

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Railway properties are being destroyed in a wanton manner in Hyderabad. It is very important.

**MR. SPEAKER:** That is not the criterion.

Mr. Lakkappa.

(iii) **REPORTED REVERSION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA.**

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur):** Under Rule 377 I want to raise an important and vital issue pertaining to not only the Ministry of Steel and Mines but also the whole Government of India.

I would like to draw your attention and through you the attention of the House to the manner in which this Ministry is functioning with respect to the Geological Survey of India.

The Geological Survey of India is one of the biggest and largest scientific organizations in the country which is looking after not only the mineral wealth of this country but also to explore and exploit the natural resources even in the seas and those on shore from both national and international aspects.

Recently there were certain incidents and a certain action was taken reverting one Shri V. K. S. Varadhan who is one of the seniormost and foremost scientific officers working as Director General of the Geological Survey of India. It is not the case of an individual that I am pleading.

This matter came up for a lot of criticism in the Press also. One of the papers under the caption 'GSI Scientists vs Bureaucrats' highlights the manner in which the bureaucrats working in the Steel Ministry not only wish that their designs are operated upon but also want that certain important scientific officers attached to these organizations have been removed. This is not an isolated incident and the entire scientist community in the country has been very much dis-satisfied, especially in the last one year, with the manner in which not only this Ministry but several other Ministries are functioning. You are aware that Dr. Raja Ramanna one of the illustrious scientists of this country and who has been working in the field of atomic energy as an independent scientist and is widely known the world over has been given an assignment in the Defence which is not only against the will of the person concerned but also against the desire of the scientific community in the country.

Sir, this is how the scientific community and science and technology built by the country over the last 30 years with all its accumulations, its deliberations and conclusions and developments are being completely demolished and dismantled.

I would like to read certain important aspects of this matter regarding the Geological Survey of India which is quite revealing and shocking:

"What appears to be an open tussle between the 14,000-strong scientific community of the Geological Survey of India and the bureaucrats in the Union Mining Ministry has now surfaced here.

The point at issue looks quite simple. It is the long-standing feud between the "Specialist" and the "Generalist" as to who should have the upper hand in framing day-to-day policies pertaining to a highly technical subject like geological survey involving massive national investments."

The biggest story behind all this is the multi-nationals... (*interruptions*). I am reading the relevant resolution passed by the scientists for the benefit of this House as also of the Ministry. The appointment of Mr. Varadan to the post of Director-General, GSI was made in 1976 and the order said that he would be on probation for a period of 2 years which period, of course, could be extended at the discretion of the competent authority. This is the Government of India order and even according to this order he is expected to be in office upto August. Mr. Varadan also recently attended the international conference on the law of the sea and his outstanding contribution to the deliberations of the conference has been widely acknowledged. His work has been praised even by Mr. Shanti Bhushan. He had even allowed him to continue till the conference was over, but, in spite of all these things, the shock treatment meted out to him even without assigning any reason whatsoever reverting him as Deputy Director-General has come as a shock to the whole scientific community. The GSI officers' association Council held a meeting on the 31st January 1978 and strongly condemned the action of the Ministry official dom in attempting to reduce the role of GSI in general and that of Mr. Varadan in particular. The Council submitted a memorandum to the President of India to set up a judicial commission to go into all aspects of the matter.

Sir, this is not a small organization about which I am raising this matter but it concerns the entire scientific community.

[Shri K. Lakkappa]

attached to this big organization and you are dismantling the entire system, their working and their deliberations and the service they are rendering to the nation.

This Government of India has no regard or respect for these scientists because even recently the head of the ICAR, Dr. Swaminathan whose work in the field of research is known the world over....

MR. SPEAKER: Please confine yourself to GSI.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: ...has resigned completely disgusted with the bureaucratic intervention. So, we have now three important scientists who are being hounded out. This government is completely dividing the country. There is an impression going round that this government is dividing the country on the lines of north-south. Though I do not want to subscribe to that view but unfortunately this government is making every attempt at destroying and demolishing the image of any outstanding scientist or anybody from the south. They look at him with suspicion.

The genesis of the quarrel between the GSI hierarchy and the Mining Ministry started with the appointment of the Ghosh Committee which suggested the setting up of a management council to oversee the GSI affairs. Then the other thing was the decision to shift the Geological Training Institute which was set up at Raipur after much deliberations, to Hyderabad which will cost Rs. 20 lakhs. So it means there is a political motive. Whatever has been done by the previous government should be undone even if it is a good thing and even if it is a right thing! That is the policy the Janata Party is carrying on.....

1 MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Therefore, this is how this man has been removed and reverted unceremoniously even without assigning any reason. Dissatisfaction continues in this country among these scientists. What would be the fate of this country and what will happen?

I know, this has been done deliberately by the Ministry, the Secretariat and the Bureaucrats against the scientists because they are already playing in the hands of multi-nationals who are operating on shore and off shore.

(interruptions)

They are trying to exploit and explore hidden mineral wealth. Our people are opposing it.

MR. SPEAKER: You have spoken for a long time.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: The Government of India, especially the Mine's Ministry is in the hands of the multi-nationals. These are the reasons. This is the story behind it.

Representation has been made to the President of India, the Prime Minister of India. The Prime Minister has stated that the officers discharged their duty boldly and honestly. When these officers discharge their duty boldly, honestly, fearlessly, is this the reward that the Bureaucrats are paying, and the Ministry of Mines is operating throttling and thrashing in this way? This is not a new case. Throughout the country there is a lot of disturbance among the scientists.

MR. SPEAKER: You have mentioned that.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Therefore, they have submitted to the President of India to conduct a judicial enquiry on this issue. What are the reasons? How has the Ministry created an atmosphere of discontentment? Therefore, I want a judicial body to enquire into it and see that they create an atmosphere of understanding, atmosphere of faith, atmosphere of even co-operation and confidence in the scientist community. Unscrupulous act which was perpetuated by the bureaucrats is stopped. This country may be saved from the multi-nationals and certain persons are hand-in-glove with them. Therefore, I demand a judicial enquiry.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): I sent a notice under 377.

MR. SPEAKER: If you have not been allowed, and if you have sent it, it will be considered. Do not bother.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot commit, I shall look into the matter.

(iv) WORKING OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY.

SHRI BALDEV SINGH JASROTIA (Jammu): I request the Speaker to permit me to make a statement under Rule 377.

The Red Cross is an international humanitarian organisation rendering voluntary service to victims of war, natural calamities, etc. as we all know.