

1. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment (Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation) and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

2. Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy)

12.02 hrs.

RE: MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

[English]

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam) : Sir, development in Jaffna area is very serious.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (LUCKNOW) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in a Parliamentary democracy, it is not sufficient to discuss important subjects only but it is also necessary that discussion should be effective. For this different provisions have been made. Rules have been made in our parliamentary system for such arrangements. If the Government commits a serious mistake then we will be compelled to bring a No confidence Motion against the Government. If the matter is not so serious and we want to condemn the Government as well as a discussion on an important issue then there is a provision for Adjournment Motion. Adjournment Motion does not mean that the entire work should be stopped but by stopping less important work a discussion may be held on a more important issue.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we do not raise Kashmir issue and not bring Adjournment Motion on it only on the grounds that this issue has been discussing in the House from time to time and it will be discussed today also and the hon. Minister is going to make a statement on it, I think it will neither be justice with the situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir nor we will be able to do our duty being the Member of the House. How should we raise the issue regarding those incidents which have taken place during this period there

Whether we should wait for a statement of the hon. Home Minister or we should condemn the Government ?

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You please allow a discussion on Adjournment Motion so that we may be able to express our point emphatically.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some time back the Government decided to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir but they could not create an atmosphere the conducive for holding elections, terrorism could not be checked and people of the valley could not be brought together. As a result thereof the Election Commission had to say that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is still not conducive for holding elections. The position of the Government has become ridiculous. Whether such decision should not have been taken in consultation with the Election Commission ? But the Government keeps on making announcements. The hon. Prime Minister went away on foreign tour instead of waiting for the decision of the Election Commission. We have read in the newspapers and heard also that the hon. Prime Minister had given a message in the foreign country and he made a new announcement there.

The Government had to take right steps for holding elections there but it could not do so. Then they thought that they will have to prepare some parties to contest the elections. Hon. Prime Minister announced to appease the National Conference that the position prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir during 1953 can be restored. It means that though it may be the year 1995 but he is ready to take back Jammu and Kashmir in the year 1953. Does it mean that we will have two Prime Ministers and two President in our country ? It is right that the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir will be elected by the legislative Assembly after elections but what is the need for making prior announcement in this regard ?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter. We have been deeply concerned about Kashmir for a long time. Dr. Shayama Prasad Mukherji had also raised Kashmir issue in this House only. He died in a Government hospital in Srinagar while he was under detention. Our country cannot forget him. In spite of difference of opinions, our friends from West Bengal are well aware of all these things. The situation has taken a full circle today and the history of 1953 is being repeated. The hon. Prime Minister did not take the House in confidence, he did not consult opposition Parties and tell the country anything. What was the urgency to make such an announcement ? The hon. Prime Minister could have made the announcement before going abroad or after returning home. Why did he not felt any urgency during last five years and did he not have an opportunity to visit Jammu and Kashmir during this period ? Now the hon. Prime Minister has made this announcement in a foreign country. He has made such a statement which

separates Jammu and Kashmir from rest of the country, it encourages separatism and in other words, it is like abetting terrorism. If the Government accepts unfair demands of those who have adopted violent means to press their demands than what will be its' consequences ? What impression the other states will get ? More or less, there is a great resentment among the smaller states of Purvanchal. Will this step not lead to disintegration ? Whether it was so necessary for the hon. Prime Minister to make such type of announcement ? In spite of that announcement, elections could not be conducted. That is another thing. National Conference is putting up some more demands.

But Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am just making the case. I am not delivering full speech. You should not think so. I have stated what I wanted to say. It is only a beginning. I would like to submit that you should allow our Adjournment Motion for discussion and then we will knock the bottom out of this Government and also condemn it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Advaniji, first I will hear Sawantji and then I will hear you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : We have given an Adjournment Motion, we would like to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, neither my party nor do I have any objection in discussing the matter of Jammu & Kashmir which we consider vital to the national security and we are also of the view that it must be discussed. But the question is whether it can be admitted under the Rules of Procedure to discuss it under Adjournment Motion and I object to that.

Rule 58 of rules of Procedure says :

"The right to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance..."

So the matter has to be definite and it has to be a matter of urgent public importance.

Sir, I just want to draw your attention to the rule book by Kaul and Shakhder page 447 ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the question is whether the matter is a definite matter or not, We want to know exactly what they want to discuss because in their Adjournment Motion, they have generalised the situation ...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North) : Who has given notice for such a motion ?

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Who so ever may here given it ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Sir, Where from did he get it ? ...*(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Naik, there would not be any point of order on a point of order. He has stood up saying that he wants to raise a point of order. Unless I have admitted the Adjournment Motion, he will not refer to it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Sir, that is why, I did not refer to the Motion ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are right.

Shri Sawant, You can speak on whatever he has spoken.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Sir, the question is whether whatever Shri Vajpayee has spoken today and whatever he has tried to bring out is a definite matter or not. What he wants to speak, I do not know. The question is whether we want to discuss the Kashmir situation, whether we want to discuss a specific decision of the Government and that has to be brought out. Sir, without that you cannot admit it.

The second point is that it has to be a matter of urgent public importance. Now the rule book by Kaul & Shakhder says:

"To be in order, an Adjournment Motion must raise a matter of sufficient public importance to warrant interruption of normal business of the House."

The question is whether this matter warrants the interruption of other business of the House and that, of course, is at the discretion of the Speaker. It has to be treated with the relative questions. It is always a relative question. In a vast country like India, the importance of an incident has to be judged in the background of the entire administration of the country. In the last so many months, so many things have taken place. I would say that the Hank Brown Amendment supplying arms to Pakistan is a matter of public importance ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : You can move an Adjournment Motion on that. Nobody prevents you from bringing an Adjournment Motion on that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack) : Sir, we have given an Adjournment Motion on this. Let them accept that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune) : You raise it and we will support it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : You raise it and we will support it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Sir I am trying to come to the point(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sawant, please do not enter into arguments with other Members.

Shri Sawant is raising it in a very fine, nice and legal manner. If you want to rebut his argument, you have to rebut it in the same fashion. Please do not shout him down.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Sir, the question is a relative sense of any issue and the importance is relative depending on the person raising the subject. If we have to go into that kind of a debate here, then every matter will have to be discussed by an Adjournment Motion and there will be no other way to run the House. That is why, when we decide the matter of urgent public importance, we must give it a credence whether it is affecting the administration of the country there at that point of time. It is not that the decision has been taken now and some announcement has been made. So many days have been passed. It is not affecting in any way the administration in this country at present.

Sir, the book by Kaul & Shakdhar says :

"An Adjournment Motion is not admissible unless there was a failure on the part of the Government to permit the duties enjoined by the Constitution and law."

So, I want to know whether this Adjournment Motion points out that there has been a failure on the part of the Government as far as law is concerned by making certain announcement in regard to elections. Now, this is question which I would like to rebut. Jammu & Kashmir issue should be discussed in this Session.

There are no two ways about it. Even we have to discuss the budget of Jammu and Kashmir. But I would oppose any discussion in the form of an adjournment motion.

Sir, some other issues were also raised by Mr. Vajpayeeji which I would like to clarify.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Sawant, now you should be very brief if you have made very good points.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : The same amount of time should be given to me.

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot allow the same amount of time to all the Members. Once I have understood the point, you should not still stick to that point.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Sir, it is because certain allegations have been made against the Government. In that case, I would have to reply to that.

MR. SPEAKER : You are on a point of order. Please understand you are not replying to what Mr. Vajpayee has said. I have said you have made a

good point. You should take a hint and sit down, please.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Sawant has made three points while referring to 'Kaul and Sakhdhar-Practice and Procedures'. I am in agreement with all these points. He said that it was not good to bring, an Adjournment Motion in every case and we will have to see its relative importance. The Brown Amendment has caused security threat to the nation and it is a matter of serious concern. I feel very happy that Shri Sawant is equally worried and he wants that Adjournment Motion will be justified in this regard. Whereas one aspect of the Adjournment Motion...

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : I have not said so.

[English]

It goes to the relative importance of the issues.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : The third point he made is more important. I agree that it should be urgent and of public importance also but our Adjournment Motion will be justified only when there is failure on the part of the Government. If any of us can come out with some points in regard to Brown Amendment and asks the Government about the steps taken by it, following which Adjournment Motion is being brought, then it could be a matter of more significance.

The Leader of Opposition has put forth one point very effectively that since the Government could not create a situation of normalcy i.e. it failed in checking terrorism, he criticised it. All political parties were of the view that the situation is not congenial for holding elections there. Despite an announcement made by the Government. The authority vetoed the declaration of the Government. The matter is pending in the court. I am not concerned as to who is right and who is wrong.

[English]

A constitutional Authority responsible for the holding of free and fair election has publicly said that the situation is not such in which a free and fair election can be held. What more evidence is needed for the failure of Government ?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to add one more point to what Shri Vajpayee has said. Yesterday, we unanimously passed a condolence resolution in the House on the death of former Prime Minister of Israel. It has been the normal practice of the Parliament to pass a condolence resolution unani-mously. However, unanimous resolutions have also been passed on urgent problems in extraordinary situations, as had developed in 1994 regarding Jammu and Kashmir. I am not quoting it. Shri

Vajpayee has said that we are discussing the rationale behind the adjournment motion on Jammu and Kashmir. We should rather take up the motion on which we have passed the resolution and which states that we will thwart attempts of Pakistan for aiding and abetting terrorism and indulging in subversion. We even took a unanimous decision that we would get one-third part of Kashmir, which is illegally occupied by Pakistan, released.

I think that this kind of unanimous resolution of the Parliament which has got so much importance ...

[English]

They have to be honoured by the Government in letter and spirit and I hold that the declaration made by the Prime Minister in Burkina Faso saying...

[Translation]

that after the election, there will be a Prime Minister and a President in the State.

[English]

This goes counter to it, it violates that unanimous Resolution of Parliament.

[Translation]

It is in violation of the unanimous resolution passed by Parliament.

[English]

It is in violation. It is not inherent in it.

[Translation]

It is a big failure of the Government. It has failed not only in creating a congenial atmosphere for holding elections there but also in checking terrorism. Moreover, the feelings, with which we expressed the desire of the nation and passed this resolution, have been hurt heavily. It will, therefore, be proper to bring an adjournment motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow the Government side also to help me to come to the correct conclusion. If they want to, they will be given a chance. They should be ready.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice of adjournment motion. I had gone to Jammu and Kashmir on 13,14 and 15th instant. I feel very unhappy that the hon. Prime Minister made an announcement to hold elections, without considering its pros and cons, and thereafter, the Election Commission also decided against it. This has strengthened the hands of Pakistan because Pakistan has been clairfing, time and again, that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is not congenial for holding elections.

MR. SPEAKER : Paswan ji, I had restrained him also. You may give your views as to how can this matter be discussed in the form of adjournment motion.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, since this is an important issue, I insisted on adjournment motion. Sir, the problem which has arisen on account of it, is very urgent and horrible. Had the hon. Prime Minister not made an announcement from foreign soil, the Election Commission would have announced elections there as usual and it would not have become a issue at all. This became an issue because the hon. Prime Minister made an announcement about holding elections there without taking opposition parties and the nation into confidence. We have been speaking time and again...

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : If he is making a point in favour of an Adjournment Motion ..(Interruptions). The point is, I was stopped. I was not allowed to speak on those points. These are the points I want to refute. It they are making those points ..(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You have no point at all.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Election Commission had announced of holding elections there in a normal way, it would have made no difference, but the hon. Prime Minister was in foreign soil and he made this issue so important..

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Paswanji, he had made very good points. Now he is not making good points. Shri Sawant, you please sit down. I will deal with it. I have said that the Government will be given an opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, I may speak on these points in single lines. It appears that an astrologer has advised the Prime Minister to hold elections there before 15th December or the hon. Prime Minister might have himself thought about it. But, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister was to return to the country after a day or two.

But he did not wait even for two days and made an announcement from a foreign country that elections would be held in Jammu and Kashmir or the other reason for it may be the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. No one knows that which party would form the new Government. We have said time and again that let the new Government come. That will decide about it and if it deem it fit, will hold the elections there after taking the country and the opposition into confidence. It is not the property of Congress party.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, we visited the area. We all know that there are 47 seats in Kashmir. Shri Rajesh Pilot is present here he knows that there are 37 seats in Jammu and 4 seats in Laddakh.

MR. SPEAKER : Paswanji, why are you saying so.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am coming to the point. I am happy on this Adjournment Motion but I do not agree with Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji and Advaniji. Their point on Adjournment Motion is different from ours. I do not want to go into 1995, 1953 issue. I have been supporting Article 370 and will keep on supporting it. The annexation of Kashmir was done with India under some special conditions. If you want to talk about 1953 in the year 1995 then you will have to go in the history. We have a different point of view in this regard. But I would like to express my views regarding the announcement made by them about the package in regard to Sadar-e-Riyasat and Wazeer-e-Azam. We will be happy if this package helps in solving the problem and save the country ...(*interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Not like this.

[*English*]

If you are asking the Government to consult the parties, parties are expressing their views on important issues. Please do not object to them.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : That day I was under the impression that this announcement has been made after negotiating the issue with them and if any agreement is made within the framework of our constitution to save the country and its integrity then I do not think there is any harm in it. But the hon. Prime Minister has not consulted anyone about the announcement made in regard to Wazeer-e-Azam and Sadar-e-Riyasat. It is not known to us to with which groups you have discussed the matter. There are three groups in Jammu and Kashmir. I do not want to call out their names as the Government knows about them. Which of these groups had proposed for announcement of this package for consideration. You have announced this package without any demand from anyone. I, therefore, feel that it is a dangerous situation. It is an important point that the Government is further complicating the matter for political reasons and extracting benefits for forthcoming elections. I request the Government not to complicate it further and it should be discussed under the Adjournment Motion. We will put our own views in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Sir, our difficulty is that we do not have before us the text of Shri Vajpayee's proposed Adjournment Motion. You have the advantage over us, Sir, you must have got the text. You are in a better position to judge whether

the wording of his Adjournment Motion conforms or not to the requirements under the rules. My point is that no Adjournment Motion can be admitted unless it relates to a specific issue or issues. It is no use saying [*Translation*] that terrorism was not controlled there. For the past many years we are moving Adjournment Motion on it.

[*English*]

That is not the point. There must be a specific issue of public importance. It may be the question of bungling over this election announcement or it may be some other issue. But it has to be a specific issue and it cannot be a general thing, that everything is relating to Kashmir. Kashmir is the most important thing. It has to be discussed. There are no two opinions about it. The question is in what way and in what form it should be discussed. It can be discussed as a general discussion on the basis of whatever statement the hon. Home Minister is going to make. I do not know what he is going to say. It can be on the Motion which will have to come before the House, approving the further extension of President's Rule in Jammu and Kashmir. That will also require a discussion in which all these aspects can be brought up. Then, there is again the question of passing the Jammu and Kashmir budget which does not relate only to the budgetary matters. It always brings up all these aspects. Before we give our opinion or before you decide I want to know as to what the specific issue in Shri Vajpayee's Adjournment Motion is because we do not have the text. It is because the Government wanted to go back to 1953 ? Is that the point on which they are objecting? Is it the statement that the hon. Prime Minister has issued from Burkina Paso to which they are objecting? Is it the fact that nobody was consulted before this announcement was made ?

Is that the point on which they are objecting ? They cannot make a general Adjournment Motion relating to everything about Kashmir. Then everyday we should have an Adjournment Motion here because this Government has failed miserably. They do not have any Kashmir policy – not today, for all these years. Then, this House should permanently be in adjournment. There must be some specific issue. I do not agree at all with the outlook which was reflected in Mr. Vajpayee's and Mr. Advani's speeches here. I do not know if those speeches are a correct reflection of what they have written or drafted as an Adjournment Motion. That we shall only know when you tell us what is the text of the Motion, and then only we shall be able to judge. So, what I want to say in brief is that we need not enter into all the merits of this whole problem just now. We are not having a general debate just now. It is for you to decide. If you admit the Adjournment Motion, there will be a debate on that, and if you do not, there are other ways by which a

general discussion has to be held. It cannot be avoided, I agree. But we must know that is the precise point on which the BJP friends want to pinpoint this Adjournment Motion. They should not try to avoid it by indulging in all kinds of vague generalities. That is the whole point. so, please inform us or let them inform us what is the wording of their Motion and whether it conforms or not to the requirements under the rules.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Spcaker, Sir, there is no doubt that we have substantial and fundamental differences with the Government of India on the Kashmir issue and our position is also completely different from the position taken by BJP. The question which we are discussing is whether there would be an Adjournment Motion. Mr. Gupta has rightly stressed that we do not know what is the text of the Motion and, therefore, we can only go, at the moment, on what has been said on the floor of the House by the Leader of the Opposition and by Mr. Advani. What they have said is actually pinpointing on the decision or the announcement of the Prime Minister for holding the elections and on the Election Commission's decision. Rightly or wrongly, that is now the subject matter of a pending litigation. Mr. Advani himself has said that we cannot refer to it. Then can we discuss the question of announcement or the Election Commission's decision in the form of an Adjournment Motion, which we cannot, unfortunately ? But it is absolutely imperative that this House do discuss the Kashmir issue and the parties must express their views. This is a very important national issue and I would expect that a national approach should be taken in this case. Sir, you can decide, after consulting the leaders, as to how best to discuss this issue in a proper manner and with a proper approach, so that we do into just try to raise one or two issues, as have been indicated. We are in the dark as to the content of the Motion. At the moment, we can only say that this is an important issue which should be properly discussed. But instead of pressing for an Adjournment Motion on a ground, which is not expressed — except what has been stated in their speeches — I think please find a way out for a discussion on this very important issue as early as possible. We do want to express our views on this. This is a matter on which nobody, even outside our country, should take advantage of what is being said or what is being done in this country. We are highly concerned, and everybody in this country is concerned, that nobody should take advantage of it. And what are the implications of the Election Commission's decision ? Different conclusions have been drawn by different people, even outside our country. Therefore, I would earnestly request you to please have a discussion and please fix up the manner of discussion as early as possible so that this very important national issue is tackled by this House at the earliest opportunity and in a proper manner.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL (Amravati) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the text of the Adjournment Motion actually not being before us, it is not clear actually on which particular point the adjournment is being asked for.

From whatever has been spoken here, I strongly feel that no doubt J&K is an important issue; J&K is a national issue and J&K is also a public issue and everybody feels concerned about it. However, I strongly feel that at present the situation is that the Government, in its best judgement, took a decision to hold the election while the Election Commission, in its best judgement, thought that the situation is not fit for holding the election. And this issue is before the Court. I feel that it is **sub judice**. When an important matter like this is **sub judice**. I would like to know whether the House can discuss on the merits of the views taken either by the Government or by the Election Commission. There is no matter whether the Government has gone in the Court. What is important is that the issue has gone to the Court. Therefore, when we are discussing on this particular issue and when this particular issue is before the Court, I would like to know whether the House can discuss it and adjourn the House.

MR. SPEAKER : The principle of sub judice does not apply to this.

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR (Gopalganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I praise someone that is not wholeheartedly but for some specific action of him only. I wholeheartedly praise the hon. Prime Minister Shri Narsimha Rao. Just now I heard Shri Indrajit Gupta and Shri Somnathji. Both these political parties are important on this issue. Paswanji is also included in it. All the political parties have expressed the importance of the matter. I have a new point in my mind and would like to draw the attention of the House towards it. Whether we have become so weak that a foreign power can compel us to postpone our election programme. It is worth considering that what are the reasons behind the present developments in Kashmir today ? With great regret I have to state that today when Shri Vajpayeeji started his speech he said that it is only the 'Bismillah' (beginning) and Shri Shahabuddinji became angry over it that why he has used the word 'Bismillah'. Vajpayeeji you can cut the throat of Muslims, it is favourable for them but do not do Bismillah. If Vajpayeeji has used this word, it means he has committed a mistake ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : He says Bismillah before sacrificing.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR : One thing in this House creates problem. I would always like to say that BJP leaders should not think that due to any move of their party these people come in power in this country. Please discuss this issue with Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri

Somnath Chatterjee and Paswanji so that they could support your statement here. It is a simple thing and reality of today's polity. Mr. Speaker, I do not give speech but I feel that the Members speaking in this House on Kashmir issue have a different opinion about this problem.

Please listen to me, what are the reasons behind it. The Kashmir issue raised here relates to a two-nation theory ...*(Interruptions)* No, it is not an Adjournment Motion. How it is? It is the reason that you were expelled from the party. I am praising Shri Narsimha Raoji.

MR. SPEAKER : You have

(Interruptions)

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : I would like to tell you that why elections were not held in Kashmir till now. I daily read several articles on Kashmir, published in newspapers. I do not wish to tell the name of the person but in his article he has written that Muslims in India are not worried about the happenings in Kashmir. But I feel that this two-nation theory in India is forever and in English it is said :-

[English]

'buried deep' down'.

[Translation]

I would like to say to Vajpayeeji, all other Members, Congress Party especially to Shri Narsimha Raoji about the plight of people who have committed mistake and gone from India.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no you are right. It should be appreciated.

AN HON. MEMBER : You have deviated from the point.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : I am very much on the track. Whenever I have a point in my mind, I speak on that I think that all people do not have equal intelligence as well as common sense. I acknowledge the fact that though I do not have intelligence yet I have common sense. That is why I thanked Shri Narsimha Rao in the beginning. He has at least made an announcement, be it in Moscow or Netherland, to hold elections. On the other hand, Pakistan says that it will not let the elections to be held. But we are sitting silent and doing nothing. Today Pakistan wants that no elections should be held in Jammu and Kashmir and tomorrow some other country may not want elections to be held in Himachal Pradesh. In such a situation, we will become a non-entity? Elections must be held. We are again heading towards "Two-Nation, Theory." Now, I cannot accept further partition of India. Particularly, being a Muslim, I express my views clearly before the public. I agree that the Government has committed a little mistake.

ONE HON. MEMBER : What mistake the Government has committed?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Why are you laughing without any reason? The mistake on the part of the Government has complicated the matter and it has become an issue of controversy as to who among the Chief Justice of India, Election Commission, Shri Narsimha Rao or Shri Vajpayee will decide to hold elections. Shri Somnath Chatterjee has mentioned three authorities and they are taxing their brains individually over this issue. Had the Government been empowered to decide, it would have decided till now. I think what the Government has done and the hon. Members of all political Parties ...*(Interruptions)* As he has stated this is a different matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Now you conclude.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : I know that today I have taken a little more time. That is why ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. You are speaking to the point but I have to give time to other speakers also.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Why should everybody speak? ...*(Interruptions)*

There are differences of opinion among the leaders of all Parties over the extent of concessions to be given in regard to Kashmir. The hon. Prime Minister is responsible for not holding elections there earlier. Therefore, bringing an Adjournment Motion is not a wrong step ...*(Interruptions)* We should not think that if elections are not held we will be succumbing to the pressure of a foreign country. A third front is emerging ...*(Interruptions)* Did you understand? A country wants that elections are not held there and we remain a silent spectator.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter is very serious and we all want that elections should be held. Therefore, I urge that the Adjournment Motion may be accepted. A new philosophy after the death of Marxism ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMANTH CHATTERJEE : Marxism is not dead ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : I will tell you what it is. It would have been alright had it been ante-Congress or ante.. B.J.P. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Speaker and all other Members ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think Shri Somnath Chatterjee has made very important point. He emphasized on adoption of a national approach. We have been discussing this issue for about one hour but we should seriously think whether it will help us to adopt a national approach or not.

The speech given by the last speaker, with your kind permission, is being video taped and it will be watched all over the world. Will the people agree that we are taking Kashmir issue seriously? There should be an opportunity when we could give a serious thought to a national issue in this House and dwell upon it. Today, the entire country is passing through a critical phase and we are feeling happy over it.

I am of the opinion that elections are being postponed not because of pressure from an outside country but due to our own reasons. Kashmir had been annexed with India when partition had taken place in the name of religion. We are responsible for the present situation in Kashmir. We should think over it that what we are doing today, will help to create conducive atmosphere for holding elections there? Mr. Speaker, Sir, everyone will feel hurt, the way our Prime Minister made announcement about elections. It is not proper to make such an announcement abroad. I do not understand as to why our Prime Minister did not consult all party leaders before making such an announcement. When the entire world is trying to make Kashmir issue more complicated, it was not a wise decision to make it an issue of controversy in our own country also. I do not know the reasons behind this announcement. It is occasionally good for a politician to nurture a will to take initiative on every issue but it is not good for a national leader to take initiative particularly at a time when the situation is more complicated. In order to overcome this critical problem consent of all parties is necessary. Shri Advani has talked of Brown Proposal. The way we want to discuss the issue of Kashmir, it will only strengthen those forces against whom they want to bring another Adjournment Motion. After all, Kashmir issue is a national issue. Today, foreign forces want to interfere in our internal affairs and the Brown Proposal is a prelude to this interference. Sir, such controversies will only strengthen these forces.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know Parliamentary System. I do not know what is written in 'Kaul and Shakdhar'. My submission is that the hon. Prime Minister, by virtue of being the leader of the House, can still call a meeting of all party leaders and adopt a national approach, as has been suggested by Shri Somnath Charterjee. If a discussion is held on the basis of that approach then we will be able to proceed towards the solution of Kashmir issue and serve the Country in a better way. I agree with Advaniji who said that we should have passed a unanimous resolution one year back and adopted a unanimous national approach in such an alarming situation. I would like to request that we should not make mockery of such a national issue. This is not in conformity with the dignity of the House.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, everybody in this House would like to discuss the Kashmir situation and the Kashmir

problem. I think we have been discussing it in every Session. But as has been pointed out by Shri Indrajit Gupta, there are several parliamentary devices which can be utilised for the purpose of this discussion. The admissibility of the Adjournment Motion which has been given by the Opposition Leader solely depends upon whether or not it relates to some event which has taken place from the last Session till today so that it will be considered as a recent event. And, it should be of public importance. No doubt, it is of public importance. But as Shri Indrajit Gupta has said, the question is whether it refers to some event, particular event which has taken place recently. Adjournment Motion cannot be with respect to general policy of the Government, with respect to Kashmir in general. Therefore, we would like to know what has been referred to by the Opposition Leader for the purpose of the admissibility of this Adjournment Motion.

I would further say that in view of the views of the whole House, it will not be advisable to confine the discussion on Kashmir to a particular event. The whole House wants to discuss different aspects of this policy and the events which have taken place from the last Session till today. Therefore, it will also not be advisable to admit this Adjournment Motion of one event and deprive the House of discussing the subject as a whole subject.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH (Jalandhar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to say a few words.

MR. SPEAKER : On the spur of the moment, please do not speak out. Now, if the Parliamentary Affairs Minister really wants to speak, I will allow him. But I do not need any help now.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH : Sir I object to the admissibility of the Adjournment Motion. Three instances have been cited in the Motion by Shri Advaniji. One is the Kashmir issue; the other is the statement of the Prime Minister and the third is the Brown Amendment. Rule 58 says ...

MR. SPEAKER : I have read the Rule.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH : The Rule says that not more than one matter shall be discussed on the same motion. So, there are three matters. Secondly, sub-Rule (vi) of rule 58 says that if a subject is coming through any other motion, it cannot be taken up. Now, Jammu and Kashmir subject is coming before the House for extension of the President's Rule there.

So according to clause (vi) of Rule 56, it cannot be made admissible.

And the third thing is about the Brown Amendment. Clause (viii) of Rule 58 says and I quote. :-

"The motion shall not raise any question which under the Constitution or these rules can only be raised on a distinct motion by a notice given in writing to the Secretary-General."

There are constitutional experts who are discussing the role of a foreign country through an Adjournment Motion. The statement of the Prime Minister can only be discussed under Rule 342. Rule 342 is there in the Statute Book which says that a statement of a Minister can be discussed in the House and not under Rule 56.

MR. SPEAKER : Very good statement. Jaswant Singhji, very briefly on the point.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will speak very briefly only on the aspect of why this issue should be discussed as an Adjournment Motion. A number of speakers have said that it should be an event. That event should be specific and definite. I submit that it is an event. What is that event? It is the announcement of elections and the failure to hold it.

Secondly, in addition to or as a consequence of the failure, the event has implications that are both internal and international. That is an event. Why is it internal? It is because the hon. The Prime Minister has chosen to announce that it will be WAZIR-E-AZAM, SADAR-E-RIYASAT etc. Why is it international? It is because he chose, for whatever reasons of convenience, to make the announcement from Burkina Faso. This is the first point. It should be or recent occurrence. It has taken place in this very month. And the moment the Parliament has met, we have raised this issue.

Thirdly, it should be of public importance. Whoever has spoken today has admitted that it is an issue of public importance. My friend Shir Ram Vilasji has said, of course, they have differences with us — that they have views that are similar to the National Conference and they have also said that it should be an Adjournment Motion. My senior colleagues Shri Indrajit Gupta and Shri Somnath Chatterjee have said that. I rather feel about what Gafoor Chacha has said that had this not been an Adjournment Motion moved by the BJP, they too would have said that it should be an Adjournment Motion. I greatly respect what hon. Chandra shekharji has said. I cannot weigh the feeling of nationalism or that it should be motivated only by nationalism. Certainly, when we come to why it should be an Adjournment Motion, the reason is not really to go away from the national importance of the issue.

There were two additional points that hon. Sudhir Sawant made that it should have an administrative consequence, that steps taken should have an administrative consequence. That if the elections are held, they are not held, they cannot be held and then all the various designations intended to be given to the new arrangement that is contemplated for the Jammu and Kashmir, certainly, all these have administrative consequences. Then he also raised a point: Does all this amount to the failure of the Government? Now if all this that is said, and all the hon. Speakers that have said has certainly not

exemplified the Government's Kashmir Policy as a policy of undisputed, scintillating success — if this is not a failure of the Government then what it is. That is the only question that remains. On all the points a discussion is merited. The question arises before a discussion is merited, how do you hold it? We wish to censure the Government. If we do not censure the Government on their failures in this particular regard which is an issue of a very high national and international importance both for internal policy as also for international policy, then what do we censure the Government on? We do indeed wish to censure the Government and because we wish to censure the Government, therefore, we submit to you that the Leader of the Opposition has moved an Adjournment Motion. There is one on my name also, you can reject that except what the Leader of the Opposition has said. It should be an Adjournment Motion because it is a parliamentary device that is available to us to censure the Government. That is our intention.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling) : Sir, allow me to make a point very briefly which has not been made by anybody else. The brief point is, I plead that in all fairness the text of the Adjournment Motion should be made available to the House. I say this on the basis of a very healthy precedent.

MR. SPEAKER : That is a point which I was not allowing you because you have to understand to rules and then make the point.

SHRI INDER JIT : Sir, may I be permitted to complete?

I make this plea on the basis of a very healthy precedent set up by the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha where the Adjournment Motions were always read out in the House.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, That was at the time of decision and not before.

SHRI INDER JIT : Sir, it was my privilege to report this House from the galleries above, I watched the first Speaker, Shri Mavalankar who allowed the text of the motion of all Adjournment Motions to be read out.

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. At the time of giving the decision, I will read it out.

SHRI INDER JIT : No, Sir, otherwise it is all in the air ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not decided.

SHRI INDER JIT : Sir, we are all like six blind men looking at the elephant. The text should be made available, otherwise the discussion would be meaningless.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Points from the Government side may also be made.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, on the Government's side also the points have been made. It might not have been noticed.

Well, first of all, I would like to thank the Members for making this discussion very legal and as it should be.

Now, I would also like to congratulate the Members for having made some very good points. And, before giving a decision on Adjournment Motion, I would say that the matter relating to Kashmir and Elections therein shall have to be discussed. As to how it has to be discussed, we shall have to decide.

The question which I have to decide at this point of time is whether the matter is admissible and discussable as an Adjournment Motion. And, as Shri Inderjit has said, at the time of decision we read out the motion, and I am reading it out :

"The failure of the Government to create proper condition in J&K to enable the Election Commissioner to supervise and conduct elections there; further, then for the Government to give various assurances to Parties in J&K in violation of the unanimous Resolution."

This is the Resolution. Now, the legal points on which I have to decide are these. As far as whether this matter is a matter of urgent nature, public importance and Adjournment Motion admissible or not and all those things are concerned certainly, it is a matter of public importance; certainly, it is a matter which needs discussion by the House. But then, in what form — that has to be decided. And what is decided previously is this. I shall read out from page no. 445 of Kaul and Shakdhar. We cannot look upon an Adjournment Motion as a normal device for raising discussion on any important matter. It is not a normal device. This is an exceptional device. This has to be used in an exceptional situation, and what can be the exceptional situation? In his Ruling, Speaker Mavalankar said, and I quote from Page 445 of Kaul & Shakdhar :

"The crucial test always is as to whether the question proposed to be raised has arisen suddenly and created an emergent situation of such a character that there is *prima facie* case of urgency and the House must therefore leave aside all other business and take up the consideration of the urgent matter really at the appointed hour. The urgency must be of such a character that the matter really brooks no delay and should be discussed on the same day the notice has been given."

Whether it is an important matter — yes; whether it is of public importance yes; whether we should discuss it — yes. But whether we should discuss it by setting aside the matter which is given in the agenda or not, we shall have to decide. While deciding that issue, we shall have to decide what happens if we do not discuss it today. The matter of urgency has to be taken into consideration. Supposing we discuss it tomorrow, supposing we discuss it the day after

tomorrow, is there going to happen something which is going to cause damage to the country? That is why the matter of urgency is there. It is to be decided what happens if we do not discuss it today. If nothing is going to happen which is going really to cause damage to the country, then what is to be done by us. It is laid down again ...(*Interruptions*)... Please pay attention to this. It involves the element of criticism also.

"The primary object of an Adjournment Motion is to draw the attention of the Government to a matter of urgent public importance so as to criticise the decision of the Government. The Members would be entitled, they will be well within their right to criticise the Government in an urgent matter in regard to which a motion or resolution with proper notice will be too late."

If you bring a resolution and you want to criticise the Government, you can do it while discussing the resolution. If that kind of notice cannot be immediately admitted and cannot be discussed, it can delay, in that case the Adjournment Motion will be taken; otherwise not.

While I know the feeling with which this matter has been brought before the House and I would respect and I think all Members would respect the feeling behind this matter, yet it need not be discussed as an Adjournment Motion. I am sorry ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. SPEAKER : The same thing applies to all other Adjournment Motions.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Our Adjournment Motion regarding the price rise ...(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum). Our Adjournment Motion is so urgent that the price rise...(*Interruptions*) :

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want to censure the Government but you are depriving us of that opportunity.

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Price rise is the most urgent issue now. It should be discussed under Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : I am very happy that in this Session, all the motions which have been given to me relate to important matters. I would only be very happy to discuss most of the Motions which are given. But if you want to discuss them, you can discuss even the price rise which has been there. It is not that if you do not discuss it the prices are going to escalate tomorrow. Here what is applicable to this is applicable to that also. Let us please understand that the Adjournment Motions have been admitted when there have been very very big calamities or wars or exceptional situations.

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please do not give any such ruling as may forestall moving of any Adjournment Motion ...*(Interruptions)*.. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are fed up with your rulings. We wish to censure the Government and, therefore, we are walking out of the House.

13.09 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and some other hon. Members left the house.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Allow us to say after your ruling that it is so urgent that it ought to have been taken up earlier. The urgency of the price situation is such that it ought to have been taken up earlier and in any case before today. That is the manner of urgency of this Adjournment Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, adjournment Motion should be admitted on the issue of price rise.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We will discuss it. It is not admitted.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of price rise is of very urgent nature. Rupee is facing devaluation as compared to Dollar. In view of all these things Adjournment Motion on price rise should be accorded priority ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MRS. SPEAKER : We will discuss it. It is not admitted.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, please allow us to argue our case. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : About public importance, urgency, etc., we need not argue as you have already indicated about them. Our simple point is, this is as urgent as that it ought to have been taken up yesterday and not today because the entire country is blowing up. If we cannot arrest this trend here and now, then the country will be blown up. Of course, heavens will not fall, only the Government will fall and we will be happy.

MR. SPEAKER : When the heavens fall, we will take up adjournment motion.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : But the point we are making is this. Even today, in reply to a question, they have made a statement that because of the supply situation, the prices are rising. Imagine,

they have mentioned in the answer, where they have claimed ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you have a very good point.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The Agriculture Minister is there. He is revising the output of food grains every time from 189 to 191 million tonnes. The supply has increased and yet, according to the statement, the prices are increasing. A statement has been made regarding sugar that there is a surplus production and that they are exporting sugar and yet the prices are rising. It is urgent because unless the Government is forced to reverse its policies, this country will be blown up in no time. Of course, we would like to blow up the Government and not the country. Therefore, we want this Adjournment Motion to be accepted ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, on behalf of the Government and the ruling party, there was no immediate response. On an issue like this, where each and every person in the country is affected, there is no response. Can there be anybody who is not affected by this price rise except ...*(interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : They have no response ...*(Interruptions)* You do not do this without going in for 184 ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Why do you not agree to this ? There is no response from the Government on the Adjournment Motion. You must say something ...*(Interruptions)* There is no response from the Government ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : They are responding. At the moment, the Government is responding. Please take your seats.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : Sir, according to the ruling that you have just now given, this particular matter is no doubt an important matter, no doubt it is of public importance ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It is urgent ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : We are willing to have a discussion in any other form but it is not admissible as an Adjournment Motion ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Why is this not admissible ?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We want to censure the Government ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You should immediately agree to this. Let us discuss it. Let them concede the discussion ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : But it does not merit an Adjournment Motion ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : What is the method for discussion ? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : One minute, please.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it does not effect the issue of Jamrnu and Kashmir but effects the issue of price rise ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Well, we have all sympathies with those people who might be suffering because of this inflation.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHARTTERJEE : They are suffering ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. I can very well see your point of view and I am one with you. Let us decide how soon it has to be discussed. If you want to discuss it within one or two day's time also, it will be possible.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Today, we want to censure this Government as the prices of all the commodities have risen. It is most urgent.

MR. SPEAKER : You got what you wanted. Now, you please sit down.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Why do you not admit the Adjournment Motion today ?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, What is the justification of not admitting Adjournment Motion especially when hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs considers it an important issue.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already read out on the priority of bringing Adjournment.

[English]

How many times should I repeat it ?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The Government promised to bring down the prices.

For five years they have, not one digit, but three digit rise in prices. That is why it is important. this country is no longer able to stand this height of prices. Therefore, Sir, we want to censure the Government and demand that this discussion should get precedent over the other business. Please give your Ruling.

MR. SPEAKER : I have given my Ruling. I have not admitted the Adjournment Motion given by you. I am going to give the opportunity to discuss this issue as soon as you want.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Under 184. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Chirayinkil) : The prices are souring up. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot take a decision like that. I will facilitate the discussion. I will discuss with all the leaders on how to facilitate the discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish you would listen to us on this subject. You are not admitting Adjournment Motion today but please take decision on it after hearing us. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We want to censure the Government.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Then tomorrow you admit our Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not promise you. You should not ask for a promise from me.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettiplayam) : I wish to draw the attention of the House to the explosive situation prevailing in Jaffna region of Sri Lanka following the month-long offensive launched by the Sri Lankan armed Forces. About one million unarmed civilians have been thrown out of their homes and most of them have taken refuge in the jungles and are without food and shelter. Many civilians have been killed. This is the greatest human tragedy witnessed in recent times. Sri Lankan Government besides passing all these problems in the name of fighting terrorism, had not allowed international Red Cross to provide relief to the civilians. Nothing can be inhuman and barbaric than the attitude of the Island Government, Sri Lankan Government has told Red Cross to route the relief materials through them otherwise not to send them. The attitude of Indian Government to this great human tragedy taking place just 20 miles from its boundaries is amazing to say the least. The Centre had failed to condemn the developments in Jaffna.

I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Prime Minister had hour-long meeting with Sri Lankan counterpart Chandrika Kumarathunga when he attended the UN General Assembly Session recently. Everyone knows that the current offensive in Jaffna was launched after his high level meeting. Sri Lankan Foreign Minister has gone on record recently in Singapore and many times in Columbo that India is fully backing the operations in Jaffna. The speed with which India sent its personnel to put down the fire in the Columbo oil dump clearly proves that India is backing the offensive. The Government has so far not reacted to any of these developments and quietly supporting the operation in Jaffna. This is what the majority of people in Tamil Nadu feel.

I strongly condemn the attitude of the Government of India in supporting Sri Lanka on Tamils' issue. The people of Tamil Nadu are already agitated over the open support. The Tamil Nadu people organised a *bandh* in Tamil Nadu on November 30th to condemn the Sri Lankan Government. The Government of India should reverse its policy forthwith and the Sri Lankan Government should order cease-fire and give functional autonomy to the Island's minority community. If the Government of India pursues the present policy of blessing Sri Lankan Government, it would have serious repercussions in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I deeply regret the very irresponsible statement that we have just heard from the Leader of the Anna DMK Party in this House. Everyone is aware that the issues relating to the current offensive by the Sri Lankan army in the Jaffna area are not aimed at, or limited to the problems that have been caused to the civilian population. We are faced, in Sri Lanka, with a situation in which a gang of murderous thugs, is responsible among other things for the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, apart from *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN : We are not supporting LTTE or Prabhakaran.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I would like this issue to be discussed because it has several implications. It is not possible for the Leader of the Anna DMK Party here to pretend that the only aspect that is relevant is the problems that are being caused to the civilian population in Jaffna. It is beyond doubt that the LTTE which was responsible for the murder of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and which has been attempting for the last five years to murder Ms. Jayalalitha, is a force that has resorted not only to armed action against the Sri Lankan Army, but has resorted to acts of terrorism of the most heinous kind. In this situation, we ought to be discussing the totality of the issues that have arisen there including the question of what is happening to the civilian population of Jaffna. But to raise it in this manner with the aim of condemning the Government of India, with the aim of making irresponsible statements about the kind of action that is being taken by the Sri Lankan authorities to make no reference whatsoever to other elements of the political package which are germane to the issue, to make the statement without any word of condemnation of the LTTE or Prabhakaran or the murder of people who are Indian citizens and Indian leaders, is the kind of irresponsibility which we must absolutely reject. If the representative of the Anna DMK Party in this House wishes to raise a discussion on the question of the Sri Lankan Army offensive, I am sure that the backbenchers certainly, and I hope the frontbenchers too, would welcome such a discussion and give all of us an opportunity to reflect on all the issues there; but to raise it in this manner in order to make a minor partisan political point, when there is

real suffering going on and where there are very much larger issues at stake, is the height of irresponsibility.

Sir, external affairs is a Central subject and since it is a Central subject, it is essential that the Government of India must be taken into confidence by the Government of Tamil Nadu on an issue that relates not only to Tamil Nadu but to the country as a whole. Instead of doing that, for purely partisan political reasons, a Government which does not have the internal courage to go to the people even to hold the panchayat elections in Tamil Nadu, has sent its representative here to make this kind of a statement. I highly condemn it.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN : We announced the Panchayat elections already, but you people went to the court to stop them.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I say that it is this kind of anti-national irresponsibility which must be condemned by the House as a whole. Thank you.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN : Sir, we are concerned only with the civilian population. We are not supporting LTTE; we are not supporting Prabhakaran. The common people are suffering for want of food, shelter and medicine. We are concerned only with the civilian population.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards construction of a bridge over the river Ganga linking Monghyr and Khagaria in Bihar. In 1952, when Pt. Nehru visited Monghyr, he had said that a bridge would be constructed on the Ganga. Shrimati Indira Gandhi also went there during elections of 1971 and she had also given an assurance that a bridge on Ganga would be constructed at Monghyr. At that time Rajiv Gandhiji was the General Secretary of Congress and Chandrashekhar Singhji was the Chief Minister of Bihar. He too visited the area and said that bridge would be constructed on the Ganga. But so far, no efforts have been made by the Central Government.

Mr. speaker, Sir, you might also be aware of the fact that on this very issue, I had been on an indefinite hunger strike from 25th October to 6th November, 1994.

At that time Shri Pranab Mukherjee was the Minister of Commerce and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. He had given an assurance and made an agreement that the Planning Commission would make provisions in the budget of 1995-96 for construction of the said bridge on the Ganga at Monghyr. He also assured that an agreement had been signed with Railway Ministry to this effect and Ministry of Surface Transport and Railways would allocate funds for it. But so far the Central Government

as well as State Government have not taken any initiative in this regard. I, therefore, wish that Central Government should make a statement as to by when that assurance from Planning Commission and the agreement signed by them would be implemented ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Sir, I want to raise an important issue.

MR. SPEAKER : As you raise issues, you should allow others also to say something.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Sir. It is very important as it pertains to areas affected by cyclone, flood and rain and that is why, I want to bring it to your kind notice. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Time and again I have said that in any part of the country if no additional railway facilities have been provided, atleast no extant facility has been withdrawn. But Mithalanchal region of northern Bihar is the only such area where railway facilities have diminished. Earlier people used to go to Forbisanj from Darbhanga and Nirmali but since my childhood I found that this railway line has been cut. Similarly earlier people used to come to Mathura Vrindavan via Chhatoni Bagha but that railway line has also been cut. There is a broad gauge railway line upto Samastipur but there after there is no train for Patna or Mujaffarpur from Sitamarhi, Darbhanga and Madhubani districts.

In this situation, construction work is in progress for the last three years. Almost cent percent construction has been completed. 26 bridges have been constructed so far. As per the letter written by Railway Board and Railway Ministry, the target date for completion of this work was 30th June. Later on the period was extended upto 31st October. I also have a letter with me in which this period was extended upto 30th November. On 15th of November, it was announced that train plying on narrow gauge line is being withdrawn and therefore passengers should not purchase tickets for it. But suddenly the entire work has been abandoned.

I feel that some people of ruling party are creating problems for crores of the people due to certain political reasons. They have misguided the Railway Board and I fear thereby these people have mortgaged the Railways, and Railway Board to serve their petty political interests, and thus the people are being harassed, they are keen to see that this railway line is not completed and started until the Lok Sabha elections.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have witnessed the earthquake of 1934 which perhaps was of less velocity and despite that construction work has been completed at eight railway stations and construction material is lying there. That could be pilfered. My friend Devendra Prasad Yadav is also present here, he would support my point that three pilferer were caught there yesterday. We have taken responsibility to avert pilferage there.

Therefore I have written to hon. Prime Minister to decide the date for taking up gauge conversion work and have asked that by when the Apron Control Stop will be installed. I would be compelled to sit on an indefinite hunger strike from 30th November if date for undertaking this construction work, target date for its completion is not decided.

MR. SPEAKER : Would you not sit in the Parliament.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present hon. Prime Minister is holding the charge of Ministry of Railways also. Hence, I would like to know as to when he will do this, lest I may not also have to face the situation prevailing in the area ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue relates to my Constituency. So, I should be given an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* ..

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue is important for me also. Therefore, I may also be given the time to speak. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : (Sitamarhi) : Sir, through you I want do put forth my views that Bihar has been neglected by the Central Government in the matter of development of rail lines to the desired level. The work of gauge conversion of five thousand kilometers is going on in the entire country but in Bihar which is second largest state from the point of view of population and is a backward state, only 37 kilometer rail line is being converted into broad gauge. For that also, the target date was fixed as 30th June and extended upto 30th November. We requested the hon. Railway Minister in this regard and he assured us that upto 30th November, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You convey your message, other people also want to speak. You just say that this should take place.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Assurance was given to inaugurate Samastipur Darbhanga broad-gauge line and Darbhanga Sitamarhi line via Raxaul by 30th November, but go slow signal has been

given. People are agitated over this. The entire Mithilanchal observed a bandh and we also courted arrest. We request through you that the arrears of the remaining funds should be released with immediate effect and the work be completed within the stipulated time-limit.

MR. SPEAKER : What is this all ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Hon. Devendra ji should be given an opportunity after me. this issue is related to our area.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to be directed by you like this. I allowed you and you say that you allow him to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : This issue is related to my Constituency. Our's is the most poor area in the entire country. No attention has been paid towards this area despite being the Headquarter of the district and the commissioner. For the first time, the work of gauge conversion has been carried out in that region and that too upto 35 kilometers only. Four times the targets were fixed for the work but work has not been completed. We had met the hon. Prime Minister also in this connection. I was accompanied by Hon. Devendraji and a member of Rajya Sabha. He, too, had given us an assurance that he would give us his reply within three days and the said work would not be held up. I met Hon. Rail Minister as well alongwith Shri Paswanji. He too told us that the work would be completed by 15th January and that would be inaugurated on 15th of January only. But this has not been confirmed officially so far. The work in the entire area has come to a standstill for the last ten days. Thousands of people have courted arrest. The work of the entire area has come to a standstill for the last 10 days. This is the kind of care towards which the Government should pay its attention, otherwise the agitation that is going on there will go on unabated and thereby the entire state and the country will suffer loss.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Only 35 kilometer Railway line is being converted into broad gauge in the Mithilanchal belt which is along Indo-Nepal border. About 80 percent of gauge conversion work has been completed on Samastipur-Darbhanga metre gauge line. But what is the reason ? We have given a memorandum to Hon. Prime Minister as well. As a matter of fact, a Cabinet ranking Minister is a master mind behind it. I make a categorical allegation with your permission. The work has been stopped at the behest of a Minister of the Central Government and the policy of go-slow has been adopted. Such a big scale construction work is being stopped and

interrupted with view to gain political advantage out of it in the entire border area. No doubt Bihar is being ignored, but also from strategic point of view the gauge conversion is necessary in the entire northern Bihar. 30th December is fixed for its completion.

MR. SPEAKER : It is over now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The Government must express its reaction on this matter ...*(Interruptions)* This is a very important question. The entire Northern Bihar is being ignored. There are three Power Projects of Bihar which have not got approval of the Government of India. So far, the gauge conversion of this railway line has been pending for years together *(Interruptions)* Since the entire construction work has been completed, this has been left incompleated ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Railways are going to come before the House. They would be brought at an appropriate time when this matter can be discussed ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think the hon. Members made a valid point. Please get the information, if it is completed; or otherwise, let the Members know of it.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, with a heavy heart I want to bring to your kind notice and to the notice of the entire House that during Question Hour, while replying to Starred Question No.23 ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Only Mr. Patra's statement is going on record.

(Interruptions)...*

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : My State has been neglected. Though my State has suffered a great loss with crops and houses damaged, betel-vines collapsed, people in a shattered condition with their backbones shattered, the situation could not be brought to the notice of the Central Government. Sir, you will be astonished to know that due to heavy flood in river Udavarungo this month when the crops were about to be cut and taken to the farm house, the crops and vast areas of land have been covered by silt and many houses were damaged. From Ganjam to Balasore, a length of 1400 kms of coastal belt has been damaged.

MR. SPEAKER : One and a half hours have been given for this. More than that what can be done. Now papers to be laid.