

MR. CHAIRMAN : If there is anything unparliamentary, it will be removed. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

* SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : Government must look into this matter. Steps must be taken to regularise their services. The President's rule is no party's rule. That's why I am making this request. If they had served for 2 or 3 years, their services should be made permanent. There is a bad practice of terminating their services after every 45 days and reemploying them so as to deprive them of their claim for regularisation of their services. Hon. Minister may please examine this and take suitable steps.

Sir, one more minute.

Let me say a few words about coal. In Tamil Nadu, second mine has been commissioned in Neyveli by the Hon. Minister 2 or 3 days back. Survey should be undertaken to find out fresh collieries in the State.

16.00 hrs.

The dravidian parties were persistently demanding that coal may be allowed to be imported from foreign countries particularly from Australia.

[English]

DR. A. KALANIDHI : The Government of India has imported 3000 tonnes of coal for SAIL. There is nothing wrong in importing coal from Australia for thermal power production in Tamil Nadu.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you interrupting every time ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : No Government should be allowed to make such a demand and even if such a demand is made, permission should not be granted. There is plenty of coal in India. That

should be harnessed. Permission in should no case be granted for import of coal from foreign countries.

There was a proposal when the dravidian parties were in power for entrusting thermal power production to private entrepreneurs. I do not know whether that proposal came to the Central Government. I had even mentioned about this in my last speech. Thermal power production should not be entrusted to private parties. Hon. Minister may please take this into account.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you conclude. You take your seat.

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : One or two minutes. There are certain more demands.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you take your seat.

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : Next is about overbilling. If payments are made after due date, connections are cut. For restoring the connection, consumers have to pay a panel fee. I do not think this is correct. The whole system of billing and collection of electricity charges needs review.

16.03 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : SRI LANKA

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : Government have seen newspaper reports about

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

certain payments made to LTTE in connection with the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. Hon'ble Members had also raised this issue in the House. I rise to clarify the position.

As Government have stated before in the House, we had consulted the LTTE as part of the negotiations leading to the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. Some specific demands made by them, such as the withdrawal of the Sri Lankan Army to camps as on May 25, 1987, were discussed with the Sri Lankan Government and incorporated into the Agreement. When these negotiations were in the final stages, Shri Prabhakaran, the leader of the LTTE, had requested that he would like to come to Delhi for a personnel meeting with PM. As part of the final consultations, leaders of all Tamil groups including Shri Prabhakaran and his colleagues were brought to Delhi with the knowledge of the Sri Lankan Government.

As Government have stated on several occasions, during the talks in Delhi Shri Prabhakaran had accepted the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. After accepting the Agreement, he had expressed certain concerns. These pertained to the personal safety of the LTTE leadership, the rehabilitation of LTTE cadres; financial assistance both for the maintenance of their cadres pending rehabilitation and for reconstruction work; and, lastly, a leading role for LTTE in an interim administration. Government of India took these concerns fully into account. President Jayewardene and Government of Sri Lanka also responded constructively in this regard.

One of the main problems mentioned by Shri Prabhakaran concerned the fact that LTTE had been collecting funds through "taxes," levied on the people of Jafna and some other areas of the Northern and Eastern Provinces. According to Shri Prabhakaran these collections were being used by them to provide allowances for the upkeep of their cadres. It was made clear to Shri Prabhakaran that once the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement came into effect, such forced collections from the population must cease. Shri Prabhakaran requested, therefore, that till the Interim Administration comes into being, and till his cadres

are employed, he could be given the financial means to support his cadre as otherwise it would become exceedingly difficult for him to retain their loyalty.

The Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement provides that the Government of Sri Lanka will make special efforts to rehabilitate the militant youth with a view to bringing them back to the mainstream of national life. India is expected to cooperate in this process.

In order to help LTTE make difficult the transition from militancy to peaceful democratic politics, it was agreed to extend some interim financial relief to LTTE on the understanding that such relief would only cover the period till the rehabilitation of its cadre.

Since Prabhakaran had declared his support to the Agreement, and had agreed to surrender arms, it was a reasonable expectation that the Interim Administration would come into existence within a few weeks and the LTTE cadres would be speedily re-employed by the Sri Lankan Government who had promised to fully cooperate in the process. On this understanding one instalment of financial assistance was made available to LTTE with the knowledge of the Sri Lankan authorities. Unfortunately, Shri Prabhakaran went back on his assurance and commitments.

I would like to categorically refute the misleading newspaper reports that this payment was to persuade Shri Prabhakaran to accept the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. This kind of aspersion is beneath contempt. As I have said, Shri Prabhakaran had already accepted the Agreement. But he had explained certain practical problems in respect of his cadres during the transition. This financial assistance was intended to help LTTE overcome these problems.

References have also been made in the newspapers reports about a sum of Rs. 100 crores. I would like to clarify that Shri Prabhakaran had asked for a sum of Rs. 100 crores on the grounds that LTTE would like to undertake rehabilitation and reconstruction work in the Tamil areas. No commitment was given to him about a

payment of this sum. It was clarified to him that such payments can only be made on a government-to-government basis. Shri Prabhakaran was advised that the LTTE should first get into the peaceful political process, join an interim administration, identify specific projects and programmes and pose these to the Government of India through the Central Government of Sri Lanka. He was assured that Government of India would do whatever is possible to help in the task of reconstruction. Unfortunately, Shri Prabhakaran went back on his commitment to cooperate in the formation of an interim administration. Government of India has, however, committed Sri Lankan rupees 50 crores as rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance to the Government of Sri Lanka to be spent in the areas ravaged by the ethnic conflict.

To sum up, I would reiterate what Government has stated repeatedly in this House—that we had gone out of our way in trying to make the LTTE see reasons to renounce violence, to lay down arms and to participate in the democratic process so that the legitimate rights of the Tamils guaranteed by the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement could be fully realised.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : What was the amount of the first instalment? (*Interruptions*) The Minister is misleading, Sir. He is trying to cover up.

(*Interruptions*)

He has admitted that the first instalment has been made. We would like to know what was the amount? (*Interruptions*) He is trying to cover up.

SHRI BASUDEV ACHARIA (Bankura) : What was the amount and when was the first instalment paid? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is making a statement; he has not yet finished it.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : This is a *suo motu* statement by government.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : No, no.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Let me tell you for your information that this is not a *suo motu* statement. Earlier we had raised it. Today we expected a confirmation from the speaker that there will be a statement. So, this is not a *suo motu* statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him make a statement first.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : It cannot be construed as a *suo motu* statement. We want a discussion on this.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If you look at the first paragraph of his statement you will find that it starts by saying that some members have demanded a statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may ask for a discussion. Then you can raise these points.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : There are proceedings on this. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : When he is misleading, when he finishes the reading of his statement, he will say that the statement is over; no observation. That is why they are interfering.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please allow him to make a statement.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : We have given a resolution and the Speaker has allowed it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please allow him to make a statement.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : After he finishes the reading of his statement, can we seek clarifications?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No clarification. You may ask for a discussion. You know the rule.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : After he completes his statement, you should allow us to seek clarifications. This is very important. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No interruptions !

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : It is absolutely wrong; it is not an absolute statement. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : When was the first instalment paid ?

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI ZAINUAL BASHER) : It will not go on record. This is not proper.

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may ask for a discussion.

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has not finished it. Why are you raising these questions ? You do not know and I also do not know what he is going to say.

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are unnecessarily raising questions. He has not yet finished his statement. Mr. Natwar Singh, you carry on.

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is making a statement.

(*Interruptions*)**

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I am on a point of order. Can the Minister of External Affairs contradict a statement made by his own High Commissioner in Colombo ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Why not ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The point of order is with regard to the procedure. What is wrong with the procedure ?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : It is with regard to the Government of India...

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is nothing wrong with the procedure. So, there is no point of order.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I am on another point of order. Listen to the point of order, regarding the procedure. I am not going to the merits of the case.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki) : Under what rule ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Under Rule 376. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Professor Sahib, he has been allowed to make a statement. He is not yielding.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : A point of order can be raised under Rule 376.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : My point of order is; actually even in the midst of a order can be raised...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No point of order can be raised. I will not permit you.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : On procedural matters it can be raised. Can you tell me under what rule you are preventing my point of order ? (*Interruptions*) It is only during the Question Hour that a point of order cannot be raised. (*Interruptions*). In the course of the proceedings of any item, on procedural matters, a point of order can be raised.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has been allowed to make a statement.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Even in the course of the proceedings of any item we can raise a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What procedure has he deviated from ?

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Without listening to me why do you say that there is no point of order ? (*Interruptions*) I am raising a point of order.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Tell me which rule he has broken.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Rule 376. My point of order is...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : First tell me which rule he has broken.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : First, I am raising a point of order under Rule 376.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is the rule about point of order. But, tell me which rule has he broken, during the course of his statement.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, you allow him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How can I allow him ? He is not giving the rule,

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The point of order says that as far as any item is concerned, on the procedural matters, we can raise a point of order. My point of order is, that the hon. Member says that he is making a *suo motu* statement. (*Interruptions*). In fact, you can check up from the proceedings of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the time to ask questions. He is reading a statement. He is explaining.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The queries which we have made, he is supposed to reply. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a point of order.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : When he says, it is a *suo motu* statement, he can escape our criticism.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a point of order.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : When he says he is making a statement, he has to take cognizance of the points that we had raised in this very House. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a point of order.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He has to take cognizance...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have demanded for the statement, and he is himself making a statement.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He has to take cognizance of our points and he has is supposed to reply to the questions that we raised. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : He is not bringing all the details. We want the details from him. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can ask for a discussion under Rule 193.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : We are also members. We want to hear the statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All of you, please take your seats.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Regretably, despite all our endeavours, the LTTE

leadership remained unwilling to make the transition to democratic means. As we have repeatedly stated, the door remains open for talks with the LTTE for them to join the democratic process provided they give up their weapons and support the agreement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Kishori Sinha.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can ask for a discussion under Rule 193. Nothing will go on record. You can ask for a discussion.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may ask for a discussion under Rule 193.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing goes on record.

(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Kishori Sinha.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No discussion on this now. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow the lady member to speak. You may ask for a discussion under Rule 193. You may raise the question during the discussion and he will answer. This is not the proper time. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No clarification now.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take up your seat. No discussion is being allowed now. I said, you may ask for a discussion. During the discussion, you may raise these questions. This is why the discussions are being allowed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Are you satisfied with the statement ?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Who am I to be satisfied or not satisfied ? Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing goes on record.

(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : During the discussion, you may ask these questions. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Kishori Sinha.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 1988-89—
Contd.

Ministry of Energy---Contd.

[English]

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Energy.

Energy is an important input in the all around development of the country. It helps in industrial development, plays a great role in agricultural sector, particularly in minimising the adverse effect of the vagaries of monsoon.

During the last drought, about two lakh additional pumpsets were energised.

In 1950, we had an installed capacity of only 1700 MW.

By the end of the Fifth Plan, this was increased to 28,500 MW.