Government on the 23rd of January. The quantum is given and the terms as specified, when the Union Finance Minister, just the other day, has mentioned to us that it is still under consideration. Thirdly, when the very same Minister of the Union Cabinet visits Brussels, it is my information that without clearance from the Government he meets with the Minister from Israel... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SOME HON. MEMBERS: This...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Some Member has said '.....' ** That will not go on record...

(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the third is that the very same Minister of the Union Cabinet goes and confers with the Minister of Israel. Therefore, it is necessary for the Government to tell us whether it is the policy of the Government to have parleys with Israel, whether it is authorised by the Government. Fourthly, there has appeared a report in the newspapers that the very same Minister met with the President of Afghanistan. The report about the conversation with the President of Afghanistan, which I do not

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

want to repeat here, is highly objectionable and has given a direction to the Government's total foreign policy vis-a-vis Pakistan is involved. These are all very serious matters and I would like to know the facts... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will request the Prime Minister to yield... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat...

(*Interruptions*)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not hear the full speech of my friend Jaswant Singh but all these matters were brought to my notice on one occasion or the other. I got them enquired from Dr. Subramaniam Swamy and in most of the cases, or, I may say, in all the cases he denied having made any such statement... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Prime Minister. You should not interrupt the Prime Minister.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Sir, I shall leave it to your judgement that if these matters of such serious nature come to the notice of any Member, is it not necessary that he should give a notice to you and the Minister concerned or the Government concerned should be asked to explain the position? Without verifying the facts, just on the veracity of the newspaper reports, if this type of allegations are made in the House, it will be very difficult for me to explain the position... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nirmal Babu, please take your seat.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Sir, I shall not like to say anything about the reporting in the newspapers because I firmly have faith in the independence of newspapers. But may I very humbly submit to this House that all the time reports are not cor-

rect. Many a time I see that I have met people whom I have never seen for the last few months! Well, this is the condition of reporting in some of the newspapers.

About one thing, which is of serious nature according to my friend Shri Jaswant Singh, that Dr. Subramaniam Swamy met an Israeli Minister in Brussels, the fact is that there was a dinner or lunch where all the Ministers are invited, and India and Israel alphabetically have nearby seats... (*Interruptions*) If this is the attitude I cannot help. If certain people are suffering from this type of malady, I cannot help them. I just give them the fact that if such a situation was there, Mr. Speaker, Sir, give your direction that even if such a dinner or lunch is there in international conferences, the Minister will walk out from that place. That position has not been taken by the Government of India. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that about the collective responsibility of the Government we shall observe it and any Minister erring on that account will not be spared. So, I assure you that nothing wrong has been done by my Minister, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Janardan Yadav.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow any discussion on this. I close the discussion after the Prime Minister's reply. Now, Mr. Janardan Yadav.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing a debate on this. Mr. Janardan Yadav.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Indrajit Babu.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): I was listening very carefully to the Prime Minister. All that the Prime Minister has said is, very often newspaper reports are not

correct. That is what he has said. That does not specifically answer this question whether this interview which is given to *Financial Times*... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: He is saying that the report which has appeared in the paper is not correct.

[*English*]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I categorically said that Dr. Subramaniam Swamy has disowned what has appeared in the paper..... (*Interruptions*) If they want to run the House like this, let them do. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you said rightly, I say that Dr. Subramaniam Swamy categorically said that he has not made any such statement.

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Which statement?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: About the taxation, about the IMF loan and all that which you have said. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the day I feel that any Minister is not discharging his responsibility or collective responsibility in the Cabinet, that Minister will be taken to book. But that is not the way that you pick up a man and go on harping on this theme every day. That is not the method. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, some Members unfortunately try to be very aggressive without any reason on small questions. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: You can say anything about anybody?

[*English*]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is something like etiquette in the House and that etiquette should also be observed. Throwing up arms in the air does not indicate a very brave posture.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Janardan Yadav. I have called Mr. Janardan Yadav.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU (Balasore): Mr. Speaker, Sir... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Mr. Kundu I have not permitted you. I have permitted Mr. Janardan Yadav. I am not hearing you.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That issue is closed. The Speaker has closed that issue. Now, Mr. Janardan Yadav.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANARDAN YADAV (Godda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kala-azar has spread in the districts of North Bihar and West Bengal... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, please take your seat. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: After the Prime Minister's categorical statement, the matter is closed.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am consider your point if a notice is given for the purpose.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, please go

to your seat. Mr. Saifuddin Choudhury is on a point of order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Sir, after what the Prime Minister has said on this particular newspaper report, what we demand is a concrete denial on this particular reference in the '*Financial Times*' of 27th December, 1990. Otherwise, it becomes vague; may be this correspondent has the tape-recorded interview with him. Let him concretely deny this. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know that. You give a notice on this; I will see. But there is no point of order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the first time in Parliament that newspaper reports have been challenged on the basis of their veracity. The point is, I do not question the Prime Minister's right to speak on behalf of his colleague. But the fact remains the Minister concerned is very much here in the House. Along with what the Prime Minister has said, it is in the fitness of things that the Minister himself should make a categorical denial. *(Interruptions)* Secondly, if the whole report has been concocted by the '*Financial Times*', are you going to allow things to go on like this?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Indrajit Gupta, Subhashiniji raised the issue of collective responsibility. So, it is in the fitness of things that the Prime Minister has responded to it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: If this report is not correct then some action must be taken against this paper or you intend to let them go scot-free? Report it to the Press Council. Why don't you ask for an explanation *(Interruptions)* call them and ask them. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think Mr. Indrajit Gupta has made a very valid point. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I can only hear the Leader of the Opposition.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening here? This is not the way. This is not the way. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please take your seat. I would request the hon. Members to take their seats. Mr. Kuppuswamy, take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I would like to tell all of you...

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Will you please take your seat?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have also listened to you. You know the parliamentary custom. It does not behove of you to come to the well of the House for that. You are completely wrong in that course.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Take your seat. Mr. Kuppuswamy, please take your seat. You should behave in an orderly manner. This is Lok Sabha. You take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jena, why do you rise like this? I am not giving you permission. Take your seat. I have not permitted you.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH (Hardwar): Are you going to allow ten members from the same party.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Advani.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard the views of the Prime Minister I must hear what the Leader of the opposition has to say.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH: This topic should be changed. The Prime Minister has already given a reply.

[*English*]

SHRI K. MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): You should not allow him on the same issue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. It is about Speaker's ruling. On a particular issue—if it is correct, kindly verify your own ruling—you said, after the Prime Minister gave a reply on behalf of his colleague, with that, the matter is closed. These are your words.

If that is true, I would like to know from you, are you allowing any hon. Member to again reopen the same thing.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not, I am only going to hear him.

SHRIVASANT SATHE: Allowing him to raise means, you are allowing him on the same issue. Then, everyone in the House will have to be allowed. That means, your ruling will have no sanctity. I would like your ruling on it, whether you would allow a person to raise the same?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I still stand by my ruling. After the Prime Minister I want to hear the views of the Leader of the Opposition.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): When the Prime Minister has already given a reply the matter should be treated as closed.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

[*English*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Your ruling hereafter will not have any meaning if you allow them to speak.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am only making one observation namely, that I think that the point raised by Shri Indrajit Gupta is valid. On this issue, there were objections raised. Why I say that it was valid is because in the issue raised by my colleague Shrimati Subhashini Ali... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: My ruling is firm. He is not questioning the ruling.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: There are two aspects involved in this. One is the veracity of the report. The other is the question of collective responsibility. *(Interruptions)* They are continuing to disrupt me.

MR. SPEAKER: I have given the ruling.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am not questioning the ruling at all.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members are requested to take their seat. I am firm on my ruling.

[*English*]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND (Chikkodi): When you say this matter is closed, please do not allow it to be reopened. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you that if it continues like this nobody would be able to speak in the House in future... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The leader of the opposition gets precedence and, therefore, I am allowing him.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Is he not bound by the rules?

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what Shri Advani is going to say. Let us hear him.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You have heard him. He is reopening the same subject. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to tell the Hon'ble Members that there is no violation of the rules. So please be seated. Let me hear Shri Advani first.

[*English*]

SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY (Hoshiarpur): He cannot get precedence.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you also. I told you. No rules are going to be broken if the Speaker allows him so speak.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please remember, I had allowed Shri Dinesh Singh to make a submission on my ruling. I recall that I allowed Shri Dinesh Singh and the House heard him with pin-drop silence. At that time, he did not question the ruling.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot dictate to the Speaker like that.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Prime Minister. I have allowed the Prime Minister to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ordinarily there should be no discussion after your order to the effect that the matter is closed. But since you have called the honourable Leader of the Opposition. I would request the House that the Speaker... (*Interruptions*)

I have submitted at the very outset that ordinarily this should not happen but since you have given the direction and in view of the dignity of the office if you say that the Leader of the Opposition should be allowed to speak, we would definitely say that this is against the tradition. All the same we should accept and obey your verdict. I would request the House to obey your order and listen to the Leader of the Opposition. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have risen only to emphasise that in this particular case two aspects have arisen from what Smt. Subhashini Ali and what Shri Jaswant Singh have mentioned. One relates to collective responsibility and about which

the Prime Minister has replied. He has very rightly said that if there is any deviation from this principle of collective responsibility, he shall see to it that the Minister who errs in this regard is salutarily dealt with. The second aspect is very important and which I believe only Shri Swamy can really meet with i.e. whether this Report is correct or not. I am referring only to Smt. Subhashini Ali's mention of the report in the Financial Times... (*Interruptions*) So far as this House is concerned, one of the biggest, important devices that Parliament has to ensure that truth comes out is its right to punish for breach of privilege and contempt.

When the Prime Minister says... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: That will be looked into after notice is received.

[*English*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am not saying that... In this case, the Prime Minister has told the House that he has been told by Swamyji that the Financial Times report is not correct. This is something outside the House. I would like Mr. Swamy to inform the House... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. I will not allow.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: We want to know whether this reporter has misled. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever has happened is sufficient for the present. It will be considered after you give in writing.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I can not move the Privilege Motion unless Mr. Swami denies it. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Because I cannot move privilege motion against the Government as the Prime Minister has informed the House... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is for him to deny or not.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The veracity of this report is very much in doubt. And I would like to move a privilege motion against the Financial Times.

MR. SPEAKER: That you can do.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: There have been cases in the past where either the paper is responsible or the Minister is responsible. Let Mr. Swamy deny it so that if we want we can move privilege motion against the paper. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[*English*]

No discussion on this. Please let us close this. I will consider if you give notices on this. I call upon Shri Janardan Yadav to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Shrimati Subhashini Ali has referred to this interview... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will take into consideration if you give notice on this.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Somnathji, if you give notice, I will consider it. I am not allowing a debate on this.

families are permanently resident at Trichy, Tirupur, Tindivanam, Thanjavur, Coimbatore and Tirunelveli. They have to travel a long distance to their native places. This Government should provide necessary financial assistance to these families. These Tamil families are having the currency of Kuwait and this Government is not helping them with Indian currency in exchange. I, therefore, once again urge upon this august House to safeguard the interest of the Tamils and their honour. I had been in this House last time and I am here for the second time now and I would therefore request the Prime Minister and the Government to rush necessary assistance to these hapless Tamil families who have fled Kuwait.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Yesterday in the BAC it was decided that we would have, after the price rise discussion today, tomorrow discussion on Punjab and the day after discussion on the Gulf situation. In today's newspaper we have seen comments that financial emergency under article 360 may come into being essentially because of the Gulf situation, the crisis in the Gulf and its impact on the economy.

Mr. Speaker, it concerns not only the Government but you also. I have already brought it to the notice of the Government on the floor of this House through you that the Gulf situation is extremely serious; a war is on the anvil anything may break out; the economic catastrophe and also the environmental damage may take place. On the world as well as the Indian economy in terms actually what is going to happen, we wanted to have a statement from the Government. No statement has come forth. In the BAC it was decided to have the discussion on the Gulf situation immediately after the discussion on Punjab. However, the BAC report has kept it last and it would not reach. So I would request the Speaker and the House that we take up the discussion on the Gulf crisis first and ensure that the Government

makes a statement on the situation. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am seeing your raised hands. I would give opportunity to everybody. Shri Nathu Singh.

SHRI NATHU SINGH (Dausa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the world is passing through a very grave crisis. According to press reports America has decided to attack Iraq on the 30th January. Iraq has also alerted its forces and also threatened to set the oil wells on fire. Such a situation has never arisen before. If that happens and war breaks out, a situation would be created in the world that never happened before, not even during the second world war. A few days ago, the Iraqi foreign Minister had come here and met the Prime Minister. As this House is in session, this House and the country want to know what role India is playing being the leader of the non-aligned countries, as our economic and many other interests are affected by this situation. In view of the oil crisis being faced by India, I would like to know what initiative has been taken by the country and its Prime Minister to avert this war? The House should be informed in this regard. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Sir, we have already expressed the feelings of the people of Kerala. We are representing a State from where about two million people are working in the Gulf. When the Kuwait issue came up here, the previous Government has taken initiative and evacuated more than one lakh people from Kuwait. Now, the situation is more worse and if something happens in Kuwait in the near future, it will adversely affect the people of Kerala more than anyone in any other State in the country. Kerala people are facing more problems. From my locality, one person from each house/family is working in Saudi Arabia. If war breaks out, it will adversely affect all of them. I request that the Government should

come forward with a statement and take some initiative in this regard. I also want an assurance regarding the safety of the lives of the people who are living there. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, this Session of the House is coming to an end on the 10th of this month, i.e. day after tomorrow. Sir, although we find from the report of the Business Advisory Committee which has been tabled yesterday, that the Committee has decided to discuss the Bofors issue, no date has been fixed as yet. Therefore, it is essential to fix a date. It is a very important issue. The developments that are taking place are most disquieting. The scandal of the century is sought to be covered up. Therefore, I request that a date be fixed for the purpose of having a discussion on Bofors issue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you would have seen from the Press report this morning, that the hon. Prime Minister has made a categorical statement, establishing linkage between the LTTE and the ULFA. He has also stated that the ULFA people have been getting training in Tamil Nadu. *(Interruptions)* Bearing in mind the seriousness of this linkage between the disruptive elements and a foreign element in Tamil Nadu, it is incumbent on the Government to take some actions. Merely the Prime Minister's acceptance that there is linkage and that anti-India activities are being carried out in Tamil Nadu is not an end in itself. *(Interruptions)* I would like to know from the Prime Minister as to what steps is he taking and what is it that is holding up the dismissal of the Tamil Nadu Government. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Atinder Pal Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed anyone except Atinder Pal Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear Mr. Atinder Pal Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANBARASU ERA (Madras Central): Sir, this is a letter written by LTTE to 'Tharasu'.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you. You are all having your say everyday. Now, Mr Atinder Pal Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It pertains to the State Government. You know the rules of this House in this regard.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not proper to do like this.

(Interruptions)

13.25 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Muthiah and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the table

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

I am not permitting you.

(Interruptions)

You cannot say like that.

(Interruptions)

Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

I am not accepting the cassette.

(Interruptions)

Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You are not required either to bring or to play the cassette.

(Interruptions)

No, I am not permitting.

(Interruptions)

I cannot do that.

(Interruptions)

I would request Mr. Dinesh Singh, who is a senior Member of the Congress Party. This is the scene that can be created every second in the House.

*(Interruptions)**

13.27 hrs.

At this stage, Shri R. Muthiah and some other hon. Members went back to their seats

[Translation]

S. ATINDER PAL SINGH (Patiala): Mr.

Speaker Sir, due to rise in the water level of Tagri river in the Devigarh block of my constituency, 46 villages of the Munrehari area are threatened by floods. The roads and crops have already submerged. Roads and crops in more than 26 villages of Deva-Bassi block have also submerged due to flooding of the Ghaggar river. I request the Government that proper arrangements such as construction of drains for flushing out water diversion of water etc., may kindly be made immediately to control the recurring floods in these rivers. Tagri and Ghaggar rivers which enter Punjab from Haryana should be properly bunded to control the floods.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you reading. There is no need to read you are an old Member, speak whenever you want to say.

S. ATINDER PAL SINGH: We are not allowed by the Members to speak. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You kindly speak, do not read.

S. ATINDER PAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker sir, more than 46 villages in the Devigarh block have been submerged. Crops and roads have also been damaged due to floods. Likewise, flood waters of the Ghaggar River have entered more than 26 villages in the Deravati block and crops have been damaged. I request the Government to make proper arrangements to control floods which cause damage in these areas every year. Drains should be constructed in both these areas to divert the water flowing from Haryana into Punjab and proper bunding of these river should be done.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI C. SRINIVASAN (Dindigul): Sir, this a very serious problem. You please direct the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to reply to our point.

MR. SPEAKER: I will not direct him.
Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR (Bikaner): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got a newspaper in which a newsreport has come that the terrorists in Punjab have threatened the irrigation Department officials with dire consequences and punishment if they release water into the canals such as Rajasthan canal, Gang canal and Bhakhra canals irrigating 40 lakh acres of land in Rajasthan. A 'diktal' to this effect has been issued.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to point out that it is a serious matter. The activities of the terrorists used to be very limited i.e. these were limited to killing of some people. But now they are issuing 'diktats'. I want to make one thing very clear that these terrorists are neither connected with the Sikhs nor with others but they are colluding with Pakistan and imperialist forces to hatch conspiracies to spread unrest. Sir, lakhs of people not only of Rajasthan but also of Haryana would be affected where lakhs of Sikhs are also living. If Government do not take it seriously and take effective action against them, results could be anticipated. If water is not released in the canals for 5-10 days, it would have adverse effect. Keeping this in view, I would request that their activities should be checked. Sometimes, they issue 'diktats' against the use of Hindi and sometimes against some other aspects. I warn that a very grave situation would be created as a result of it. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kataria, I am not allowing you. Please do not rise time and again. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nathu Singhji, please sit down. Shri Makkasarji, Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA (Udaipur): Mr. Speaker Sir, There is, in fact, an acute scarcity of water in Rajasthan. Rajasthan canal was constructed after great efforts over long years and huge expenditure of at least 2,000 crores of rupees. But with the increase in the terrorist activities during the last ten years, the terrorists have always been threatening and also harming the interests of Rajasthan. Rajasthan has not been getting the quantum of water as per the 1981 agreement and that water was used and is being used forcibly by them on the plea that it would not be utilised in Rajasthan. After the agreement of 1981, another agreement was entered into in 1984 but Government have never safeguarded the interests of Rajasthan under pressure.

A few days ago, the terrorists have again threatened that water would not be given to Rajasthan. If Rajasthan is not given water, the people there would have to face great difficulties and the State would be adversely affected, 30 years were spent on the construction of Rajasthan canal. I request that Government should pay attention to this problem as the terrorists have threatened the irrigation Department officials. The Headworks are under the control of Punjab and if water is not released from the Headworks, the people of Rajasthan would have to face hardships. Government should take stern action against the terrorists and ensure supply of water to Rajasthan.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Indrajit Gupta.

(Interruptions)

SHRINATHU SINGH: There is an acute shortage of water in Rajasthan. People are facing acute water crisis.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nathu Singh, please sit down.

*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go an record. Shri Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, I am only making a small submission... (*Interruptions*) I was just seeking your guidance because the House is going to adjourn day after tomorrow. You yourself had agreed... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, we all have every sympathy with the Members coming from Rajasthan. They have raised a matter which is naturally agitating not only them but it will agitate other people also. The Minister should have simply said that they are looking into the matter and they will see to it that the interest of Rajasthan is safeguarded. But he does not say anything. He did not utter a single word.

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Two Cabinet Minister are present here.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Anyway, the submission that I was making was about Punjab. Two days are left. Some important, unprecedented talks have taken place between the Prime Minister and Mr. Mann. You had agreed in principle that we should have a discussion on it. The BAC has not fixed any time and any date for discussion on Punjab and this House will adjourn without knowing what happened between the two. You must fix up a date and we must have a discussion on Punjab.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: We have three more days. Then we would have a...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAG PAL SINGH (Hardwar): Mr.

Speaker, I want to bring it to the notice of this House that the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shri Nawaz Sharif has been repeatedly making such statements which amount to interfering in the international affairs of India. He has recently stated that Pakistan would continue extending its support to the extremists of Kashmir. This is a direct intervention in our affairs. Despite repeated provocative statements by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Government of India has not expressed any resentment to Pakistan in strong terms. I would like to tell to the Government that despite open challenge by Pakistan by making such provocative statements, we have no courage to warn her that she will have to face dire consequences in case she does not mend her ways. The Government of India should take firm stand against Pakistan at national or international level so that Pakistan could not dare to interfere in our internal affairs in Punjab or Kashmir.

SHRI DHARM PAL SHARMA (Udhampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to urge upon the Government of India that more than 8 lakh Gujars and more than 1 lakh Godis residing in Jammu and Kashmir State should be declared as Scheduled Castes. Himachal Pradesh is a hilly state and it has common border with Jammu and Kashmir Gujars and Bukarwals have already been declared Scheduled Tribes in that state. They are great patriots and during 1965 Indo-Pak War at the time of infiltration by Pakistanis Shri Moli showed rare bravery and he was awarded Padamshri. I would like to say that Gujars and Godis residing in J & K should be declared Scheduled Tribes as they have been declared in Himachal Pradesh. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Speaker, this is a serious matter due to which our country..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please be silent.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Our country as well as our neighbouring country Nepal

have to suffer great damage. A project report for constructing the highest dam in the world i.e. Kosi dam was submitted by our State in 1981...*(Interruptions)* Since then unprecedented floods has affected our State in 1988 and 1987 also. The people residing in the Tarai areas of Nepal and also those in North Bihar have been badly affected by flood and drought. They are facing power crisis. 30 lakhs KW electricity could be generated by one dam only. 70 lakh KW electricity would be generated in total by all the dams on Kosi river. I have written to the Government of India in 1974 that it would not be possible for us to utilise this electricity. I would like to submit that political change has recently taken place in Nepal and the new Government that has assumed office there will take up welfare measures for the development of that country, and it is not within the means of that country to take developmental measures of their own. I would request to the Government of India that a dam be constructed on Baraha area and if the dam is constructed in that area 50 thousand cases of water could be released to Calcutta port even during the dry season of April and May and even then there will not be any water scarcity. An agreement was made for constructing dam in Bahara area on Kosi river. Nunther area on Bagmati river and in Shirapani, Paywasher and Karnali areas on Kamla river. The Government has taken no action in regard to this agreement. Execution of these project can do wonders by generating power in abundance and providing sufficient water. Nepal is not only our neighbour but a friend also. So I would like to know from the Government what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard. In case proper steps are not taken it is feared that people will resort to agitation.. It was assured in 1982 by the then late Shri Kedar Pandey, the Minister of Irrigation that talks would be held on political level in this regard. But no talks have so far been held and we are pointing an accusing finger towards Nepal. I was invited by Government of Nepal in 1984 and I was their quest. When Nepal has no hesitations in holding talks, I would like the Government to make a statement.

PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Formerly, the Government of India used to provide 25 percent subsidy for setting up industries in backward areas. The subsidy was stopped by Congress Government during its last days, as a result of which the industrial development of backward areas has come to a grinding halt. When this question was raised with the national front government, an assurance was given by the then Industry Minister that 25 percent subsidy would be provided for setting up industries in backward areas. But no action has been taken by the Government in this regard so far, as a result of which new industrial units are not being set up in backward areas like Himachal Pradesh and the construction of Hotels has been stopped. I would like to urge upon the Government of India to reintroduce the facility of providing 25% subsidy for industrial development of backward areas.

DR. SHAILENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, an information centre of Soviet Union is functioning in Delhi in which 170 journalists have been working, out of which the services of 40 journalists have been dispensed with in an irregular manner without providing them any compensation and applying the rules of Pension and Grantuty to them. The Soviet Union which claims herself to be a progressive state is silent and the Government of India is also not exerting its pressure on that country due to political reasons. These journalists are not treated as employees of Soviet Union. Even the scales recommended by Bachchawat Commission are not applicable in this case. This state of affairs is harming the interest of a large number of journalists. If we are not out to lodge out active protest against it, the Prime Minister who stands for freedom of Press, will remain merely a Prime Minister and he won't be able to take proper care of the Press. Liko USSR, India will also...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Shailendra, now it is too much. Please sit down.

DR. SHAILENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA:

I would like to draw the attention of the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs to this situation (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nitish Kumar.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Speaker, Sir...

MR. SPEAKER: You may see me later on when the discussion is over on this issue.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The earlier Janata Dal Government had promised autonomy for Aakashvani and Doordarshan and accordingly V.P. Singh's Government had brought this Prasar Bharti Bill to get it adopted in this House. As per the provision of the Bill, the Prasar Bharati Corporation is going to be constituted on 1st April, but to this date, Government has not taken any step to give it a concrete shape. In fact it is a conspiracy to check the constitution of this Corporation and also to deny autonomy to Aakashvani and Doordarshan. As compared to the working of Rajiv Government, it is something more shameful that a small group of people ruling this country which has not been recognised as such by your honour or by the Election Commission is being given a one sided and higher coverage on the electronic media. I would like to make a submission in this regard that since a legislation to that effect has been passed, the Government should go ahead as per its original schedule to give a concrete shape to the proposed corporation.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring an important matter to the notice of this House through you. After our independence we had decided not to have any relation with South Africa for its orthodox, racial and anti-democratic attitude. Even on a passport we cannot visit that country. But only 2-3 months back when Dr Mandela was here, he was given a warm welcome in this country. It is also appeared in the Press that recently one ex-M.P. picture Star Shri Amitabh Bachchan was on a visit of South Africa where he staged a number of programmes in Johansberg and

Durban. So I would like to know whether there has been a change in our foreign policy and whether Indian citizens can now visit that country. If that people like Shri Amitabh Bachchan, Shreedevi and Kalyanjee Anandji have visited that country in violation of the law of this land with which we do not have any trade, industrial and cultural relations, they should be strictly dealt with and their passports should be impounded by the Government. The Government should also come out with a statement to indicate whether there has been a change in our foreign policy and if not, the factual position in this regard.

[*English*]

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (Calcutta South): I am raising a very serious issue. You know that recently, the GATT negotiations have been concluded as far as Uruguay Round is concerned and it did not succeed because the United States wanted to impose economic colonialism on the rest of the world. One of the architects of the American policy in GATT was its main negotiator Mrs. Carla Hills. I understand that Mrs. Carla Hills is coming to India. She has been invited by our Commerce Minister and I also have seen from the Press reports that our Commerce Minister is very much impressed by her. He has been charmed by her and I have seen some statements in the Press to that extent. My warning is that we should be careful. I want to know whether in the negotiations which will take place when she comes here, our interests are going to be compromised, or not, whether the economic sovereignty of the country will be maintained, or not. (*Interruptions*) It is a major issue. (*Interruptions*) Pepsi Co. is functioning; the multi-nationals are trying to come in. Are we to make compromises in respect of our agricultural trade policy? The multi-nationals are coming in. There is the question of intellectual property rights on which all the Third World countries have been fighting. On that, will there be a compromise? There is also the issue of multi fibre agreement, on which there are serious differences between USA and the other countries of the Third World. I would like to know, for example, whether Government is

taking enough steps to ensure that the economic sovereignty of the country is maintained. (*Interruptions*)

I would also like to know why she is coming here; why has she been invited?

DR. THAMBI DURAI (Karur): In this very House, a few minutes ago, our senior Member Shri Dinesh Singh raised an important matter affecting the integrity of our country, and the danger which we in Tamil Nadu are facing. Even our Prime Minister had given the information that there is link between ULFA and LTTE activities, and that there are training camps in Tamil Nadu. Some of our Members had raised this matter seriously. Therefore, what action is this Government going to take in this matter? (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): Government has taken note of it, and we will take appropriate action.

SHRI KHEMCHANDBHAI SOMABHAI CHAVDA (Patna): Recently, communal disturbances and communal riots have started in the State of Gujarat. Yesterday, according to the statement of the Minister of State for Home Affairs of the Gujarat Government, five persons were killed; three in Ahmedabad and two in Baroda. Several people were injured. The communal riots in the State of Gujarat started in the month of March 1990, and they are continuing. When I visited a place affected by the riots, i.e. riot-prone areas, I saw that two persons had been killed by private firing. There are several pistols and revolvers.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you go into details? It is not necessary to do it.

SHRI KHEMCHANDBHAI SOMABHAI CHAVDA: The Gujarat Government has failed to suppress these communal riots. I would like to submit, through you, that a judicial inquiry should be held to bring out the

truth. (*Interruptions*) Government should do this.

[*Translation*]

SHRIDAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Quota of petrol and diesel for the city of Kota was fixed on the basis of consumption of these items during a period when the city was facing communal riots followed by a small period of curfew after a gap of three months. Now it has been reduced further from earlier level of 2130000 litres and 6046000 litres of petrol and diesel respectively. It is also something very unfortunate that in that last month a cut of 156000 litres of petrol and 1339000 litres of diesel had been effected. It resulted in a short supply of these items at a moment when it was required most by the farmers for their sowing session and they had to stand in two-three km long queues to receive their supply. Even today the people do not have any supply of these items. It is only today that a person from that city came to me to tell me that he could receive his supply of petrol only after a wait of seven hours. Kota is not

14.00 hrs.

receiving its supply of diesel and petrol from Kandla. Earlier, it was decided that every month supply of 60 rakes would be given to Kota, but unfortunately in the last month, it was merely 15 rakes of which only 2 rakes have been received so far. In view of the difficult situation in Kota, I would, therefore, like to urge upon the Minister of Petroleum to arrange the supply of allotted quantity for this city at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Please sit down. I have noted your point.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today a large number of peace loving people from Aligarh have been staging a Dharna at the Boat Club in Delhi.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please speak on sugar mills and not about Aligarh. I can't allow you to speak on it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: The Government has already stated that a thorough enquiry will be conducted into this incident, but recently when a sitting Member of this House and the Private Secretary to the ex-Prime Minister were on a visit to Aligarh, the Sten gun of their body guard had been snatched away from him.

MR. SPEAKER: It means that you don't want to speak on sugar mills.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir, during the last three months, it was on three occasions that a curfew had been clamped there.

MR. SPEAKER: You may see me tomorrow. Now please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: I would like to urge upon the Government to listen to the grievances of the people who are staging a dharna here in Delhi. They are being harassed and their rights are being violated. Through you, I would like to request the Government to pay their immediate attention to this incident and also the hon'ble Minister may kindly make such an arrangement to ensure it that innocent people are not harassed and whatever is being done against them, it stopped.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already asked you to see me tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

14.03 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Review on the working of and Annual Report of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd., Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd; Coal India Ltd. for 1989-90 etc.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited for the year 1989-90.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1907/91]

(b) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited for the year 1989-90.

(ii) Annual Report of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Li-