

MR. SPEAKER: We will discuss it, if you want a discussion, later.

SHRI NATH PAI: We totally reject the solution which has been propounded.

श्री नथु लिमये : तेलंगाना के लोगों ने बिलकुल इसे ठुकरा दिया है... (अवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: I am prepared to allow a discussion later.

श्री नथु लिमये : अध्यक्ष सहोदय, एक-एक मिनट कहने दीजिए ।

MR. SPEAKER: Where will it end ?

SHRI NATH PAI: I do not know. What is this method? Are we to be subjected to this kind of thing?

MR. SPEAKER: I am prepared, as I said, to allow a discussion. After all, I am not preventing a discussion.

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai): There was a gentlemen's agreement in 1956. When you were the Chief Minister there, you eliminated the Deputy Chief Minister from Telengana.

18.08 hours.

STATEMENT RE: STRIKE IN WEST BENGAL ON 10TH APRIL, 1969

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y.B. CHAVAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to information available with Government.....

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): On a point of order. It was put up on the notice board outside that the Home Minister would make a statement 'on Bengal' at 6.15 P.M. today. 'On Bengal'. It was not put on the order paper of the day. We do not know what it is about.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE: After all, the Hon. Home Minister is making a statement on Bengal. We did not know about it at

all. In West Bengal, there is now an elected, people's government functioning; they have their autonomy as other States have. I am surprised that the Home Minister has chosen this opportunity to make a statement on Bengal as a whole. Is there a flood in Bengal? We know there was a firing incident on which the Defence Minister made a statement. This is going to be a dangerous thing.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour): It is going to lead to a lot of misunderstanding. It is a State subject; the Centre cannot interfere.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE: That day immediately after the Statement of the hon. Defence Minister, we demanded a discussion. We followed it up with a request to you in your chamber. We had tabled adjournment motions, but you in your wisdom said that this is such a serious matter which could not be tackled that way.

The Defence Minister also said something and we did not put him any awkward questions. Now, the Home Minister has come out with a statement on Bengal. That is dangerous. When there was Calcutta bandh we wanted to raise it at the time of Dr. B.C. Roy and it was not allowed; similarly with regard to U.P. bandh also, it was not allowed. I am surprised this time it is allowed. What mischief will be done if the Government were allowed to make a statement?

MR. SPEAKER: After all you gave a motion for adjournment—some of you, including Mr. Banerjee, about three days ago. I discussed with them.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: That was on Cossipore...(Interruptions.)

MR. SPEAKER: All sides must bear with me. What am I to do? What do you expect me to do? I argued with the hon. Members and the Minister said he would make a statement. Then Prof. Ranga came to me yesterday and I argued with him also. This is a question which is going to create some excitement; I know that. Shri Nath Pai wrote to me; the Congress Members wrote to me. I kept them all pending and immediately after the statement

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we are going to meet in my Chamber. I have asked the hon. Member to meet me... (Interruptions.) I must do what is fair to all the parties and I must also be allowed to do that I am going to talk to all of you who had given notice of adjournment motions and had written to me and see what best can be done without excitement. I am trying to do the best in the circumstances; I am not going to take the stand of this party or that party. I am expecting to meet you...

AN HON. MEMBER: The meeting should precede the statement.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what statement he is going to make and hon. Members cannot expect me to dictate to the Minister to say this or that. After all I am presiding over here to assist in the working I have called a meeting to discuss this with all of you. I am trying to do my best to see that excitement is not there. What else do they expect me to do now?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: I request you not to allow this House to be used as a forum for making publicity against the peoples' elected Government there... (Interruptions.)

MR. SPEAKER: May I appeal to Mr. Basu to resume his seat? We shall discuss it: it is to be discussed. I request him to permit the Minister to make his statement on the floor of the House.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Rule 31(2) says...

MR. SPEAKER:...that the Minister shall not make a statement? Let us hear what he has to say and then we shall discuss.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: The rule says:

"Save as otherwise provided in these rules, no business not included in the list of business for the day shall be transacted at any sitting without the permission of the Speaker."

What are the special circumstances in the case to violate this rule?

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday I announced on the floor of this House. When Prof.

Ranga wanted that a statement should be made immediately, I said: not today. After the information comes, let us see; the adjournment motion is there.

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai): On a point of order. We should like to know what has happened to the adjournment motion? If a statement is to be made by the Home Minister, how does it fit into the picture?... (Interruptions.)

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE: People were murdered and killed; they were not cats and dogs. What has happened to our adjournment motion?

SHRI HEM BARUA: About the Adjournment Motion, I just wanted to know from you whether you have allowed the Adjournment Motion or not. (Interruptions) About the statement to be made on West Bengal, it is not the Home Minister who should make the statement but the Prime Minister should make the statement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister has authorised him.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: (Alipore) Is it an omnibus statement?

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know; let us hear.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: What is the issue to which it relates?

MR. SPEAKER: West Bengal.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE (Monghyr): East Bengal or West Bengal?

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear the statement.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE rose— (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Madhu Limaye, you have had your say. You gave notice of a motion and the Minister has replied. If you do not want others to have their say, which you are having every day, it is not fair to the House. What can I do? Now, the Home Minister,

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Sir, according to information available with Government, the United Front, the Rashtriya Sangram Samiti and some other organisations gave a call for a strike on April 10, 1969, to protest against the firing on April 8, 1969, at the Gun and Shell Factory, Cossipore, Calcutta. The main transport services, the buses and the trams were withdrawn by the State authorities. The officials of the State Government had also made it clear to railway authorities at Calcutta that they would not be able to afford protection to trains during the period of the strike but assistance would be given for guarding vital installations. The local railway administrations had, therefore, to cancel suburban trains in Calcutta area and also to cancel or suitably regulate long distance passenger trains. This resulted in serious dislocation of passenger and goods traffic. Reports have also been received of demonstrations, picketing and hold-up of trains by demonstrators squatting on the track, placing obstructions on the lines and interfering with the signalling system. In a number of cases the working of the railway offices was also interfered with.

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR (Peerwade): They wanted to shoot and kill the people.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: The Indian Airlines Corporation had to cancel their flights to and from Calcutta on April 10, 1969, because the regional office had been given to understand by the local authorities that it might not be possible for them to provide protection (*Some hon. Members:* shame, shame) to ensure the free movement of the air crew and passengers to and from the Dum Dum Airport. The post and telegraph services functioned on a very restricted scale and attended only to priority business. The functioning of other Central Government offices was also seriously affected. According to the State Government, the strike was more or less peacefully observed throughout the State, except at Kanchrapara in 24-Parganas district where there was a clash between some workers of the railway workshop and picketers.

This House is aware of the incident on April 8, 1969, at the Gun and Shell Factory, Cossipore. The Minister of Defence Production had made a statement in the

House on April 9, 1969. As the Central Government had already announced their intention of setting up of a Commission of Inquiry to inquire into the matter, there was hardly any occasion to paralyse normal life in the State and to put to serious inconvenience all those who had to attend to their business in West Bengal. (*Interruptions*). There is no justification for this deliberate effort to bring the functioning of the economic system to a standstill. Such disproportionate and harmful methods of protest have to be eschewed in the larger interest of the State of West Bengal and of the country as a whole.

I would also like to take this occasion to draw attention to the constitutional obligations of the State Governments. The Central Government had in November, 1967, requested all State Governments to take effective measures to prevent and to deal with any interference with the working of various Central agencies on the occasions of 'Bandhs' and other such agitations involving general stoppage of work. It had been pointed out that if they refused to take, or abstained from taking, effective measures to prevent and deal with such interference, they would be failing in the discharge of their obligations under articles 256 and 257 of the Constitution. The whole basis of the administrative structure envisaged by the Constitution would be seriously undermined if the State Governments did not take action under the law to prevent any obstructions to the functioning of Central Government agencies, such as the railways, the posts and telegraphs and the aviation services.

It is unfortunate that in spite of our advice given as early as November, 1967, the West Bengal Government did not undertake to afford the necessary protection for the running of trains and for the uninterrupted operation of internal flights. They also did not take steps to ensure that other Central Government offices and agencies functioned smoothly. This raises serious issues which we propose to discuss with the West Bengal Government at the highest level at a very early date. (*Interruptions*.)

MR. SPEAKER: I am calling a meeting now. (*Interruptions*.)

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam): Is Parliament to be paralysed in this manner

[Shri Ranga]

by half a dozen or even by 50 or 60 people? (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: May I appeal to all of you to sit down?

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH (Pali): We did not hear the last portion of the Home Minister's statement. We want to listen to it. (Interruptions).

SHRI S. A. DANGE (Bombay Central South): I want a clarification on two points.

SHRI S.K. TAPURIAH: We will not allow him to speak. If we could not listen to the Home Minister's statement, nobody can speak. (Interruptions).

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: You are allowing this House to be used as a forum for vilifying the opposition. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: I appeal to both sides. I would request Shri Dange also to sit down.

SHRI S. A. DANGE: If you are not going to allow me to speak, Sir, I am not going to sit down. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Allow me to appeal to them to hear you, Shri Dange.

SHRI S. A. DANGE: Unless you allow me to speak I am not going to sit down. Nobody can stop anybody now. (Interruptions).

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH (Rohtak): We want to hear the Home Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: He has read his statement. I would appeal to all hon. Members to sit down now.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandyal): Sir, Shri Dange is defying the Chair.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON (Lohardaga): First the Home Minister, then anybody else.

SHRI S. A. DANGE: You will hear me first.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We will not hear you.

SHRI S. A. DANGE: Sir, I got up after the Home Minister sat down. (Interruptions).

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH: We want to hear the Home Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: May be you did not hear him. I can understand that. But he has completed it....(interruptions). The Home Minister says that he has completed it....(interruptions).

SHRI S. A. DANGE: He sat down and I got up. Now, you are trying to obstruct me....(interruptions).

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH: Why do you deny us our right to hear the Home Minister? We have our right to hear him.... (interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: When the Home Minister says he has finished his statement, what can I do? Now, Shri Dange....(interruptions). The Home Minister says he has finished it.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH: But we did not hear the last portion....(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Now I will ask the Home Minister, Shri Chavan, the question. Have you completed the statement?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I have.

MR. SPEAKER: He says he has completed it. You must take it. It is there on record.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH: We have not heard it....(interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: He says he has completed it. It is a recorded speech. Any one who has not heard it can read it tomorrow.(interruptions).

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : पहले डांगे साहब बोलेंगे ।

श्री यश दत्त शर्मा (धर्मतसर) : हम होम मिनिस्टर का वक्तव्य सुन नहीं सके हैं । हमें उनका वक्तव्य सुनने दिया जाए ।

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) : हमें डांगे साहब के बोलने पर आपत्ति नहीं है। लेकिन पहले होम मिनिस्टर साहब बोलें। उसके बाद डांगे साहब बोलें।

श्री रणधीर सिंह : किसी को पता नहीं लगा कि उन्होंने क्या कहा है। होम मिनिस्टर ने क्या कहा किसी ने सुना नहीं।

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : एक आदमी कैसे बुल्ली कर सकता है सारे हाउस को ?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister says he has completed it.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Sir, on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: No point of order now. Do you want the House to be continued or not? (*interruptions*). Order, order. Nobody is hearing anything now. ...(*interruptions*). If you do not want the House to continue, I will adjourn it at the proper time....(*interruptions*). Now, will you all kindly sit down? The Home Minister has already completed his statement.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the meaning of this "No"?...(*interruptions*). Anybody can shout now.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH: We are not questioning that he has not concluded. We have not heard his statement. We only want to hear and understand what he said. ...(*Interruption*).

SHRI M. L. SONDHI: There must be a compromise....(*Interruption*). Let the Home Minister read the last sentence again. After that we will hear Shri Dange....(*Interruption*).

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: We want to abide by your ruling....(*Interruption*).

MR. SPEAKER: It looks so simple to me. The Home Minister says that he has finished his statement. I agree that you have not heard it, but the speech is recorded—it is there in black and white—and anybody can take it and read it.....(*Interruption*). First of all, you must obey me and sit down. The Home Minister says he has completed it and I have asked Shri Dange to say a few words.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH: They did not hear us; we will not hear them.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: We will not hear Shri Chavan....(*Interruption*).

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH: Sir, you regulate our speaking and they regulate our listening. What do we do?

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to hear, sit down first.

SHRI J. B. KRIPALANI: Sir, I want to know whether we have any rights or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you have a right.

SHRI J. B. KRIPALANI: Then you must regulate them; you must regulate all. We want to hear everybody. It is a fact that the Home Minister's speech was not heard by us, We want to hear Shri Dange also, but we cannot hear when they are shouting.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 A.M. on Monday.

18.40 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, April 14, 1969 Chaitra 24, 1891 (Saka).