

[*English*]

12.00 hrs.

Offer of base facilities by Singapore to U.S.[*English*]

8216. SHRISANATKUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singapore's offer of base facilities to the United States, is likely to bring the international strategic rivalries closer to Indian shores, affecting the region's security environments;

(d) if so, the whether India's concern over this matter has been conveyed to the countries concerned and the matter has also been raised in any international fora;

(c) if so, its outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (d). According to a Singapore official statement in October 1989, Singapore had offered "increased use" of her facilities for repair of US naval vessels and short term visits by US Air Force aircraft on a rotational basis. Our views on the military presence of external forces in the Indian Ocean region are well known and our concerns have been expressed in bilateral and international meetings. India is strongly opposed to the military build-up of external forces in the Indian Ocean region. India's position is that the further escalation and expansion of the military presence of external powers should be halted and any manifestation of this in the context of Great Power rivalry such as foreign naval bases should be eliminated.

MOTION OF PRIVILEGE

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ganga Charan Lodhi has given a notice of question of privilege against the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police, Hamirpur for allegedly obstructing him from coming to Delhi for taking part in the proceedings of the House and putting him under house arrest on 7th May, 1990 at Hamirpur, seeking my consent under rule 222 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha to raise the matter in the House.

In view of the gravity of the allegations, I give my consent to the raising of the question of privilege under Rule 222 of the Rules of Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. Shri Ganga Charan Lodhi may now ask for leave of the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI (Hamirpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may be granted leave to raise the question of privilege in the House.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I think there is no objection in granting leave to Shri Ganga Charan Lodhi to raise the question of Privilege in the House. The leave is granted. Shri Ganga Charan Lodhi may now move his motion.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI (Hamirpur): I beg to move:

"That the question of privilege raised by Shri Ganga Charan Lodhi against the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Hamirpur for ob-

structing him from coming to Delhi for participating in the proceedings of the House and putting him under house arrest on 7th May, 1990, be referred to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report."

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 7th May, 1990 at 6' O Clock when I was about to leave my house in Dau Dayal Bagh in Hamirpur for participating in the proceedings of the House, I found the D.M. and S.P. Hamirpur with a large contingent of police force outside. I was to catch the Vayudoot flight at Kanpur for Delhi. D.M., Hamirpur told me very discourteously that on that day I could not move out of my house. I told him that I have to go to Delhi to take part in the proceedings of Lok Sabha and that many important topics were to be discussed on that very day. I had to raise the issue of acute water shortage in the district in the House. The Superintendent of Police said that you can be allowed to go in case you promise not to raise the issues relating to water shortage and the lathi charge incident in Mahoba which was ordered by the District Magistrate in the House. I said, that I must raise the problems faced by the people as they have elected me. The District Magistrate said that he will solve the drinking water problem within 15 days, he was also prepared to do any other personal work for me provided I did not to raise the issue in the House. I told him that he had been making such false promises in the past too and that I shall certainly raise this issue in House. On listening to this the D.M. and S.P. got very much annoyed and said that we will have to bear serious consequences for that and my party workers would be taught a lesson. They said that they will obstruct my political career in the district. They said that they have taught a lesson to the people of Mahoba and the rest of the people will also be set right uttering those words and instructing the inspector on duty not to allow me to come

out of my house they went away after deploying heavy police force around my house.

When the citizens came to know that their representative in Parliament has been put under house arrest they started pouring in meet me but the police personnel took to lathi charge and also ill treated them. This went till evening and till the time I was not released. By evening a big crowd gathered in front CA my house and some people had come from the villages also. The police force fled around 8 P.M. seeing the crowd, news-men and the lawyers. I had sent the information about this episode to you telegraphically. This has infringed upon my privilege and I could not also attend the meeting of the consultative committee of the Home Ministry on 8.5.90.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been humiliated and insulted, the democracy has been gagged and the honour of a representation of the people has been hurt. This has further promoted the dictatorial attitude of the bureaucracy. The people of my constituency are panic stricken after this episode thinking that after this episode thinking that if this can happen to a member of Parliament then what will happen to them. People do not have confidence in me. They are constrained to think whether their representative can protect them. It is a shameful incident in the history of our democracy. If these authorities are not taken to task they will feel encouraged and such things can happen with other Members of the Parliament also.

Therefore, I request you to hand over this matter to the Privilege Committee.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir, I am on a point of order. My point of order is that whenever any member is arrested, the

arresting officer is required to inform you telegraphically. I want to know whether you have been informed of this or not and if that is not done, then it is a very serious issue. I think we have framed a rule which must be followed by all. I want to know whether that is followed or not.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is true that we did not get any information in this regard.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have no objection in this regard. I do feel that this matter should be handed over to the Privilege Committee.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (New Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the facts placed before the House are of very serious nature. I am surprised that such an episode took place and the Government did not take any action in this regard. Whether it was the fault of the Central Government or the State Government, but taking no action is not at all good. I am sure that the hon. Member must have certainly drawn the attention of the officers towards this incident. But in case no action has been taken so far then certainly the House should intervene in the matter and take action. It would be in the fitness of things if the privilege Committee takes action in this regard at the earliest. There is no need to gather lots of evidence in this respect. That officer should be summoned and after recording his statement, facts should be brought before the House. I want that there should be no delay in this regard. Still two weeks are left before this session will be over. Seeking to the gravity of the incident, a decision should be taken in this regard before this session is over.

[*English*]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I am sure that on this issue the House will be one. It is a very serious matter where immediate action is necessary. This matter has to be referred to the Privileges Committee and as has been already stated, I think without the formalities of elaborate evidence, very serious and stringent action has to be taken immediately.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU (Balasore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised that the District magistrate thought it wise on his part not to even inform you about arresting or detaining the Member, Shri Ganga Charan Lodhi. This amounts to suppression of a matter which he has willfully done. So, by this he has already violated all norms and also a *prima facie* case has been brought before you in a statement from the aggrieved Member who is sitting in front of me, a young and ebullient Member. Already a case has been there before you.

I would like two things to be done. The government must report by today or by tomorrow at the latest that this officer on the basis of the *prima facie* case made out by the hon. Member, has been suspended, or by tomorrow, I beseech you that immediately the Privileges Committee of the Parliament should be summoned and immediate action should be taken. He should be brought to the dock of the Parliament to answer the charges.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, bureaucracy has been given this kind of freedom to defy Parliament, to defy all decent norms in a democratic country. Now, this is one best example. Such things are happening elsewhere in the country also. In order that Parliament is able to assert its supremacy over bureaucracy, there cannot be any delay. The Minister should immediately report by the turn of the day as

to what steps have been taken already against that delinquent Magistrate or Police Officer, whoever it may be. In the meantime, there cannot be any two opinion that this matter should be referred to the Privileges Committee. As suggested by Shri Advani, it should be done very quickly. The Privilege Committee should taken up the matter and dispose it before the end of the Session.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH BHARTIYA (Farukhabad): Whatever has happened with Shri Ganga Charan is a matter of regret because the officers mattreated him. It is unfortunate that whenever any representative of the people raises a problem pertaining to the people for which he has been elected be it the problem of drinking water or atrocities on them, the officers mattreat him. Hon. Ganga Charanji had not made any recommendations to save them from thief but on the contrary he had tried to raise an issue which had been causing havoc in the life of the people and that is why the above mentioned incident happened with him. Bureaucracy has assumed alarming powers in these forty years. It has become a maneater. Therefore, I agree with Shri Advani that not only the Privilege Committee should give its verdict before this session is over but the hon. Home Minister should also make a statement by tomorrow evening as to what action erring officers. If they remain inactive I have no hesitation in saying that our Government also provides shelter to the corrupt and dishonest officers and is incapable of taking any action against them. Therefore, I urge the Government, through you, not to treat the incident that has happened with Ganga Charanji in isolation as it has happened with a member of the ruling party but it should be treated as having happened with every member in this House. A decision in this regard should be taken today itself and we should be informed about the attitude of the Government in this regard.

SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, Similar incidents have taken place earlier also. When I was a Member of Parliament in the Seventh Lok Sabha and we raised the issue regarding unemployment of labourers due to the closure of the Mills, the Superintendent and the collector of the area treated us in a similar manner. That time also the matter was handed over to the privilege committee. You are our guardian. We have been given the right to express our views and that of the public. Any attack to infringe this right should not be tolerate at any cost. This shameful incident is an attempt to influence the democratic set up. I want to say, through you, that stringent action should be taken against the people who indulge in such things, so that the representative of the people can freely express their views here and the members of this august House feel safe. Therefore, this should be taken very seriously and strictest possible action taken.

[*English*]

SHRI BHABANI SHANKAR HOTA (Sambalpur): Sir, with a heavy heart I would like to point out that as has been reported by the member, he has particularly told the district Magistrate that he is going to attend Parliament ad if he detains him illegally he will bring a Privilege Motion against him. Then, reportedly the District Magistrate had said that he did not care for the Privilege Motion. These are the words of the District Magistrate. This is a very serious matter. I take your permission to say that the officers do not care for us. We have to take a very strong action. In an earlier case, a privilege notice was given to you to proceed against the Superintendent of Police, Bolangir in Orissa, who made a murderous attack on Shri Bal Gopal Mishra, one of the hon. Member who is sitting here. Still the State Government has not sent any report to you. So, I urge upon you to take strong action in this matter so that this is not repeated in

future (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) Mr Speaker, Sir, it has been said that it is not a fit case which calls for making a statement in the House (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER Please take your seat

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi) Mr Speaker Sir it is also learnt that he wrote to you to know whether you wrote to the State Government or not. If it is so what action should be taken in this case.

MR SPEAKER It is a case of privilege you move it.

(*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER I feel that there is a general consensus to refer the case to the committee of Privilege.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) Everybody here has agreed to this Motion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI L K ADVANI Mr Speaker Sir, the motion should be properly worded because technically he was not arrested. Only he was detained. There was no formal order of arrest and as such

MR SPEAKER It is called under house arrest.

SHRI L K ADVANI As per the facts given, he was prevented from attending the Lok Sabha. Arrest was not made formally. As such, it may please be referred to the Committee of Privileges giving it a special status (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER It is being referred to the Privileges Committee.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA Mr Speaker, Sir, there are two points before you. One is to refer the case to the Committee of Privilege and the other is that of the General consensus arrived in the House in pursuance of which the hon. Minister of Home Affairs will call for a report from any of the Ministers or the Chief Minister of the State and furnish the information to the House immediately.

MR SPEAKER Lodha ji, please take your seat.

[*English*]

MR SPEAKER The question is

"That the question of privilege raised by Shri Ganga Charan Lodhi against the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Hamirpur for obstructing him from coming to the House for participating in the Proceedings of the House and putting him under house arrest on 7th May, 1990, be referred to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report."

The motion was adopted.