

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, December, 21, 1992/
Agrahayana 30, 1914 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

RE. NOTICE FOR SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given you a notice to suspend the Question Hour. Some of my party colleagues have also given this notice. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is sitting on an indefinite fast in Delhi. Murder of democracy is being committed in the country. Every political activity of the B.J.P. is being stopped. You know what happened yesterday. Earlier we were given permission to hold a meeting in the indoor stadium. We are aware that holding of a meeting is not allowed anywhere in Delhi because Section 144 is imposed here. This is why we got a permission to hold a meeting on 15th of December inside the indoor stadium. We deposited an amount of Rs. 6000 against the booking of the stadium. But on the 17th of December we received a letter stating that the permission for holding the meeting has been canceled. Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Shri O.P. Koli who is the President of our state unit and I myself met the Police Commissioner and stated that we were holding the meeting inside the Indoor Stadium without violating the section 144. The

statement of the D.C.P. was published in the newspapers in which he said that at the B.J.P. was holding the meeting as a mark of protest against the dismissal of the State Governments ruled by it and which was a challenge to the Central Government so that meeting could not be allowed to be held.. (Interruptions).. On the one hand the B.J.P. is not allowed to hold public meeting to protest against the dismissal of its Governments whereas on the other hand the protest of the Students Federation and the women wing of the Communist Party which was staged before the Office of the B.J.P. is given a large coverage in the T.V. news item. The Government allows them to continue their activities. This shows the double standard observed by the Government

Atalji proposed that we should court arrest. The whole of Delhi has been converted into a police cantonment. There was a large number of police personnel posted at different places. Moreover, I had never seen such a situation earlier in my long political career. Since the early morning yesterday announcement was made in the entire Delhi through police jeeps that the proposed meeting of the B.J.P. had been cancelled and the people were advised not to go to the place of meeting. Such an announcement was made throughout Delhi and ultimately we were not allowed to hold the meeting. Thousands of workers belonging to our party were arrested. Two M.Ps. Shri Kalka Das and Shri Tara Chand Khandelwal of our party were detained in police custody.. (Interruptions).. Tear gas shells were fired within the Mandir Marg Police Station itself following the arrest. There was lathi charge within the premises of same Police Station and our two M.Ps. still bear the mark of lathi blows on their bodies.. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATIMALINIBHATTACHARAYA:
Sir, has the Question Hour been suspended?
(Interruptions)..

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): He is not able to walk properly. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Tara Chand ji is not at all able to walk.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: The police knew that they were M.Ps. and still they were beaten. Further, I would like to say that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is on an indefinite hunger strike in connection with three main demands and they are as follows:

His first demand is

[English]

"No restrictions on the BJP from holding public meetings in a peaceful manner to place its viewpoint in exercising its democratic rights before the people of India."

[Translation]

His second demand is

[English]

"No hindrance to the normal functioning of the BJP as a political organisation."

[Translation]

His third demand is

[English]

"No arrest of BJP workers on the grounds of their past association with RSS whose activities stands suspended because of them".

[Translation]

These are the three demands. I would

like to say that the B.J.P. is a political party, it is the main opposition party. Will the activities of the B.J.P. be stopped indirectly? It seems that the Delhi Police had gone mad yesterday, and Central Government is responsible for that. This is why Atalji has gone on fast for the fulfilment of his demands.

As the No Confidence Motion has been moved by Shir Atalji so naturally he has to make a reply here today. How the process of the No confidence Motion can be over without that? I would like to submit in this regard that the Question Hour should be suspended or the hon. Minister of Home Affairs should come forward to make a statement in this regard. He had also gone to meet Atalji yesterday. We want to know whether the B.J.P. would be allowed to hold its functions within the country, we feel that the present Government is heading towards imposing emergency. In view of the unprecedented event that occurred yesterday, it appears that a rehearsal is being made for imposing the emergency. We are therefore, fighting for the construction of a temple as well as for the restoration of democracy in the country. We would therefore like that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs should make a clearcut statement on the incidents which took place yesterday and whatever is happening in the country preventing the B.J.P. from performing its political activities.. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: The hon. Minister of Home Affairs should be removed.. (Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think that the proposal of the suspension of the Question Hour brought forth by me and by my other colleagues is an ordinary proposal. Personally, I am pained, not only because Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji happens to be the leader of our party, but Sir, I am pained because in my opinion the sensibility, political wisdom and humanism of Atalji make him symbol of a true India. When the Government tries to shut the mouth of a leader like Atalji I being a member of his party as also being his admirer, realise that our proposal of suspending the Question

Hour is to small a proposal put forward by us.. (Interruptions)

[English]

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Atal ji himself is strictly against adjuring the Question Hour.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Whatever you are saying is right... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: You have consulted Atal ji for adjuring the Question Hour.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This is right. Atal ji is himself against it. . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Whenever we wanted to raise other issues in the Question Hour, Shri Vajpayee used to object to it.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Atal ji has a public life of 50 years. It is true that Atal ji is himself against suspending the Question Hour. Even we are also against it. Atal ji is not to be blamed for it. If anybody is at fault, it is the Government alone. If Atal ji has been compelled to take this step and to go on indefinite fast then being a member of his party and an admirer of him, it becomes by duty to request you that the Government should express its view regarding the three demands raised by hon. Atal ji which do not need repetition as the Government already sized of these and moreover hon. Madan Lal ji has read them out. Unless the Government makes its stand clear on these demands how can it expect a decent behaviour from us. When the Government has itself created such an extra ordinary situation then how this House and the Government can expect from us to behave morally, I do not think it is that much easy.

The entire onus of what has happened. Mr. Speaker Sir, lies with the Government. And unless the Government clarifies the position, with great regret and sorrow I have to say I don't know how I can convince my Party and how I can convince the Members of Parliament of my Party that it is an ordinary situation and that we should conduct ourselves ordinarily. When it is an extraordinary situation that has developed in the country it was our expectation that if the Government cannot respond in an extraordinary fashion, at least, they will respond with the modicum of good sense in the arrest of Shri Atalji Bihari Vajpayee and in the steps that Government has taken lie the seeds that have led him or persuaded him Atalji to go on an indefinite fast. You have not even displayed the modicum of good sense as far as governance is concerned. Even now, it is not too late. I appeal to you Sir and I appeal through you, to the Government, to come forward with their reactions to these demands. Because that is really the fulcrum on which the future course of action depends.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Sir, I am on a point of order. My point of order is that a Motion has come for the suspension of the Question Hour. Have you allowed the Motion? This is only one question I want to put to the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: You are very right in raising the point of order. I am trying to facilitate the working of the House.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bhartiya Janata Party had asked for permission to hold a Protest rally at Talkatora Stadium on 20th December, 1992. According to the assessment of the Delhi Administration the number of participants in the rally was likely to be much larger than the capacity of the Talkatora Stadium. In view of the communal tension, the Delhi Administration was of the view that holding of any protest rally would heighten communal tensions and create difficulties in speedy normalisation of the situation. The Delhi Administration had,

therefore, informed the BJP that prohibitory orders under section 144 Cr. P.C. had been promulgated for the entire Union Territory of Delhi and only peace marches and meetings to appeal for communal harmony were being allowed.. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) He may be arrested. (*Interruptions*). Can section 144 be imposed in the Indore station. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Since the BJP insisted on holding the protest rally in the Stadium in contravention of orders issued under section 144 Cr. P.C., the participants in the rally including Shri Atal Bihari Majapyyee were arrested and later released.

There has been nondiscrimination in the treatment meted out of BJP vis-a-vis any other political parties in Delhi in respect of holding rallies, meetings, etc. In view of the prevailing atmospheres, the Delhi Administration has permitted only peace marches and meetings relating to communal harmony to be held by the concerned organisations and parties. No other meetings have been permitted.. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: How communists were allow to demand stands at Ashok Road, how they were allowed outside the B.J.P. office. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Only activists and members of banned organisations have been arrested in Delhi. No action would be taken against any members who give in writing that they no longer continue to be members of the banned organisations. No hinderence has been placed in the functioning of BJP as a political party. The BJP can also hold indoor meetings in any premises so long as the number of participants do not exceed the capacity of the place of the meetings and the meeting, assembly or dispersal is not in

contravention of orders issued under section 144 of Cr.P.C. This will ensure that there would be no breach of law and order.

So, there are three points. Last night, when I had been to Mr. Vajpayee, I requested and I tried to persuade him to give up his fast which he had begun. Then, he placed before me these three points.

First was about the activities of the BJP and how the Government is trying to interfere in the matter. I have given him an assurance that there is no question of interfering in the working of the BJP. He can definitely continue his activities. We are not opposed to it. We are only concerned with the banned organisations. So long as that thing does not happen, as BJP, we are not opposed to anything.

Second was about the meeting to be held today. They were also thinking of holding another meeting today and we said that so long as they keep themselves to the capacity of the hall and those who come for that meeting and those who go out from the Meeting, they can come and go out in a peaceful manner.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: (Barh): You can doing your job, your whole exercise is anisette at bolseing the B.J.P.. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I may assure the House that what I am saying about the B.P. will also hold good in the case of other political parties. There is no discrimination between one political party and the other. All other political parties are also equally entitled to hold their meetings. The only condition will be, where 144 has been promulgated.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Who will listen to their meetings?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: The only condition will be, where 144 has been promulgated, it should be the responsibility of the organiser of such a meeting to see that those who

come for the meeting and go out, should come in a peaceful manner and should not create conditions of law and order either on the way or near the place of the meeting.

And the third demand is, so long as they are not active members and they tell the local officers that they are not active members of the banned organisations including the RSS, I don't think that there is any occasion for arresting all these people. So, all the three points which he mentioned, I have conceded. And there is no reason as to why the Question Hour should be suspended.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we request you to give an opportunity to Atalji to speak. Keeping in view the statement made by the Home Minister, arrangements should be made to call Atalji in the House and adjourn the House till then.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, kindly make arrangements to bring Atalji in the House. You should take initiative in this regard because only then he would be able to present his views. Atalji would throw light on whatever has been said by the Home Minister and the discussion held with him. Therefore, Government should make arrangement to bring him here. Mr. Speaker, Unless Atalji comes here, how the House can function? The Government has presented its views, now let Atalji also present his views. Therefore, House should be adjourned till Atalji comes in the House.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this way nobody can become an active worker of any organisation... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Home Minister has referred to banned organisations. But if you have this view, then there are scores of people in the Congress whom you would have to send to jails because they have also attended R.S.S. Shakhas a number of times. Even on this side there are a number of members, who also have attended R.S.S. Shakhas at one time or the other. If you wish, I can even reveal their names. In this way, many Ministers will have to be sent to jail who have

at one time or the other attended R.S.S. Shakhas. Many of the leaders of the Congress and the opposition have to be sent to jails. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Well, you know, we, in the House, have been conducting ourselves in such a manner that the important issues are discussed and discussed properly. And each one of the Members in the House is responsible for that; and more so, Atalji is also responsible for that. And we are thankful to all the Members.

Atalji's view is that the Question Hour should not be suspended.

.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Let him come here and say about it himself.. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: And well what had happened yesterday is explained to you in a very lucid manner from this side and responded to from the Government side.

In view of this, I entreat you to please keep quiet.

.. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, make arrangement to bring Atalji; have otherwise the House would not be allotted to function.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir bring Atalji in the House, otherwise we would not let the House function. Previously, Advanji was put behind bars and now you have made arrangements to remaine Atalji from here. This is wrong on your part Mr. Speaker, Sir, we request you with folded hands to kindly make arrangements to bring Atalji in the House. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: we would very much like Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to be here when we are discussing such an important motion

at such an important time. We would very much like him to be here. We would like all Members to be here and express their views. Is it not possible for some of you senior Members to convey it to him on behalf of the House, what has been said on the floor of the House and ask him please to come here and participate?

(Interruptions)

11.21 hrs

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1200 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

12. 00 hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Twelve of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Command Area Development projects

*381. SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLA:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:

Will the Minister of WATER
RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Command Area Development projects in Central sector and expenditure incurred thereon during the Seventh Five Year Plan, project-wise and State-wise;

(b) the additional irrigated area brought under utilisation under the said projects.

(c) whether adequate monitoring for satisfactory performance of CAD projects is done by the Union Government before the Central funds are released every year for such projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER
RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN
SHUKLA): (a) Statement-I is attached

(b) Statement II is attached

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Central Assistance is released after scrutiny of physical and financial progress submitted by the States in the prescribed program.