

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री (पटना): अध्यक्ष महोदय, कल दिल्ली में कपड़ा मजदूरों ने एक दिन की हड़ताल की। उनपर लाठी-चार्ज किया गया और गुंडों ने उनपर हमला किया।

MR. SPEAKER: No question. Mr. Bhogendra Jha.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: It has always been the practice that every time the Prime Minister had gone abroad and come back, the House has been taken into confidence. Why are you blocking Parliamentary conventions? Parliamentary conventions cannot be flouted in this way. She should make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Whenever there is anything, they do come forward.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Parliament is taken for a ride...

MR. SPEAKER: It is never taken for a ride.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: When Parliament is in session, the Prime Minister, when she had gone abroad and come back, should inform the House. Why should not the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs give an assurance that such a statement will be forthcoming? Every time Mr. Morarji Desai went abroad, he made a statement after coming back.

MR. SPEAKER: Call-Attention. Mr. Bhogendra Jha.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED DISCOVERY OF AIR FORCE ROCKETS IN LIME STONE WAGONS FOR BOKARO, IN COAL WAGONS AT NAGALIA SADAT AND IN GAYA AND SEIZURE OF EXPLOSIVES AT DHANBAD

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Sir, I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and re-

quest that he may make a statement thereon:—

“Reported discovery of Air Force rockets in lime stone wagons for Bokaro Steel Plant, in coal wagons at Nagalia Sadat Railway Station between Bareilly and Moradabad and in Gaya and seizure of explosives in a hotel at Dhanbad, Bihar.”

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, On 27-3-1982, a consignment of life expired rockets and rocket pods packed in boxes was booked by an Air Force unit from Alipur-Duar Railway Station to Amla Junction. These rockets together with pods were consigned to the Amla Depot of the Air Force for re-conditioning of the life expired rockets. Three airmen were detailed as escorts for this wagon.

The wagon containing the above consignment reached Gaya Station at 2000 Hrs. on 11-4-82 and left Gaya at 2040 Hrs. with train No EC 37 UP and reached Mughal Sarai on the morning of 12-4-82. At Mughal Sarai, one of the doors of the wagon was found opened. The wagon was accordingly detained at Mughal Sarai for check of the contents. A team of Air Force officers who proceeded to Mughal Sarai found five boxes containing 56 rockets and 2 rocket pods missing from the consignment.

Separately, following reports were received in regard to discovery of Air Force rockets at different places:—

(i) On the night of 11/12-4-82, a train with wagons containing lime stone booked to Bokaro Steel Plant had passed Gaya. On its arrival at Bokaro Steel Plant while unloading in the morning of 13th April, 1982, it was found that 9 of its wagons contained one rocket each. On receipt of this information, a team of armament experts from the Air Force went to Bokaro and identified these rockets. The rockets were defused as a safety measure and brought to an Air Force Station for safe custody. These rockets were from amongst those found missing from the wagon at Mughal Sarai.

[Shri R. Venkataraman]

(ii) Another train had reached Gaya Junction after the departure of the train which carried the Air Force rockets consignment. This train was escorted by the Railway Protection Security Force (RPSF). According to information received from the Railway authorities, this train was attacked by some criminals and in the process, RPSF had fired two rounds in self defence. On search of the area, some iron rods were found and on further search, 24 rockets and one empty rocket pod were also found from different places at Gaya. Subsequently, 4 more rockets are also reported to have been recovered by civil police at Gaya. An Air Force Officer has been detailed to identify these rockets and take charge of them. His report is awaited.

(iii) On 15-4-82, 13 rockets were recovered from a coal wagon of a goods train at Nagaria Sadat Railway Station between Bareilly and Moradabad. The wagon had left Mughal Sarai in the afternoon of 13-4-82 attached with train No. EC 25 UP (Bhatinda Special). An officer of the Air Force has identified these rockets and they have been brought to an Air Force Station for safe custody.

While formal confirmation from the Air Force authorities about the identity of the rockets found at Gaya is still awaited, it appears that these rockets also formed part of the consignment in which shortages were discovered at Mughal Sarai. Of the 56 rocket and 2 rocket pods found missing, 50 rockets and 1 rocket pod would then be accounted for. The remaining 6 rockets and 1 empty rocket pod are being traced by the Railway authorities. Cases have been re-generated by the civil/railway police and investigations are underway at all the places where these incidents took place. One individual has been arrested by the Government Railway Police (GRP).

A Court of Inquiry has been ordered by Air Hqrs. to investigate into the incident.

As regards the reported discovery of detonators and safety fuses at a hotel in Dhanbad, it has been verified that these stores do not belong to the Defence Services. Information has been received from the Government of Bihar that on a raid conducted at Raj Hotel, Dhanbad, on 15-4-1982, 24 boxes of detonators and 2 boxes of safety fuses were recovered from the hotel and one individual has been arrested.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV (Azamgarh): I want to raise a point of order. Many of us have given notice of this. Unfortunately, according to the rules, only five members can ask the questions. This is a serious matter to be dealt with in Calling Attention. I would request you that you should allow a formal discussion in this House. National security is involved. You see rockets going in different directions and in different trains, in coal, in iron ore and in different places. This is a very serious matter. For the first time in independent India this kind of lapse has been found. Therefore, I would request you to allow a special discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us see if anything remains.

श्री राम विश्वास पासवान (हाजीपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा दूसरा प्वाइंट आफ आउट है। धनवाद होटल के बारे में मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि रक्षा मंत्रालय से वह सम्बन्धित नहीं है। माननीय मंत्री जी उस का जवाब नहीं दे पाएंगे। तो धनवाद होटल में जो राकेट निकला है उसके लिए आप होम मिनिस्ट्री को रीफर कीजिए।

MR. SPEAKER: Let us see.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Rockets were found in hotels and in different rooms.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us see what happens.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: The Minister has very innocently narrated a few incidents connected with the missing of the rockets which as he said, were outdated. In two ways we are all concerned with it. One is that these

rockets were from the Air Force and are required for the defence of our country. Another question is whether the rockets were outdated or as reported in some of the papers, only the igniters were outdated and not the rockets. And if the igniters were outdated they can be again reconditioned for use. In such a situation, Sir, when fiftysix rockets and two rocket pods were missing at Mughal Sarai, naturally, the whole country would like to know what steps were immediately taken to trace out those 56 rockets and two rocket pods just after they were found missing at Mughal Sarai.

12.15 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The Minister's reply is silent on that point and, yet, the country does not know from newspapers and other sources what specific steps were taken immediately after they were found missing in Mughal Sarai. In quick succession within one week, at these places, nine rockets, one each in a bogie of limestones, were found. How, at one place, 9 rockets could find their way to Bokaro in limestone wagons and what for they placed—one in each box of the limestones and not all together?

They again, 24 rockets were discovered at Gaya and they were with stones with a gang of criminals. When the criminals were pursued, in that hot pursuit, the Railway Protection Force came into possession 24 rockets and four more rockets later. So, 28 rockets were discovered at Gaya.

Again, Sir, on 15th April, 13 such rockets were located at Nageria Sadat in coal wagons. With regard to the Hotel at Dhanbad, again, the matter is not to be brushed aside. It may not concern the Defence Ministry. Huge explosives were found in that Hotel which are sufficient to explode the whole of Dhanbad City. We would like to know how they were found there, how they were discovered and what was the motive behind that. It was first reported that 235 dynamites were recovered at

Gaya. Again, Sir, in a colliery at Gopinathpur in Bihar, a huge quantity of explosives were discovered. All these were discovered in Gopinathpur—Bihar.

The law and order situation in Bihar need no need by me here. Nor is this the point under discussion to-day. In Bihar, we have got a very incapable and very inefficient administration who are totally unconcerned with these things which concern the country and our people. Only in one respect it is efficient, that is, in shooting down the people, the poor people. In my own district—Madhubani—six agricultural labourers were shot dead recently on 3rd of April but not a single Police Officer had been arrested or even suspended. All these things were located in Bihar; all these concern the defence of our country. I would certainly like to know from the Defence Minister this. His statement clearly states that 56 rockets and 2 rocket pods were spotted by the Air Force men which were lost in transit at Mughal Sarai. What about those who were escorting these rockets? What happened to them? Were they spotted out? If so, what action was taken thereafter? Why only nine out of 56 rockets were taken to Bokaro? What was the motivation behind it? What was the motive to put one rocket in each of the wagons behind the 13 rockets found at Bokaro Steel Plant? What was the motivation behind the 13 rockets found at Nageria in the coal wagons and 28 rockets found at Gaya? According to the statement, some criminals attacked the train at Gaya and in that process, the rockets were found from different places at Gaya. What would have happened if the criminals would not have attacked? Further, of the 56 rockets, only 50 rockets have been recovered. Certainly, the country would like to know, what happened to those six rockets. Are they still untraced? Or is it that the Defence Minister is again waiting for some criminals to become active, or for some theft to take place, when these rockets may be located? The Air Force with the help of the Home Ministry should have made an all-out effort to locate them.

[Shri Bhogendra Jha]

The whole country is very much concerned that such sophisticated weapons required for our defence are found here and there, at several places, mostly in Bihar, and at one place in U.P. in a railway wagon. Is it all about such losses, or more such weapons from our Air Force and other sections of our Defence Forces are getting lost? Certainly, the country would like to know whether they have found their way in the hands of our country's enemies. We would certainly like to know, whether the Government of India, particularly the Defence Ministry, are capable of safeguarding the interests of the country in the context of the situation in which we are placed, and whether they are capable of ensuring proper custody of our armament, weapons etc. required by our Services.

Uptil now, not a single rocket has been located by the Defence Services or the Government of India by their own efforts; it was just by chance that these were located. Some labourers discovered them at Bokaro, some others located at Gaya, and Nagaria. This is how these were discovered. In such circumstances, the failure of the Government in safeguarding the interests of the country, is nakedly clear before the country.

As far as national security is concerned, we are surrounded by hostile forces on our frontiers in the west, partly in the east, and mostly in the south in the Indian Ocean. We are in such a situation. It seems as if the Government sitting over there is finding itself totally incapable of safeguarding our interests and taking the country into confidence with regard to its safety.

I would like to know, what the Government, particularly the Defence Ministry has been doing. Why could they not locate even a single rocket themselves? What about the six rockets still untraced? What efforts have been made, and what action taken against those found responsible for the loss of rockets?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I share the concern of the House in respect of the unfortunate incident that has occurred. In fact, a wagon load of outdated and time-barred rockets—but still they are defence equipment, and have got the highest priority—was sent for reconditioning to another Air Force station for the purpose of making them usable. On the way, at Gaya, it appears to have been tampered with, and that is how the rockets got into the Bokaro wagons etc. otherwise, it cannot happen. Somebody must have tampered with the wagon and taken them out at Gaya.

DR. KARAN SINGH (Udhampur): It was obviously done by somebody who know as to what was happening? —

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I am not sure; I cannot venture a hypothesis. It appears to me that probably some person thought that it contained valuables, but when he found that it has nothing, he had somehow to dispose them of and he put the rockets at various places. That can be one explanation, but I am not sure about it. But the way in which it has occurred shows that somebody, who wanted to loot a train and get some valuables for himself, struck on this wagon and had taken out the boxes; and when opened and found that they contained rockets and parts, apparently he had to dispose of in some form or the other.

The question was asked what steps had the Government taken immediately. Immediately the Air Force despatched its officers to go and examine the position. The entire force of the Government—the Railways, the local police, everybody—was on the track. The Hon. Member seems to think that Government means only the Defence Ministry. The Railways also are part of the Government; the police are part of the Government; the Bihar Police also are part of the Government. All these were set in motion—Air Force, the Bihar Police, the Railway Police, the Railway Protection Force everybody.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North East): Only the thieves should not be part of the Government.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: It used to be with you, Sir. I am sorry you seem to remember your things very well.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I didn't do it.

SHRI A. K. ROY (Dhanbad): Are you personally aware before it was discovered in Bokaro?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the Minister reply.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Personally, me? Of course, not.

SHRI A. K. ROY: That means it would not have come to light.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: No arguments please. Everybody knows that the Minister has a constitutional responsibility. If anything goes wrong, I will resign. I have the constitutional responsibility. Whether I know it or not, but this is a question without any meaning.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Bashirhat): He is asking whether you came to know of the incident only from the newspapers.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: No. That is not what he said.

SHRI A. K. ROY: That is the point. It was not a small incident. The Minister should have known it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The moment the Air Force noticed that something was missing, the Air Force sent its Officers there immediately, because they wanted to know how much was missing. For instance, the wagon was loaded with 35 large cases each containing a pod of 19 rockets and then 87 small boxes containing six rockets each. Out of that some have been

missing. Therefore, it has to be identified. The first thing we did before anything appeared in the newspapers or anywhere, was that the Air Force people were sent there.

The question is whether the Government did anything. I say the Railway police were immediately on action and it was discovered on the same night of the 12th-13th of April.

What happened was the ammunition train passed Gaya. Then four hours later another train passed Gaya. Some people attacked the next train. The Railway Protection Force opened fire and when they opened fire, they ran. Immediately they went and searched the place. They found some iron rods and they also found these things strewn. Therefore, it was found immediately. Perhaps the other people got to know about it later. Now the action that was taken was....

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen to him, then you can put your questions further. You have raised some points. Has he not to reply?

SHRI A. K. ROY: He has no reply, Sir.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: It is difficult to understand these things. The next point which he raised was why were nine rockets placed in Bokaro? How do I know? You must ask the persons who have placed the rockets.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nine is an auspicious number.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: That one can see that the anxiety to dispose of was there on the part of the person. There were some lime-stone wagons staying there and they immediately transferred them to the lime-stone wagons....(Interruptions). If the man really wanted to cause any damage or sabotage, he had just placed it on the top of the limestone. He had no time even to insert inside it. I have photo-

[Shri R. Venkataraman]

graphs of the way in which it was placed. He had just thrown it on the top of the limestone.

The next question he asked was: how did the 13 go to Nagaria. The court of enquiry will find the exact situation; but it would appear that some boxes out of these, were stolen at Mughal Sarai, and when this gang found that it was not of any use to them, they throw it into other wagons. Otherwise, it is not possible to explain it. I have got the railway map. Everybody knows. One thing happened at Gaya, and the other thing happened at Mughal Sarai station. The coal wagon was not at Gaya. Therefore, there must have been two places at which the robbing or dacoity should have taken place. That is the inference; but people are investigating.

Then they asked the question whether the train was escorted. Yes; the Air Force people were escorting; and the rules with regard to escort are that every time the train stops, they will have to go, march and come back; and apparently, this must have been done—whether it was properly done or not, will be fully investigated. I can assure the House that if there is any lapse on the part of the escort, they will be dealt with appropriately.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: What kind of rockets?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Swamy, let the Minister reply to Mr. Jha.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Air Force rockets.

The next question was: what would have happened, had it not been discovered. It is a very serious matter. Certainly it could have been discovered, because when the tripler goes into the receptacle, I am told there is a sort of a net, and it would have been caught there. If it had not been caught, and if it had been carried....

SHRI A. K. ROY: *rose*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Roy, the Minister is replying to Mr. Jha.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The next question is: What if it passes. Then there are conveyor belts; and on the conveyor belts people are standing, to see whether there is any extraneous material getting in, or not. That is only for picking out boulders etc. Then there is another protection, viz., a magnet to take away the iron particles or iron pieces that might get in. So, one of these things would have really detected it. But, in spite of all these if it had gone in, certainly it would have exploded; but the chances are that it might not have happened.

The next question was asked about the detonators. I am sorry I have no information. As I said, detonators do not belong to Defence; and they are used, firstly, for the purpose of mining of coal and other things. We have no information on this. A separate question may be put to the Department concerned.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: He has not replied correctly. On 11-12th April night, they were not in Mughal Sarai. Probably it was on the 14-15th April. For four days, the whole Government machinery could not find anything. The labourers located it at Bokaro.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, this is incorrect, because on the night when they found, when the information came, the Air Force people went immediately and checked what has been lost. How does he say that till 14-15th April we did not know it?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Balasaheb Vikhe Patil is not there. Now Mr. Nawal Kishore Sharma.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA (Dausa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the subject of the calling attention for the day is a very serious one. In fact, it is not one solitary instance wherein theft of the defence material has been found or has been there. There are numerous cases where the defence material has been stolen either in transit or from the

ordnance factory. I have a series of newspaper reports indicating during the lost one year or less than that where the defence material has been found at various places. This generally happens during transit. This lead us to conclude that the defence arrangement for the transit of the defence material and ammunition is really not satisfactory.

If you permit, I can quote instances after instances; and in brief, I may like to refer to certain news items which have appeared in the various papers. There is a news item in the *Hindustan Times*, dated 4th September, 1981, wherein grenade was stolen from a wagon at Jabalpur; there is second news items in the *Indian Express*, dated 5th January, 1982, wherein ammunition was missing from army dump—a large quantity of sensitive material was stolen; there is third news item in the *Hindustan Times*, dated 13th May, 1981.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: What is that?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: This is regarding the sale of tanks. There is the fourth news item in the *Times of India*, dated 2nd February, 1982, wherein 34 police rifles and 1,300 cartridge missiles were missing. there is the 6th news item in the *Hindustan Times*, dated 30th July, 1981, wherein two boxes containing over 1000 bullets were missing from a stable wagon in one Yard of the Eastern Railway; there is the 6th news item in the *Hindustan* dated 7th August, 1981, wherein ammunition boxes were found on a track which were found to be belonging to the army; there is the 7th news item in the *Statesman*, dated 13th August, 1981, wherein 83 grenades were stolen which were belonging to the Indian army, not one.

There are many instances as reported in the Press; and so far as my information goes, these reports have not been contradicted. Therefore, this is not a simple question of a solitary instance; and I am sorry to say this; I have all the regards for Mr. Venkataraman, but the way he has taken this incident so

lightly, I am sorry to comment like that. He has said, it might be a case of somebody stealing, taking it to be a precious material and then in a hurry placing one rocket each at one wagon. This never happens. Whenever a man steals anything taking it to be a precious material—I can think that can happen—but then he would not place it like one rocket at one wagon; he would dump it at one place; he would leave it there. Why would he try to place it? There is no logic in placing one rocket at one wagon and then in different trains. (*Interruptions*) I am not concerned with regard to hotels. But I take very serious note and I would like the Minister to take a serious notice of the fact that these wagons, whether of limestone or coal, were bound for Bokaro, a prestigious steel plant of India and this cannots, or denotes, that there is a suspicion... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: The Bokaro authorities themselves said that it was bound to explode the steel mill,

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: It is a very serious matter and I want the Minister also to take it seriously because Bokaro being a prestigious steel factory, the biggest steel factory in India, there may be attempts by some unscrupulous elements or some persons who are interested in creating a climate of instability; and those persons or unsocial elements who are interested in creating disorder in this country, might be interested in creating an impression in the country by creating disorder at the biggest steel mill of this country. So, with all respect to Mr. Venkataraman I would say that the matter is not so simple. Thefts of ammunition have been going on; and no effective steps have been taken by the Ministry. No effective steps are there. Why is it that in spite of so many repeated theft cases strong action or sufficient precautions have not been taken when Defence material is sent by the Railways? And, if it has not been done, what is the Ministry's thinking now? Whenever Defence material is transmitted by the Railways, will adequate precautions be taken to ensure that no theft occurs?

[Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma]

The second point is the location of the rockets in the coal and limestone wagons. This question requires a thorough probe. The Army or the civil Police would not be in a position to coordinate the whole affair. There may be different versions as it usually happens, and every Department tries to save its own skin. Therefore, they may try to pass on the buck to the other one. Therefore, in these circumstances, when the matter is so serious, I would like to know from the Minister whether he is prepared to hold a C.B.I. inquiry into the whole incident.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:
Military!

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA:
Even if it is military, I agree.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: They have military intelligence, separately.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA:
I would like the report of the inquiry to be published or at least to be placed on the Table of the House so that the country knows the true facts of the case.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, apparently, the hon. Member has not read my answer. I stated in the answer that inquiries are already afoot, that the Police, the Railway authorities, the Army, the Defence Department, all of them are now very seriously engaged in unearthing this.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA:
I have not denied it. I have only asked for a C.B.I. inquiry.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Defence includes Defence intelligence. And we are investigating through the Defence Intelligence officers also. He read out a long list of losses and thefts. There have been some thefts, grenades or some ammunition have been stolen. There have been certain instances of stealing somewhere. This is a case in which a Railway wagon has been broken open in transit and therefore it has caused us a great deal of concern. Even before this

incident, the Department has constituted a Committee to go into the question of safety of the ammunition in transit. One of the suggestion under consideration is whether we should not use containerised wagons for the transport of defence equipment. The containerisation is so effective that it cannot be opened. It will be put in one place and opened at the other place. Instead of using ordinary wagons, we can use that one. That is one of the suggestions that is very seriously being considered.

Then he asked the attitude of the Government to these losses. Certainly, our attitude is that we deeply regret that such incidents occur. We try to avoid this as much as possible. We also take preventive action. And the preventive action is what we have suggested now to see that there is no further incident of breaking open the wagons in the way.

All that I have said is that the whole report of the Court of Inquiry by the Defence as well as other investigations by the Railways, by the Police and all that will throw up the correct picture. We are not saying that this is a very small incident or a negligible incident and no action need be taken. I have never said that. But people presumed that I have said this thing and began to criticise the Government. I only point out that a very serious note has been taken and everything possible is being done. There is no cause to worry that the defence is, in any way, jeopardised.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Pius Turkey—He is not there. Shri Chintamani Jena—He is also not there.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: I again demand that there should be a full discussion on this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will go to the next item. I conduct the House according to the rules.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: You can conduct the House according to the Rules but you have to listen to the suggestions also. What do you mean by saying, conducting the House according to the rules?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can give notice.

SHRI CHANRAJIT YADAV: I am saying that three members are absent and that you must allow a proper discussion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You please give notice. You are also a Chairman.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: I will give notice but I request you to have a full discussion on this issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am sorry. You can give notice. Do not create a wrong precedent in the House. You give notice and it will be considered by the Speaker.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA (Bombay South). This is a very serious matter; you please consider it.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TWENTY NINTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 21st April, 1982."

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North East): I beg to move:

That for the original motion, substitute.

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-ninth Report of Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on 21st April, 1982 subject to the modification that 4 hours be allowed to the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1982."

The customs tariff is a very important part of our policy instrument and only one hour has been allotted for it. I would like to say that today the customs tariff has become, say shall I say, fountain head of corruption in the country in view of the fact that our import export trade is about Rs. 15000 crores. A number of reports have appeared in press and elsewhere indicating that. So, the extent to which it has gone is highlighted in the "Sunday" April 4 issue, which says the following:

"The latest scandal in Bombay is the way the Bombay customs have held up consignments of imported polyester filament yarn meant for cotton textile mills, despite directives to the contrary from the Union Government."

The Union Government gave the directives but the Bombay Customs is doing something else.

"The customs collector, ** is a relative of the Reliance representative in Delhi, ** —no relation of mine.

"Customs collector ** relatives are employed by Reliance and last November there was a big party thrown by ** at Lonavala to celebrate ** birthday at which a large number of celebrities from Bombay were present."

What I am trying to tell you is that the Government sends an order and Bombay Collector, ** disobeys it. He employs the relatives in Reliance Textiles and becomes a beneficiary. These are the reasons why I am saying that four hours are required. I have nothing against Shri Venkatasubbaiah or **. I want to know whether this is true. If it is true, it is stinking. The amount involved is Rs. 15,000 crores. This is how the customs tariff is being manipulated. So, I want four hours for the discussion of the Bill.