

my adjournment motion. Therefore, I want to know whether you are admitting it or not.

MR. SPEAKER: You are also a very intelligent person. You cannot discuss twice. You can discuss the same thing here.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, we want to assist you. Therefore, in the Opposition, we have decided that we will, as gently as possible, try to bring things to your kind notice in an orderly manner.

MR. SPEAKER: You are welcome.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: We have decided to draw your kind attention today on four basic issues which are agitating the minds of all of us. The Harijan issue has been covered. Mr. Vajpayee will raise the question of hike in price of petrol, diesel, fertiliser and other petroleum products. What I have to submit is this. What is agitating the minds of many of us very much is the open declaration of the Chief Minister of a State and the Law Minister of the Union Government that Presidential form of Government is going to be brought in... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have your motion. It is under consideration.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The whole Parliament including yourself will become a futile exercise... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is under my consideration.

Mr. Vajpayee.

12.15 hrs.

RE. MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

INCREASE IN PRICES OF CERTAIN PETROLEUM PRODUCTS ON THE EVE OF THE SESSION

श्री भद्र ल बिहारी वाजपेयी (नई दिल्ली): अध्यक्ष श्रीवेद, जब लोक सभा की बैठक

होने जा रही थी तब सरकार ने फटोलाइजर, डीजल और पेट्रोल के दामों में वृद्धि करने का फैसला किया। (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह बात अनिश्चित है।

श्री भद्र ल बिहारी वाजपेयी : फटोलाइजर की कीमत बढ़ती है तो किसान दब्रतं है। डीजल और... (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't interrupt.

श्री भद्र ल बिहारी वाजपेयी: पार्लियामेंट के सेशन के पहले इस तरह का एलान करना यह सदन की अवहेलना नहीं है तां क्या है? (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received several notices... (Interruptions)

श्री भद्र ल बिहारी वाजपेयी: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी इजाजत से बोल रहा हूँ। अगर ये टोकाटाकी करेंगे तो आज फंगला हो जायेगा कि इस सदन में बोलने दिया जायेगा या नहीं। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. I have had enough of it. First you have to decide whether you are to discuss certain things there or have a first-fight here. No, no; it is improper.

Please sit down. When I am on my legs, you have to sit down. (Interruptions).

Mr. Bhagri, please sit down. (Interruptions).

Why don't you make him sit down (Interruptions).

यदि आप मल्ल युद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो बाहर दंगल लगा देता हूँ। यह तो इसके लिए जगह नहीं है।

I am very much pained. (Interruptions).

Please sit down.

[Mr. Speaker]

जिस को इजाजत नहीं मिलती है हाउस के स्पीकर की तरफ से वह खड़ा हो कर बात करता है तो यह गलत है। आप एक दूसरे छींटा कशी कर यह बात भी उचित नहीं है।

Please, Mr. Tytler, when the Speaker is on his legs, everybody sits silent. (Interruptions).

No question. If you are to do like this, nothing is going to come out of it.

Now, everybody is trying to go by his own rules. We have certain rules and regulations in this House. You have this book of rules and regulations. I you are all educated I think you have the sense enough to read it.

Please sit down. No, no. There is no one way traffic. Please be silent and listen first. This is not a one way traffic; it is a two-way traffic. You both have to go-exist. This House belongs to all of you, not to a single person and not to a single Party. All Parties have their say and must have their say in this House. I shall give ample opportunity to everybody who has to have it, but not like this. When one man gets up, the other speaks! No. I will give my ruling; I will administer according to the rules and regulations. Everybody should not take things in his own hands and say whatever he likes. Now, I shall call one by one and rule accordingly, and you have to abide by that.

Thank you.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: मैं निवेदन कर रहा था कि लोक सभा की बैठक के पहले (ब्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Please now, I have asked him. It is only with my permission that Mr. Vajpayee is on his legs.

Now, Mr. Vajpayee, you have your say. (Interruptions). Please don't interrupt.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: अध्यक्ष महोदय---

MR. SPEAKER: One minute. Please listen to me first. I would like to say... (Interruptions).

What is your point?

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI (Ame-
thi): Mr. Vajpayee is entitled to speak but

उनको निपटाने की बात नहीं करनी चाहिए।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: श्री संजय गांधी अमेठी से चुन कर आए हैं लेकिन यहां का उनको ज्ञान नहीं है।

(Interruptions.)**

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you. Without my permission, whatever is said should never be recorded. This is a permanent order.

Now, I have got several things. I have received several notices of Adjournment Motions with regard to the rise of prices of petroleum products. (Interruptions)

Please listen to me. I would like to listen to certain Members and then give my ruling. First I call upon Mr. Vajpayee.

Mr. Vajpayee you may have your say for two minutes; then I will give my ruling.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं समाप्त करने ही जा रहा था कि उधर से शोरगुल शुरू हो गया। ऐसा लगता है कि इस सदन में बोलने नहीं दंगे, और अगर इस सदन में बोलने नहीं दंगे तो बाहर क्या बोलने दंगे। मैं मूल्य वृद्धि के विवाद में नहीं जाना चाहता, मैं एक सीमित मुद्दा उठा रहा हूँ। क्या लोक-सभा की

**Not recorded.

बैठक शुरू होने के एक दिन पहले फर्टीलाइजर, डीजल और पेट्रोल की कीमतों में वृद्धि करना उचित था? क्या यह संसदीय परम्पराओं के अनुकूल है? क्या सरकार सदन की बैठक शुरू होने तक एक दिन के लिए नहीं रुक सकती थी? (ब्यवधान) ऐसा मामला एक बार और हुआ था, आप पुराना रूलिंग देखें। सरकार को इस बार में आगाह करना होगा। कीमतों की वृद्धि के व्यापक सवाल पर मैं नहीं जाना चाहता, मैं अविचल्य का मामला उठा रहा हूँ, प्रोप्राइटी का मामला। आप सदन के अधिष्ठाता हैं, आपको फैसला करना है। सरकार यह जवाब दे कि अगर वह दो दिन रुक जाती तो कौनसा आसमान टूट जाता?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): I know it fairly well that it is not an additional tax, it does not come under the purview of budgeting; that much, I know. But what Mr. Vajpayee has said is full of substance. What I am wanting to point out to this House is that, if you increase, by leaps and bounds, the price of energy, the prime-moving energy source, then the entire price structure, the entire cost of living index in the country is going to jump and touch the skies. Is that what the Government's intention is? Is that what they promised to the electorate before the elections, before the Lok Sabha elections and before the elections in the nine States? (Interruptions) I do not want to say anything else. The only thing I would say is that they are all youngsters the newcomers; they do not know the rules and they will behave like this.

MR. SPEAKER: They are already Members. You cannot call them youngsters. (Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI: If it is a matter of propriety, why was the House not taken into confidence earlier... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not giving any decision now. I am listening

to all the Members. Then I will decide.

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI: If it is a matter of propriety that the House should have been taken into confidence earlier before raising the prices, then it was certainly a matter of propriety that the House should have been informed when Moshe Dayan visited India; the Foreign Minister had made a public denial of this; the nation was told a lie; the House was not taken into confidence. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): We have not brought up this matter with any intention of... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Will Members allow the proceedings to go on or not?

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI: When you gave me permission to speak, they interrupted me. Now they should not object... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence. Mr Gupta.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: We have not brought up this matter with any intention of coming in the way of a debate on Assam. That has got the priority and I think that must be allowed to go on as per the order of business. But we cannot help it because it is only yesterday—one day before the Parliament was to assemble, that suddenly this announcement has been made about a steep rise, a very steep rise in the prices of all these petroleum products which are going to have a very far-reaching effect.

Then, Sir, I find from what has appeared in to-day's papers that even the hon Minister for Railways was taken by surprise and he says that it will mean an extra Rs. 70

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

crores on the diesel bill of the railways. That means that he will have a good excuse in putting up the railway fares and freights...

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI):
That never surprised me.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD
(Bhagalpur): He knew it before. ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, you are the custodian of this House and you are the custodian of the rights and dignities of this House. We would expect with all due respect to you that you would be as perturbed as we are why such an important announcement which is going to affect the entire economy of the country and the living standards of millions of people should be announced one day before Parliament is to assemble when they have every opportunity to come to the House and then make a statement here and seek the approval. Are you not worried about this at all? It is a question of propriety. It is entirely a question of propriety and dignity and honour of this House. Therefore, we are pressing this point. Even to-day the Minister does not come forward *suo motu* with any statement—anything of that kind. After all this, if you say that he is going to make a statement, we are not going to be satisfied. Pleased excuse me. What is it? They have not conceded that they have any responsibility to the House to come forward with a statement even to-day. That shows that their whole intention was to bypass and override the House in this matter. Therefore, we are seeking your permission and...

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard you.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: ...in some suitable form you will permit this matter to be discussed here and the House permitted to express its strong views in, the matter.

श्रीमती प्रमिला बंडवले (बम्बई उत्तर मध्य): अध्यक्ष महोदय, चुनावों में जो भ्रष्टाचार और हिंसा हुई है, मैंने उसके बारे में एक स्थगन-प्रस्ताव दिया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नहीं, उसके बारे में नहीं।

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV
(Azamgarh): I have got your permission to raise this point.

Sir, it is a clear contempt of the House It has never happened—this kind of things... (Interruptions) Just one day before the House was going to sit.....

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record without my permission.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: I was saying that it is a clear contempt of the House. When the House was going to sit, one day before that, this kind of anti-peasants policy of the government—it indicates the anti-peasants policy of the government—we witness, to increase the prices of petrol, diesel, petroleum products and fertilisers. This concerns the entire country, the bulk of the population of our country and this is a blatant contempt of the House. And even the Petroleum Minister is not present here.....

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):
He is here.

MR. SPEAKER: Make yourself visible—Mr. Minister.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: I am glad that the Minister is here. But I would like that the Minister must explain to this House which he owes to it, as to what were the circumstances which compelled him to raise the prices.

There is another thing. I would request you. You are the custodian of this House and everybody has expressed his sentiments regarding this.

**Not recorded.

This goes against the established parliamentary traditions and parliamentary canons that the Minister should come to this House with this kind of proposals which concern the entire people of the country when the House is going to sit. It has never happened. You should also see to it....

MR. SPEAKER: You have already said it.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Therefore, you should see to it that the House must get an opportunity to discuss this. Otherwise, my fear is that some members from the ruling side will always say that because it has been done by the previous government, therefore, 'we are doing the same thing' Sir, the House is not concerned at all what the previous government has done. Any government, if it does anything which concerns and harms the interests of the people, the House is concerned and not because the previous government has committed a mistake, therefore, you are repeating it now. Therefore, I think, Sir this calls for the censure of the government.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): Mr. Speaker, I am not going into the question whether it was constitutionally permissible or not to issue such a notification. But the question of propriety is very much involved because the House was going to sit a day later. Apart from that factor, one very important question I would like to place before the House. The notification should have been laid before the House to-day. But that is not being laid on the Table of the House. From the business for today it does not appear to me to be so. In a matter where the people will be concerned or are concerned because it is bound to have an effect—all round effect—on the economy with the necessary price increases and when this House has the power to nullify the notifications which are

issued under this Act, I should have the opportunity to move the motion for cancellation of those notifications. And so, this should have been brought before the House at the earliest occasion. When the House is sitting to-day, they are submitting so many other notifications; they are laying them on the Table of the House. But this vital notification should have been laid on the Table of the House at the very first opportunity so that the House will have the opportunity of moving the motions with regard to that. Therefore, apart from the propriety of not making the announcement in the House, this, should have been laid on the Table of the House at the very first opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: I think we had enough of it. I would now ask Mr. Veerendra Patil to explain this.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): Sir, the hon. Member, Mr. Vajpayee and some others have raised the question of propriety. Sir . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly listen to him. You have asked for it.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Sir, I humbly submit that . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now let him have his say. Please listen to him. You had asked for it. You are going to get it.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Sir, I humbly submit that in this case there is no question of propriety involved because this is not the first time that the prices of petroleum products have been increased. I want to remind the hon. Members that, during the Janata Regime, in August 1979, the prices of Petroleum products had been increased. Now the question is whether, in taking such a decision, the House should be taken

[Shri Veerendra Patil]

into confidence or not, I humbly submit that most of the Members on the other side have got administrative experience. In such cases, there is no question of taking the House into confidence. But, I do agree that the House should have full opportunity to discuss the implications of it. I do not want to shut out the discussion on it. It is for you. If the Calling Attention Motion is submitted to you and if you are admitting it, I am prepared to make a detailed statement. But, on this, there should be no adjournment motion. (*Interruptions*). If the Speaker suggests that I should make a detailed statement, I am prepared to come before the House with a detailed statement tomorrow. On that let them discuss. I have no objection. I do not want to shut out any discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER: You can make a detailed statement.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, I rise on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Under which Rule (*Interruptions*) All of you please sit down. This is not the way.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, in what the Minister said just now there was substance in it at that point of time because if these announcements were made too early when the private sectors oil companies used to do book transfers, they did it to evade payment at the enhanced rate. And they might have earned a lot of money. But, to-day, when all the companies are owned by the public sector, that situation does not arise (*Interruptions*).

श्री जटल बिहारी बाजपेयी: मुझे मंत्री महोदय के वक्तव्य से मतलब नहीं, मैंने तो आप से रूलिंग देने के लिए कहा था। यह प्रोप्राइटी का सवाल है या नहीं?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you will please sit down. Now, I have heard the Members on the question of announcement made by Government

increasing prices of certain petroleum products. In this connection, I would draw the attention to an observation made by my predecessor on 4th March, 1974 when a similar question was raised in the House. The Speaker at that time observed—

“When Parliament is sitting and important decisions are taken... one thing which I cannot ignore is that to take such decisions without informing the House is improper.”

In the present case the announcement regarding increase in prices of some petroleum products has been made when the House was not in session, but I would point out that it was done on the eve of the session. However, there is no infringement of Rules and Constitutional provisions, but it would have been more appropriate to announce this increase in the House.

Members know how to pursue the matter through notices under the Rules, for example Rules 184, 193 etc., which could be considered for admission. Moreover, opportunities would also be available during discussion on the General Budget and the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals.

I have accordingly not given my consent to the adjournment motions on the subject.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why the notification is not laid on the Table today? (*Interruptions*).

श्री मनोराम बागड़ी (हिसार): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सदन का त्याग करता हूँ।

Shri Mani Ram Bagri and some other hon. Members then left the House,

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on the record without my permission.