

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is all right. Please sit down. I have called Shri K. P. Unnikrishnan.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nobody other than Shri K. P. Unnikrishnan will go on record.

*(Interruptions)***

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported economic blockade of Assam and tension arising therefrom

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN (Badagara): I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the reported economic blockade of Assam and tension arising therefrom.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): Sir, The House will recall that on the 19th March in the Lok Sabha, PM while speaking on a reference to the threat of blockade of Assam had made it clear that Government were not for any step which would increase tension or aggravate the situation in any way whatsoever. Again on the 21st March, PM reiterated that the situation demanded restraint and expressed the hope that the situation in West Bengal would be peaceful.

According to information received from Government of West Bengal, supporters of Chhatra Parishad(I) staged a demonstration on 24th March, 1980. At about 10 A.M. the demonstrators started blocking the Assam-bound traffic near Siliguri town on National Highway No. 31 and also at Siliguri Railway Station and other nearby wayside stations. 6 passenger trains, including 4 Mail and Express trains were detained for periods varying between 1 to 4 hours. The parcel van of an Assam bound train had to be detached before it was allowed to proceed. Movement of goods trains was also to some extent affected. Altogether 147 picketeers which included 22 women, were arrested. President, Vice President and

General Secretary of Chhatra Parishad(I) were among those arrested.

3. On the 25th March, about 700 to 800 Chhatra Parishad, (I) volunteers demonstrated on the road to Assam near Bagdogra. They were dispersed by the police who made a mild lathi charge. 153 arrests were made. Trucks that had been held up were escorted by the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police upto Malla-guri near Siliguri town where another group of volunteers, about 100 strong, had gathered to block the road. They were also removed and the road was cleared by about 330 P.M. 47 arrests were made. Out of 200 arrests made on the 25th March, 25 were women. All arrested persons were subsequently discharged. The flow of traffic was smooth and trucks went towards Assam unhindered. One train which had been detained by Railway authorities at Naxalbari was also able to resume its journey towards Assam in the afternoon.

4. Our immediate objective is to defuse the situation and restore normalcy in the entire region. The House will agree that the situation needs to be handled with full understanding of the sentiments and emotions involved. I would, therefore, appeal to all not only to maintain peace and harmony but also to exercise restraint and desist from taking any step which would make our task of restoring normalcy in Assam more difficult. I would, at the same time, reiterate the appeal made by Prime Minister to students and other organisation in Assam to appreciate the concern felt in other parts of the country over their prolonged agitation, and the difficulty which all the people of India are experiencing, and respond by calling off their agitation.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: Sir, I have read this astonishing statement. The hon. Home Minister was present here a little while ago. He is absent now; he has disappeared. I do not

know whether he is pleading ignorance or innocence . . .

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATT INDIRA GANDHI): He has gone to Palam to receive Badeshah Khan who is just arriving.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: I am very happy about it.

Sir, all sections of the House have been concerned about the developing situation in the north-east and its consequences for the rest of the country. We have been primarily concerned because of the threat it poses to our integrity and to our nationhood. We have also been concerned because if it is allowed to continue, it will not only set up a bad precedent, but it is likely to have chain consequences. On 13th March, Mr. Subroto Mukherjee, who is a very dear friend of mine, had met Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Sanjay Gandhi, according to the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* of 14th and the report clearly indicated that they discussed the grave situation in Assam and in the north-east and in West Bengal. On 14-3-60, Mr. Subroto declared in Calcutta that Cong (I) would launch 'Operation Blockade' on 24th March. On 19th, the Prime Minister, acting as the Leader of the House and I presume also in her capacity as the President of her party, declared in this House that she did not have full information, which she was trying to get and also added:

"However, I want to make it very clear that we are not for any step which will increase tension or aggravate the situation."

We agreed and thought that the Prime Minister would intervene in the situation arising from the Cong(I) threat. But on 21st, we find in a leading daily 'Business Standard' a story credited to Mr. Barun Sen Gupta for whose journalistic capability I have considerable respect, saying that the 'West Bengal stir has MP's blessings.' And he added in the story:

"The important Cong. (I) leaders of the capital do not appear to be

very much apprehensive about the consequences of the movement, rather they suggest everything was going on "according to a well thought out plan"."

What was this well thought out plan? It is very clear that there was no spontaneous movement in the border areas or in West Bengal. Today's *Statesmen* says that there was not even a ripple in Siliguri. I quote:

"One noticeable feature of the blockade in Siliguri discernible today was lack of enthusiasm for the agitation among local youth. But for the arrival of 200-odd Chhatra Parishad volunteers from Calcutta and participation of local tea garden workers, the agitation could not have achieved the success it has so far."

Full one week has passed since the Prime Minister appealed and gave an assurance in this House that she did not approve of it. We know that she said this not only in the capacity of Prime Minister but as President of her Party and that her words cannot go unheeded and more so by these comrades of her's of West Bengal. She has said that she lacked information. But we are really surprised that in this statement, there is no particular appeal—there is a general appeal—which strongly re-affirms our suspicion that the whole thing as Mr. Barun Sen Gupta said, is a deep and well-laid-out plan. Instead of making any effort to make them withdraw this mindless and harmful agitation, what we find is that encouragement is being given from Delhi by the Cong-(I) leadership to carry on this blockade which is harmful and ruinous for the country. Their complaint against the Janata Party which we share was that they were destroying the fabric of national unity. Now I am astonished to see that the Party which got a mandate of the people on this charge, is trying to engineer and de-stabilise the whole region calculated to weaken the national unity. This is not an isolated incident. The Chief Minister of Karnataka, Mr. Gundu Rao, has

evolved his own theory of the 'sons of the soil' and demanded that Kasargod, an issue which was settled 25 years ago, be restored back to Karnataka, as Mr. Stephen would confirm it. This is exactly what is going on. This is a clear attempt at de-stabilisation.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is better to avoid mentioning about a person who is not a Member of this House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: One can only dream of one nation and one citizenship. In the freedom movement Mahatma Gandhi, and more so Jawaharlal Nehru more than any other, dedicated their lives for fostering this concept of national unity. There were such challenges in the past when Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister and leader, had told the Chief Ministers and his party-men, as the records would show, that he did not want to remain for a day as Prime Minister if such trends were encouraged. I want to quote one specific important quotation from the letter to the Chief Ministers . . .

(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is a Calling Attention. You know the rules.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: Then I rise on a point of order . . . (Interruptions). This will not work with me . . . (Interruptions).

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: If this is the way you go on, we can also make political speeches. Do not bother . . . (Interruptions). This shows utter lack of concern for the Bengali problem.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I quote rule 197 for the information of Shri Unnikrishnan and other members.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: Sir, I rise on a point of order . . . (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are speaking on a Calling Attention. How

can you yourself raise a point of order? You put a specific question if you want some clarification from the Minister.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: I am not going away from the point.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: In a Calling Attention you have to ask a specific question. This Calling Attention is to call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the reported economic blockade of Assam and tension arising therefrom. What you have mentioned, has it anything to do with this? Therefore, stick to that subject . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: I am on a point of order . . . (Interruptions). I can raise it at any time. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN (Kangra): Sir, you are the custodian of our rights. You have to protect us.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: Sir, you were kind enough to draw the attention of the House to the Calling Attention. May I invite your attention to an earlier ruling of your predecessor, I think, it was Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar? I will give you the date, because I anticipated this. . . (Interruptions) It is a ruling given in March 1958, which specifically laid down that, if there are identical calling attention motions, the statement in reply should cover all the points on the subject arising from every notice. So, in the absence of such detailed information, I will have to frame my question accordingly. You see whether I am wrong; if I am wrong, I will sit down. I have specifically referred to this ruling of March 1958 and these points have not been covered by the statement of the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can raise only those matters which relate to Assam, which is the subject matter of this Calling Attention. That is my answer.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please stick to the subject. Then other people cannot raise anything. You may come to the subject now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJORY (Mangalore): Sir, I am on a point of order. We have seen the hon. Member making a long speech and he has taken out less than 10 minutes, rather more than 10 minutes. Now, I will draw your attention to Rule 197(2), which says:

"There shall be no debate on such statement at the time it is made, but each member in whose name the item stands in the list of business may, with the permission of the Speaker, ask a question."

So, he should not make a political speech. Now he is entering into a debate and he has made a long speech. It is not permissible under the rules. We want your ruling.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your point of order is in order and he will stick to the subject only. *(Interruptions)*. I have said that his point of order is in order and you will stick to the subject only. I have given my ruling. *(Interruptions)*. Mr. Unnikrishnan, please sit down. We have to conduct the business of the House and you can speak here only as per the rules and regulations. He has quoted one rule and I have upheld his point of order and therefore, you have to stick to the subject only. I cannot permit anything other than that.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: We are governed not only by the rules, but by the precedents also, by the rulings of the Chair. I have referred to a specific ruling.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am guided by the rules and I have stated that "there shall be no debate on such statement at the time it is made, but each Member in whose name the item stands in the list of business may, with the permission of the Speaker, ask a question."

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: You have not referred to what I have said.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please stick to the subject. You are going away from the subject.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: I am entitled to a reply. Am I not entitled to a reply?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Unnikrishnan, I would ask you whether the Assam affair is very important or these procedural things. You want to mention this Assam affairs. Please stick to that, concentrate on that and call the attention of the Minister. I would make an appeal to you. Please don't go away from that subject. Please stick to the subject.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If two Members are getting up at the same time, how can I hear? Therefore, you please stick to the subject.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: What is at stake today is national unity. Any attempt to divide the people whose main enemies are filth, squalor and poverty, and to strike at the roots of national unity, any such attempt will do incalculable harm. The gravamen of my charge is that this is exactly what is being done today. Now, may I ask . . .

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): Sir, I rise on a point of order. I am just quoting what should be done when the Call Attention things are going on. There are two important things—what should be the type of question and what should be the time allotted. These two are important.

Questions by way of clarification on Call Attention statement are to be restricted to the subject matter of notice and should not reflect upon the conduct of the persons in authority nor seek an assurance. Questions on

the merits of the case are not permitted. The only one clarificatory question asked by Members should not be lengthy as to convert the Call Attention into a debate. Then, a Call Attention matter should not take more than half-an-hour. Finally, the Member calling attention can take five minutes, and other Members 2 to 3 minutes. This is the guiding principle. He has violated the principle. He must speak subject to the ordinary rules. Instead of asking for a clarification, he has gone on to national integration, to Karnataka and Kaser-god. He has covered all subjects. He has already taken more than 20 minutes. Five minutes is the time allowed. He has taken more. He shall not be allowed to take anything more than that. He has to put a question and stop with it.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All of you please take your seats. Nothing will go on record. I appeal to Mr. Unnikrishnan to take only two minutes and complete his question.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: I will take only one minute.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not bring in extraneous things here.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the organisers of Operation Blockade Assam have been identified, whether they include the leaders of Congress-I in West Bengal, and whether they were called by the Prime Minister, and if so, what advice was given to them?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): Although a question has been asked at the end, it is obvious from the remarks of the hon. Member that his interest is not in what is happening in Assam or what is happening in Bengal. A long lecture on national integration to me by this particular gentleman is a little astonishing.

*(Interruptions)***

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I am going to say exactly what I like and you are going to listen to me...

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing will go on record. I appeal to the hon. Members that the decorum and decency of the House have to be protected. Therefore, I request you all to please sit down. Let us conduct the business. *(Interruptions)*. There is a lot of confusion and the House should come to order. Therefore, I would like to make an appeal to all hon. members to protect the decency and decorum of the House, everyone has got to cooperate.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Any member who wants to speak must take my permission. I will not allow anybody to speak without my permission, whoever he might be.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Even to rise on a point of order, you have to take my permission. Let us restore normalcy.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Prime Minister will continue her reply.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not permitting you.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Only with your permission, I am raising a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Then, one of you must get up and tell me. If all of you get up, I will not permit.

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

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Under what Rule? For a point of order, you have to say under what Rule you are raising it.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You have allowed me to raise a point of order. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Wanikrishnan has called the attention of the Minister to this issue and the Prime Minister was replying. After you hear her reply, you can raise your objections. Therefore, I say that the Prime Minister will continue her reply. Then only, I will allow anybody else. Now, I am not allowing. . . *(Interruptions)*.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: As far as the point of order is concerned, you should allow us to raise it even if the Prime Minister is on her legs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called the Prime Minister to reply. No other hon. member will get up. I am not permitting any other hon. member to speak. I am asking the Prime Minister to continue her reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Even if you want to raise a point of order, should not these friends behind you sit and, one of you, in a calm atmosphere, raise a point of order so that I can reply to that? How can I reply to four or five points of order simultaneously? Therefore, you should first restore order in the House. You must kindly cooperate. All of you please sit down. If you want any clarification, first please all of you sit down. What is your point of order? *(Interruptions)*.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Under what rule? *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I make an appeal to you to please cooperate. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: You allow him to make his point. Don't be cowed down by shoutings; don't go by personalities. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All of you please sit down. Please help me to restore order in the House. Then only we can calmly discuss the issue.

(Interruptions). The Prime Minister was replying and she was stopped in the middle. Therefore, I ask her to continue. I am not going to allow anybody. Now, the Prime Minister will reply. *(Interruptions)*. Afterwards, I will allow you. *(Interruptions)*. I am sorry, if every member takes law into his own hands I cannot successfully conduct the deliberations of this House. I have already called the Prime Minister. Because she was stopped in the middle, I have called her to continue. I want that all of you should cooperate and let us hear what the Prime Minister has got to say. I am not allowing anybody to get up now. The Prime Minister will reply now. After that, I will allow you to raise your point.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA (Bombay North): The member has a right to raise a point of order at any time. . . *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you a chance afterwards.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I do not want a chance. I have got a right to raise the point of order. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the reply come and then I will allow you. Afterwards, I will allow you. *(Interruptions)*. If you do not want to hear . . . *(Interruptions)*. Please cooperate. That is my appeal to you.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: It is not a question of interruption, interrupting the Prime Minister. . . *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Her speech was stopped in the middle. Therefore, I have asked the Prime Minister to continue. Then, you can raise your point. I am not going to allow anybody to raise any point now.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: It is not a question of interruption. It is a serious matter you taking away the right of a member to raise a point of order. Any hon. Member has got a

right to raise a point of order at any time... (*Interruptions*).

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I do not want to defy the Chair. Please allow me to raise a point of order. (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think this will be my last appeal. I am asking all members to sit down. I am requesting the Prime Minister to speak now. I am not allowing anybody.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: How can you disallow? (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not allowing anybody now. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: You cannot shut out our right to raise a point of order. Any Member can raise a point of order at any time, except when the Speaker is on his legs, whether it is the Prime Minister or any other hon. Member... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: How can you prevent a point of order from being raised? (*Interruptions*). You cannot shut out a point of order. You hear Mr. Dandavate. You may rule out his point of order, but do not set the precedent of shutting out the point of order. We are already having enough problems. Do not create new problems. (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My humble appeal is this. In spite of the tone which I have got as a trade unionist, I am failing here. I had already called the Prime Minister to give her reply, and this point of order was raised after I had called her. Therefore, I make a fervent appeal to the Members...

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not for you to say 'No' addressing the Chair. You cannot...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You had allowed me to raise the point
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of order, and when some hon. Members from that side started shouting, you said that I could not raise the point of order and that the Prime Minister would start... (*Interruptions*). Any Member can raise a point of order at any time. (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dandavate, during Question Hour and Call Attention, no point of order can be raised...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: When he on this side started his speech, you allowed an hon. Member there to raise a point of order...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, you have forgotten the main point. You are going into some other thing.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, in this very House you allowed an hon. Member from that side to raise a point of order, and when we raise it... (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If I understand the sense of the House, the entire House is interested in solving the problem in Assam. But we are going into other extraneous things and are diverting our attention to some other thing, so much so when a national issue is discussed, procedural defects, political discriminations and other things are coming in this discussion. I am very sorry. I am very sorry. I would appeal to the Members. If they are really interested in solving the problem in Assam, I would make a fervent appeal to them not to go into the political aspects of the problem and they should discuss the problem as a national issue... (*Interruptions*).

I make a fervent appeal to you—please co-operate. My interests are not political. Therefore, I am interested that a solution is found. Therefore, I make a fervent appeal to you... Mr. Madhu Dandavate, you had been a Minister and you are doing it. I am very sorry... Mr. Ravindra Varma you were also a Minister. Please sit down. I am very sorry.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

You are not resuming your seats... *(Interruptions)*. I would again make a fervent appeal to you lest the problem in Assam be lost sight of because of all these happenings. Therefore, I am going to ask the Prime Minister to reply.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: rose.
*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen. I will not allow anybody to speak... *(Interruptions)*. I am the custodian of the House. I have requested all of you to please resume your seats. Unless the Prime Minister replies, nothing will be allowed here....

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not allowing anybody. Prime Minister will reply and any person can raise any issue afterwards.

SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL rose.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am permitting your point of order.
(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: You can rule it out. How can you say that you will not permit me?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please co-operate with me. I have asked the Prime Minister to reply. Therefore, please co-operate. Any member who wants to raise any issue can raise it after the reply... *(Interruptions)*. I am not permitting anybody.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: You can rule out the point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called the Prime Minister. The point of order will come afterwards. Then you can raise your point of order. I have called the Prime Minister and she has got to speak. Then you can raise your point of order.... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Rule it out.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please. I am not permitting you to raise it. Let the Prime Minister reply and let her reply be over. Then you can raise your point of order... *(Interruptions)*. Please co-operate. I am making an appeal to you.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI rose.
(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: When a point of order is raised, the question does not arise whether the Prime Minister is on her legs or somebody else is on his legs. When a point of order is raised, the Chair has to hear him and even the Chair has no right to shut it out.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the Prime Minister will reply. I make an appeal to you... *(Interruptions)*. Now the Prime Minister will reply. *(Interruptions)*.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, the hon. Members have the opportunity to raise the points of orders. Don't put it like that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can raise it after her reply because she was stopped in the middle. *(Interruptions)*. As the custodian of this House, I have got to give everybody equal treatment. When the speech was made or the reply was given by the Prime Minister, it was intercepted in the middle. Therefore, I must do justice to the Prime Minister or any Member. She has got the right to speak. Then, you can raise your points of orders. I am very sorry. *(Interruptions)*. I have explained my position as Speaker. Her speech was intercepted or stopped in the middle. Therefore, I have asked her to reply. Then you can raise any point of order. *(Interruptions)*.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I raised a point of order on what the Prime Minister said.

**Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I say I cannot run the business like this. I am very sorry. All of you please keep quiet. Please sit down. Again I make a fervent appeal to all hon. Members of this House. (*Interruptions*). Sitting here as Speaker, I cannot do everything. I am only one among you. Unless you impose some sort of self-discipline, I cannot run the House. (*Interruptions*). Now, Mr. Dandavate is rising on a point of order. I will quote only one sentence. Please listen to me. I will quote one sentence. This is the Ruling of the Speaker:

"The Speaker's ruling, as already stated, cannot be questioned except by a substantive motion."

"A Member who protest against the ruling of the Speaker commits contempt of the House". (*Interruptions*).

Please sit down. Therefore, my decision is binding on you.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I had raised a point of order. You have not given any ruling. So, this ruling does not apply here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: More than one hour we have spent. I would appeal to the good senses of the hon. Members of this House whether we are interested in the problem that is agitating—the minds of 65 crores of people in this country or we want to solve the political issue on the floor of this House.

I am putting one question. Whether you want to solve the problem that is agitating the minds of the 65 crores of people or we want to solve the political issue in this august House. I would appeal to this House therefore that if you want to give importance to this issue—this national issue—you forget if anybody has harmed you. You must forget and forgive. Please cooperate in the proceedings of this House. Otherwise I cannot run the House. (*Interruptions*).

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I agree with you, Sir, that we are

interested in seeing that this issue receives the attention of this House.

(*Interruptions*)

13.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have made an appeal to the hon'ble Members. I hope every hon'ble Member is satisfied with my appeal and they are going to cooperate. Now, nobody should get up and raise any point.

Mr. Dandavate this is not the way. Supposing you are not satisfied with my conducting the House the best way for you is to walk out. Already one hour of the House has been wasted. I am very sorry.

(*Interruptions*)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Kindly remove him from the House for contempt of the House.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am the custodian of the House. I would protect the interests of the Members on both the sides. The interests of hon'ble Members on both the sides are always safe in my hands. Therefore, I am now calling upon the Prime Minister to reply.

(*Interruptions*)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): Sir, it was not at all my intention to bring politics into the debate but, in your wisdom, you allowed the hon'ble Member to make all kinds of accusations and charges and the whole purport of his speech was to charge me with fomenting disintegration of the country. Now, when I stand up to reply, the Members opposite do not want to listen. I can understand their frustration and sympathise with the hon'ble Members opposite. They have lost touch with what is happening in the country. They had lost it before and they have lost it now. (*Interruptions*).

You were elected by an overwhelming majority in 1977. (*Interruptions*) Please listen to me. What am I saying? I am saying you were elected. Please

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]

listen. You just shout and you do not even listen. I said you were elected and yet you lost touch immediately with what was happening in the country. But let us not dwell on that—you live in an imaginary world.

Now to come back to the question . . . (Interruptions) If Mr. Unnikrishnan had not raised all these points there would have been no need for us to go into them. But when hon'ble Members opposite were urging him to speak, they did not want the Deputy Speaker even to correct him on that point although it was against the rules of the House. You can at least listen to me in peace.

Sir, I am not going to deal with the long rigmarole that he gave because it is arrant nonsense. (Interruptions) Please keep quiet because I have some very important engagements and dignitaries from different parts of the world are waiting in my office.

श्रीप मेहरबानी करके आपका सवाल नहीं है। आप चाहते हैं कि मैं जवाब नहीं दूँ, तो मैं ब्रूँ जाती हूँ।

Let us tell the public that they did not want to have a reply.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): They don't want a reply.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: This was a situation . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Everyone may please hear. (Interruptions)

श्री नारायण चौधे : यह नहीं चलेगा।
(शुद्ध मन)

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गान्धी : क्या नहीं चलेगा ?
Have I said anything improper
क्या नहीं चलेगा ? (शुद्धमान)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: The Prime Minister must not lose her temper in the House. Let the Prime Minister not show her temper in the House. Let her not display her temper. Please ask the Prime Minister not to display her temper in the House.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I should like to tell the House—is it unparliamentary to say that something is not making sense? (Interruptions) It is not unparliamentary. . .

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: You are losing your temper.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I am not losing my temper at all. When something does not make sense, I have to say so. There was no point in bringing Kasergode and all kinds of other matters, which have no connection, which have no relevance to the question which we are discussing. I made a statement to this House and I stand by it. At that time. . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen. Don't interrupt.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: At that time I did not know of this plan. Even when the statement was made that they were going to have—I don't remember the exact word, whether it was bandh or blockade—blockade, as I said the Chief Minister of Bengal himself had said, that "it is for a just cause." These are his words in quote. (Interruptions) Please keep quite. No situation arises out of the air. A situation is existing in Assam. What is the use of pretending now as if suddenly a Bengal blockade has arisen out of nowhere? The situation in Assam has created a blockade for the rest of the country where . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Don't interrupt. Why are you interrupting?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Many accusations have been made. No Congress person has been blamed for the agitation in Assam. But we know that the RSS has quite openly supported the agitation and is openly giving it full encouragement. What is the result of that agitation? It means that thousands of people . . . (Interruptions) If you don't want to have a reply, Mr. Unnikrishnan, it is not my fault. Then, I will just sit down. (Interruptions). The statements of the

R.S.S. are in the Press and in their meetings lots of people have heard them. It is not guess work. It is there in their paper. They are encouraging the agitation. What is the result of the agitation? Is it or is it not true that the rest of India has been deprived of diesel and kerosene and oil which they sorely need? Is it not true our farmers have and are suffering if this is not blockade, what is a blockade? Now, at the same time . . . (Interruptions). I am not concerned with what the newspapers say. The newspapers in Assam are inflaming communal passions for all their worth, as they have done earlier at the time of the language riots. Not a day passes when I do not have people who have come from Assam, belonging to the minorities, either religious minorities, linguistic minorities, or some other minorities, who are in fear of their lives and worldly goods. Just to day I had some thousands of people, not even hundreds. This has created an atmosphere in Bengal. I don't care whether some people were agitated in Siliguri or not. But all over Bengal, there is an apprehension. The Chief Minister has himself mentioned it and drawn our attention. So, it is to that strong feeling of the Bengali people that our young people wanted to draw attention. As soon as we heard of it, I sent them a message that we did not approve of it. They also said, we don't want to increase tension. This is what I quoted here. Now, yesterday again, after I heard of the blockade, I sent for the PCC President and Subrato Mukherjee. But you all know that it is not easy to control young people. It is not a question . . . (Interruptions).

And they assued me . . . (Interruptions). The feelings that they are representing now are the feelings of the vast majority of the people of Bengal. Now, while explaining to them . . .

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: A number of our people have been murdered.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: But thousands . . . (Interruptions). It is

better that the CPI(M) keep quiet. A number of our people have been murdered. Do you want to have the names of those people here? (Interruptions). Now, Sir, there are some Members on the other side who do not listen to what is said. They have a kind of record or something. That is why they repeat the same thing. This is our experience not today but through every Calling Attention, through all business. They just get up and shout. They do not know what they are shouting about. I do not know, whether they know, but at least it does not seem to us to make any sense. (Interruptions). Now, the question is that while originally the Chhatra Parishad had planned to have a blockade, it is now a temporary act. They did it for a few hours, it is not good thing. Nevertheless it has not caused any sort of lasting harm. We have to see while it has caused no harm, not lasting harm. . . but no harm at all . . .

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You have just now said 'lasting harm'.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I might have said it but sometimes there is a slip of the tongue. But what has caused lasting harm and has hit at the very fabric of Indian unity is what is happening in Assam. What is happening in West Bengal is a reaction. It may not be a good reaction, but it is a reaction. The basic problem is still in Assam and until we can solve that—we shall try to stop the Bengal affairs and we will succeed in stopping it . . . (Interruptions) But if you are really concerned with the unity of the country, then the question has to be tackled at the root which is in Assam where still the Government is not functioning, where still the minorities and others are being threatened, people from other States are being threatened in the name of foreigners. We have agreed, the Home Minister has agreed, to many of the points which the Assurance raised. The hon. Members opposite were present with me when I met the leaders of Opposition parties in Assam and they saw how deeply concerned most of the parties

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]

were and they all wanted something to be done. Nevertheless because we did not want to take any harsh steps, this agitation has been continuing. It is my belief that those students who came to us, the majority of them do not want to settle the issue. But there is some force which advises them to the contrary. Sometimes they agree to something, they go back, then they say "No, we cannot agree". This is a very serious question. You can try to make political capital out of it. It will only harm the country. It is not going to be anything to us or to you. But it will harm the country. But how to deal with problem in Assam is the major thing.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: It is your party which is doing it.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Our party is doing nothing at all in Assam. In fact they are the victims (*Interruptions*). Our people who have got elected or who were going to be elected their lives are being threaten, they are getting threatening letters. . . . (*Interruptions*) nothing should be done to aggravate the situation. But at the same time if the Assam situation continues, it is not contributing in any way at all to national unity or to creating a sense of safety or security in the minds of the neighbouring areas either.

श्री चन्द्रपाल शंलानी (हाथरस) उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आसाम हमारे देश का एक भाग है, हमारी मातृभूमि का एक अभिन्न अंग है। वहाँ पर जो स्थिति जान-बूझ कर पैदा की जा रही है। आसाम . . .

PROF. MADHU DANDAATE: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, after she has finished her speech, you said that you would allow me . . . (*Interruptions*) My point of order is that according to the procedure if a Member calls the attention of the concerned Minister through a Calling Attention notice, the Minister concerned makes a statement. But in any part of the proceedings, in the debate or even in the course of the

statement, no aspertions can be cast on any Member. She began her speech by casting aspertions on Shri Unnikrishnan . . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Under what rule are you raising this?

PROF. MADHU DANDAATE: Under rule 19 . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please quote either the relevant rule or the ruling.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: According to the rules, members who fail to quote the relevant rule are not allowed to raise a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have followed what you have said. I will go through the proceedings. As you have said, if there is something which is unparliamentary, I will definitely take the required action.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: If you come to the conclusion that the Prime Minister has cast aspersions on Shri Unnikrishnan; that part has to be removed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is all right. Mr. Shailani.

श्री चन्द्रपाल शंलानी : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आसाम आंदोलन के जवाब में केन्द्र में सत्तारूढ़ पार्टी के वरिष्ठ नेताओं के इशारे पर यूथ कांग्रेस (आई), कांग्रेस (आई) और छात्र परिषद् (आई) के स्वयंसेवकों ने जो यंभकर स्थिति पैदा की है . . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are making a speech and not asking a question. Please put your specific question.

श्री चन्द्रपाल शंलानी : मैंने अभी शुरू किया है, आप मेरे साथ कभी इंस्फ करोगे या नहीं ?

मैं बड़े विनम्र शब्दों में आप से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि यूथ कांग्रेस (आई) और छात्र परिषद् (आई) के स्वयंसेवकों

ने परसों से आसाम की आर्थिक नाकेबन्दी करने के लिये जो आंदोलन छोड़ा है वह अपने आप में एक बड़ा गम्भीर प्रश्न है और इस पर केन्द्रीय सरकार को गम्भीरता से विचार करना चाहिए। स्थिति यह हो गई है कि वहाँ पर चारों तरफ से मार्गों को अवरूद्ध कर रखा है। ट्रकों को जाने नहीं दिया जा रहा है, रेलगाड़ियों को जाने नहीं दिया जा रहा है जिसके कारण वहाँ पर जन-जीवन अस्त-व्यस्त हो रहा है। आवश्यक चीजों के लिए....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are still making your speech. I will have to call the next speaker, if you do not ask your question.

श्री चन्द्रपाल शैलानी : अभी एक मिनट में आ रहा हूँ।

आवश्यक सामान जो ट्रकों से या मालगाड़ियों से जा रहा है वह इससे प्रभावित हुआ है। वहाँ की जनता मूखसरी की स्थिति में आ गई है। आज रेल मंत्रालय के एक प्रवक्ता ने यह स्वीकार किया है दिल्ली में इससे रेलगाड़ियों और मालगाड़ियों के आवागमन पर असर पड़ा है। कुछ गाड़ियाँ रोकी गई हैं, छोटी लाइन की अनेक गाड़ियाँ कैन्सिल कर दी गई हैं। और लखन गौहाटी एक्सप्रेस को कई घंटे तक डीटैन किया है।

मेरा कहने का मतलब यह कि केन्द्रीय सरकार जानबूझ कर आसाम में गड़बड़ी पैदा कर देना चाहती है। केन्द्रीय सरकार की नीति यह है कि चोर से कह रही है कि चोरी करो और साहूकार से कह रही है कि जाग जाओ। इस तरह की नीति ज्यादा दिन नहीं चल सकती। मेरा आप से अनुरोध है कि वहाँ पर आसाम को देश से अलग करने की योजना बनाई जा रही है और यह षडयंत्र दिल्ली में बैठ कर किया जा रहा है। आसाम में इस आंदोलन के कारण गृह-युद्ध की स्थिति पैदा हो गई है। अगर आप

देश को टूटने से बचाना चाहते हैं, इस आग से बचाना चाहते हैं तो आप सरकार से कहें कि इस मामले में जल्दी से ऐक्शन ले और इस आंदोलन को समाप्त कराए। कल सत्तारूढ़ पक्ष के कुछ मित्रों ने कहा था कि नौ राज्यों की असेम्बलियों को जो भंग किया गया वह इसलिए किया गया कि वहाँ पर शासन ठीक नहीं चल रहा था। केन्द्र में जिस पार्टी का शासन है उसी का शासन वह सब जगह चाहते हैं। इसीलिए वहाँ पर आंदोलन करके स्थिति को बिगाड़ा जा रहा है ताकि वहाँ सी पी एम की सरकार को खत्म किया जा सके। और इनकी मंशा पूरे देश में एकछत्र शासन करने की है। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह के आंदोलन को समाप्त करने के लिए सरकार क्या प्रभावी कदम तत्काल उठाने जा रही है? और क्या प्रधान मंत्री जी ने, जिनके इशारे पर तमाम कार्यवाहियों की गई, अपने नेताओं को यहाँ पर बुलाने की कोई योजना बनाई है ताकि उनसे वे पूछ सकें और इस तरह के आंदोलन को समाप्त किया जा सके?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: In spite of repeated assurances from the hon. Prime Minister that we are not doing anything which can aggravate the situation, I do not know why the hon. Member is making allegations against the Government. We have taken steps to solve the problem; and he has said, it is not a correct thing that the road was blocked and nothing is going. The road was blocked temporarily; and the blockade was then removed, and normal traffic is now there.

श्री राम बिलास पासवान (हाजीपुर) उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी प्रधान मंत्री जी ने सदन में कहा कि वहाँ पर जो नाकेबन्दी की गई थी उसकी जानकारी उनको नहीं थी। मेरे पास यह "स्टेट्समैन" है जो कि कलकत्ता से निकलता है, यह 18 तारीख का है जिसमें स्पष्ट लिखा हुआ है :

"Mr. Subrata Mukherjee said the programme was being launched, because national integration was at stake. The Congress (I)'s central leadership has been informed of the programme."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your specific question? We have got other business also in the House.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : इसमें उन्होंने कहा है कि यहां के सीडार्स को कन्सल्ट किया गया है। (व्यवधान)। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह की घटना भारत के इतिहास में पहली दफा हुई है जबकि एक तरफ सरकार असम की समस्या को सुलझाने में असफल रही है और दूसरी तरफ एक नयी समस्या बंगाल में क्रिएट कर रही है। 17 तारीख को शुभतो मुकर्जी ने नाकेबन्दी की बात कही। प्रधानमंत्री जी ने यहां पर कहा कि हम इसके विरोध में हैं लेकिन उसके बाद 24 तारीख को वह हुआ। मैं आपके द्वारा एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि दिल्ली में जो पार्टी सत्ता में है जिसकी प्रधान मंत्री जी हैं, वे कहती हैं कि हम इसके विरोध में हैं और उन्हीं की पार्टी के लोग जो राज्य में हैं वे असम में आंदोलन का समर्थन कर रहे हैं और बंगाल में जाकर कहते हैं कि हम इसका विरोध कर रहे हैं। सेंट्रल पार्टी की एक स्टेट में एक कार्यवाही और दूसरी स्टेट में दूसरी कार्यवाही चल रही है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि असम के प्रति भारत सरकार का रवैया पहले से सीतेले बेटे का रहा है। वह पहले से ही असम के प्रति प्रेजुडिसिड है और उसके प्रति गलत रवैया धरियार कर रहे हैं। 1962 में भी, हम लोगोंको याद है, पं० जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने असम को राइटआफ करने की बात कही थी।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Put a specific question. You are making a speech. Under the rules, you cannot make a speech . . . What is the question?

श्री राम विलास पासवान : मेरा प्रश्न है कि पश्चिम बंगाल में जो अराजकता की स्थिति पैदा की जा रही है, जोकि सेंटर के इशारे पर की जा रही है, क्या सरकार वहां पर सिविल वार करवाना चाहती है? और क्या सरकार वहां पर इस संबंध में पार्लमेंटरी डेलीगेशन भेजेगी?

SHRI YOGENRA MAKWANA: So far as the first part of his speech is concerned—it was not a question; it was a brief speech—I would like to point out to the hon. Member that the Prime Minister has appealed to people not to go in for the agitation. It was done on the 19th, and it was done on the 21st also. And in response to that the President of the West Bengal Congress(I) announced the withdrawal of the agitation. I would draw the attention of this august House to the statement, which appeared in the "Times of India" dated the 22nd, of the president of the Pradesh Congress Committee of West Bengal. I quote:

"The West Bengal Congress(I) President, Mr. Ajit Panja said here tonight that the Assam blockade move by the student wing of his party had been dropped."

This statement he made, the President of the Pradesh Congress Party. This is in response to an appeal made by the hon. Prime Minister here in this House. Now even after that, because the feelings are running high in West Bengal, the students also started it because the people of Bengal are sympathising with these students. Their emotion is roused and they have started the blockade. Government is taking all necessary measures to prevent that.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: (Interruptions.**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whatever Mr. Paswan speaks will not go on record.

(Interruptions)**

**Not recorded.

श्री राम बिलास वाक्यन : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने मेरे प्रश्न का जवाब नहीं दिया।

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: It needs not required to be said.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He need not reply to every point. I know the rules.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Sir, you will bear with me because without casting any reflection on any other hon. member—the luck of the ballot is such that I am only Bengali Member here from Bengal. (Interruptions). Much has been said about emotions in Bengal and sentiments of the Bengali people. As though the whole monopoly of voicing the emotions and aspirations of the Bengali people belongs only to Mr. Subrata Mukherjee and his friends! Who gave them that right? Much of the ground has been covered. I do not want to repeat all that. It is quite clear from what the hon. Prime Minister has said in reply to Mr. Unnikrishnan that she does not disapprove, specifically disapprove of this movement which has been launched. She tried to give an alibi for it. I would like to know whether it is not a fact that while on the one hand these public statements are being made on the floor of the House suggesting at least that this movement is not going on with the approval or the connivance of the Central Government, whether it is not a fact that at the same time parallel instructions have been sent to West Bengal asking these boys to carry on the movement. I am speaking from what evidence I have at my command, because it is impossible to believe that in our country, if Prime Minister Indira Gandhi really wants to put her foot down and say, "No you are not to continue this type of movement," — nobody is objecting to anybody voicing that aggrieved feelings of the people in this country—What is wrong with that?—The point is the method which has been adopted this method of eco-

nomie blockade if she puts her foot down, it is impossible, incredible for anybody to think that people like Shri Subrata Mukherjee would not fall in line. Therefore, it is obvious from what they have said that they have got the blessings of the Centre. I will just remind Mr. Makwana of the resolution, unanimous resolution which all of us passed together sitting in that conference which the Prime Minister called on the First of this month where all the political parties who are in this House as well as those who are represented in the Assam Assembly were called. One sentence in that resolution says, "No constructive step can however be taken as long as an atmosphere of agitation continues to prevail." This was the resolution which was unanimously passed—no constructive steps can be taken so long as an atmosphere of agitation prevails. Now within a few weeks, they want to create an atmosphere of counter-agitation. How will the constructive step be taken if counter-agitation is added to agitation? Either this whole resolution is a face saving device or they are not serious about it. He should tell us how he means to implement this resolution which was passed with the cooperation of all the parties present. It is not a small matter. It is at least an all parties affair. What you are now doing is only your party affair? This was an all parties affair. It should have been given some respect. Secondly, this blockade from the north Bengal area, economic blockade, blockade of a traffic will affect the whole of the north-east region. The region is already disaffected; it is a region in which many unpleasant things are happening, a region about which the Home Minister has gone on record saying that secessionist moves are going on, foreign agencies are playing an active part and he has made a long statement in the other House the other day. Such a region is there. There this gambling, playing with fire is being allowed to go on from here? My second question is this; I want to know whether it is a fact or not, by not disapproving specifically of this agitation and not calling on their own

people to desist from it the government and the leadership of the ruling party is trying to kill two birds with one stone? One bird they want to kill is the left front government in West Bengal. I think at least one word of praise should have been said by somebody in this House to commend the great restraint which the left front government has shown in the last three days. They were being provoked: come on, order lahi charge, order firing, send your gondas to beat us and so on. Then a howling would have started here: law and order has broken down. I think the government of Jyoti Bосу has shown great restraint, the way in which they are handling this thing peacefully. Trucks are being stopped; trucks are allowed to move after removing satyagrahis . . . (Interruptions) This part of the plan will misfire because I am quite confident that the West Bengal government is capable of maintaining law and order.

My last point is: what is the other game behind this? I want to have a specific reply. Are they calculating? The other object behind this seeming madness—there is method in this madness and I have got evidence, I do not want to quote names, those persons are not present in the House—there is a move going on behind the scenes that if by this agitation and counter agitation a situation can be created whereby the agitators in Assam—they hope—can be persuaded at least to allow resumption of the movement of oil from Assam, then, in turn, as a quid pro quo, the Centre would be prepared to go back on the solemn pledge that they have given to the country that 1971 and no other date prior to that would be taken as a cut-off date for determining the identity of foreigners. Already there is talk—they want 1951, these people have asked for 1971, why not have a midway compromise at 1961? I am told that the whole object behind this movement, on one of the objects, apart from discrediting the West Bengal government, is to bring about

a situation where, if they are prepared to withdraw the picketing of the oil installations and oil is permitted to flow, the government, as a gesture to them will say: all right, we do not insist on 1971, let us go to an earlier date. I want to know whether it is a fact or not, whether the government is firm on the year 1971 or whether they are trying to do something behind the scenes, without telling the political parties, without telling the House? They must reply to it, because there is no other explanation for this peculiar situation which they have allowed to develop, where for the first time in the history of this country, two states of the Indian Union have been brought into direct confrontation with each other, blockade and counter blockade? Do we support what is going on in Assam? Can we support it? But is this the way to handle it by launching counter blockade against it? If two states can be at civil war with each other, what will be left of this government, of this country, of the unity of this country? They did not disapprove of it. She said everything except disapproval. She said: we cannot control young people. That I can see in this House also. Young people cannot be controlled. It does not matter, we can be indulgent towards young people. (Interruptions). Not you I mean young people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Indrajit Gupta, we have not been able to control even the elders. (Interruptions). Here we have not been able to control the elders.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You claim to be a youth. I am referring to genuine youth. (Interruptions).

This whole situation is leading towards an escalation which will have dire consequences for the whole country and if the Assam oil has been stopped from coming, why should it be—according to her it is only the headache of Bengal? Is Barauni situated in Bengal to where oil supplies have stopped coming? If you say so

this kind of agitation can be started in many other States also. Would you like us to do that? It is very easy to arouse the emotions, Mr. Makwana. Then you should say that let people of other States also join.

I want specific replies to these questions:

1. Why are they not taking a forthright stand of specifically disapproving of this movement and telling them (*interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are repeating. He has noted down your questions.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: 2 Is there any move afoot under cover of this movement to strike a deal with these agitators in Assam viz., that if they give up their picketing oil installations, then the Government will not insist on 1971 as the cut off year and

3. Do they consider that this form of agitation will affect the entire North East region? Whether he and his friends have told the Rajya Sabha that very dangerous things are happening including foreign agencies operating there? Is this the best way of tackling this problem and will they take all the consequences of it?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: The hon. Member is entirely on wrong premises. All the questions which he has put are based on presumptions that the Government is supporting these agitators in Bengal. It is not like that. The Government has already expressed the feelings that this will not pay either to them or to the nation. That has already been made clear.

So far as the three questions which he posed before me, all the three questions are based on presumptions as I have already said. Even then I would like to make it specifically clear so far as the first point whether

we disapprove of it is concerned, the Prime Minister has already said on 19th and 21st in this very House that she has not approved of the action. But what can we do from here? You rightly pointed out that the youths sometimes are not controlled.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: In the second question he mentioned about the cut off year. When the Resolution was passed, the hon. Member was present in that meeting and he knows that it was a consensus of all the parties wherein our party is also included. Our stand is very clear. What more is required to be known in this respect, I do not understand.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: My question was, was there any re-thinking that in exchange of stoppage of picketing on oil installations you will give up this? Please say it categorically. Do not play with the lives of the millions of people there.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: There is no rethinking of it, I made it very clear.

The third question which he put was about the form of the agitation. The form of the agitation, if I point out to the hon. Member is nothing but the reflection of the agitation which is going on in Assam. They have imposed a blockade on Cachar which is a part of the State of Assam. Do you know that nothing is going to Cachar and the prices have shot up? So, it is not we who have done it, but it is the feeling of the students there in West Bengal that they have started this agitation.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You approve it. It is an alibi.