

This ghastly atrocity was an unprovoked horrid eruption of evil which, if unheeded, would leave its legacy in the wreckage of all democratic norms and ideals behind it. What happened was a monstrous progeny of a monstrous design. Such violence would undermine the basis of all civilized life and would produce moral frustration in our polity.

This is a most undemocratic, criminal, brutal and politically ill-motivated assault perpetrated most heinously and in utterly unprovoked circumstances against a Member of this House. This should not go unquestioned. If such dastardly crimes can be committed with impunity, democracy will be reduced to a mere farce, and the hon. Members' functioning will become impossible. This was done by a splinter group belonging to the LDF.

I request the House, through you, to take the necessary remedial and preventive measures in this regard.

12. 35 hrs.

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

*SHRI C.K.KUPPUSWAMY (Coimbatore); Our Union Home Minister Shri S.B. Chavan is reported to have stated that Hindi alone can unite the country when he was addressing a meeting of the All India Bank Officers' Association. I condemn this statement attributed to the Minister. Instead of strengthening the unity and integrity of this country this will only strengthen the hands of divisive forces. We have been following for the past twenty five years the assurance given by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru that English would remain a link language as long as non-hindi speaking people want it. It is disheartening to note the Union Home Minister himself disregards it and depart from

this a vowed policy. He has also said that Japan and China have developed only with their respective national languages. We should not forget that we have fourteen national languages. It is also the duty of the Union Government to help and develop the regional languages. Hence I request through you that the Home Ministers should desist from making such statements. (*Interruptions*)

If you insist on Hindi, instead of unity there will be only disunity and secessionists will gain upper hand. (*Interruptions*)

Translation of the speech Originally delivered in Tamil.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Sir, the imposition of Hindi is a menace in the country and thereby our people are affected. Please take note of it.

It should not be carried on further and further like this.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: We also support it, Sir.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the 10th of December, in reply to a question reached to the hon. Ministry of State for Environment, a specific question was asked about the formulation of new environment policy, in reply about the formulation of new environment policy, the hon. Minister of State for Environment informed the House that State Governments, among other agencies, experts, etc., were being consulted in the formulation of this policy. I made certain enquiries and to my knowledge, State Governments have not been consulted. Thereafter I made a specific enquiry from the Government of Rajasthan as to whether there had been any consultation between the Ministry of Environment and the Government of Rajasthan in

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

the formulation of new environment policy. I have received advice from the Government of Rajasthan that no such consultation has taken place in respect of formulation of this new environment policy. I did not raise this matter as serious enough to warrant a breach of privilege. The hon. Speaker was good enough to suggest that this be raised in this form and that the Chair would direct the Government and the hon. Minister of State to verify and to state correctly what is the correct position. Did the Government of India consult any of the State Governments and if it did, which State Governments, in what form and when? Also, did the Ministry of Environment consult the Government of Rajasthan in the formulation of new environment policy and if it did, when and in what form? I had also requested the hon. Speaker that this information must be made available to us during the current session itself so as to enable to proceed further. That is all the submission that I have to make. Perhaps you will direct the Minister to respond to it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Sir, the hon. Member had written to the Speaker. A copy of his letter was forwarded to me by the Speaker's office and I have replied to it. The hon. Member has also sought in that letter, as far as I remember, permission from the Speaker to raise it in the House. I do not know whether he has got that consent of the speaker... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Otherwise I would not have been able to raise it.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I am saying I do not know. I am not saying you have not.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is a fact accomplish that the Speaker has given the consent.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I have replied to

the hon. Speaker giving the facts and I will request the hon. Member to have a look at my reply which I have given to the Speaker's office and then perhaps respond to it.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, I want to refer to a most horrifying incident that took place in 1988 at Ujan Maidan in Tripura. The allegation was that the jawans of the Assam Rifles gang raped tribal women. Many times in this House and outside, this issue has been raised and all the time the State Government of Tripura denied it vehemently and imputed motives on those people who made those allegations. The women organisations have filed a case in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court had appointed a Commission—the Deb Commission. The findings of the Deb Commission have come out now. It has clearly been stated here, and I quote:

"Some jawans of Assam Rifles had gang-raped at least Radhika, Banapati, Sonakali, Subhalaxmi and raped Parvati, Laximiti and a jawan of Assam Rifles had molested Panchalaxmi in Ujan Maidan during May 31–June 2, 1988".

This report also says:

"The State of Tripura and the army officers are trying to hush up the afore said crime and the police investigation has proceeded in that direction".

The issue of gang-rape of tribal women had been raised. It has been denied and refuted by the Government. They actually tried to hush up the case. I want to know—under these circumstances—what right the Government of Tripura have got to continue any more in office. This criminal Government must go forthwith. There must be early action to see that a Government with moral conscience—a civilized Government—is