

in the appointment of lecturers in the Physical Education in the Institute have come to their notice. However, the Vice-Chancellor is examining the matter in the light of objections received.

(b) and (c) In view of the above, the question does not arise.

[Translation]

Mine Mishaps

1725. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mishaps that occurred in various mines during 1990 and 1991 till date along with their names;

(b) the number of persons killed and injured in those mishaps and the compensation paid to the affected families; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government to check recurrence of such mishaps?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

12.00 hrs.

(Interruptions)

RE. TAPPING OF TELEPHONES OF POLITICAL LEADERS

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice to you under Rule 193 to raise the issue of tapping of telephones of political leaders by the Karnataka Government. Telephones of 19 Leaders including a Union Minis-

ter associated with the Hon. Prime Minister and two former Chief Ministers have been tapped. The Government of Shri Ram Krishna Hegde had fallen on the same issue. My submission to you is that it is a very serious issue. Therefore, a full fledged discussion should be held on it in the House. This Government and also the previous Government had assured repeatedly that telephones of political leaders would not be tapped. Government of Karnataka have tapped the telephones despite these assurances. I, therefore, would like to request you to allow a full fledged discussion on the issue in the House under Rule 193 and the Government should state the position.

[English]

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY (Kanakapura): Sir, This is not the first time that we are discussing this vital and sensitive issue. This issue was widely discussed and agitated in this House even in 1988 and the then Chief Minister had to pay a heavy price and he resigned his Chief Ministership.

It is reported that telephones of several leaders in Karnataka are alleged to have been tapped. I am also one among the victims.

We have certain rights and duties to perform. More than that, we are having some privileges.

You tell us whether the Members of this House can function freely and effectively in such circumstances.

It is a gross violation of the democratic values and morale and ethics in public life.

I demand from both the Home Minister and the Minister for Communications to order a joint inquiry and to come before this House with a statement immediately.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Now Karnataka has again hit the headlines in the newspapers. It is quite an unhappy episode and it is quite unfortunate that Chief Minister after Chief Minister is resorting to this nefarious activity of tapping the telephones of important political leaders. Now, the BJP is not very much concerned with the internal feud in the Congress Party. Of course, we would like to have the fun of it.

SHRI V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: It is not a party matter.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: It is one of the questions of propriety. It is a question of privilege. I am very much concerned with the prestige of Karnataka. What is happening in Karnataka? We have got burning issues there. The Cauvery Waters dispute has taken a serious turn. Instead of tapping the telephone, the Chief Minister could have been even more concerned in solving the Cauvery Waters dispute.....(Interruptions) It is a question of privilege of the senior Members of this House. My friend Shri Chandrashekara Murthy has just mentioned something.

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't make a mention of it.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: The senior Member Shri Devegowda's telephone is tapped and many of our other senior leaders' telephones are being tapped. In this connection, I would like to know from the Government whether the Government, at least at this stage, is considering making some amendment to the provisions in the Indian Telegraph Act so that hereafter no Chief Minister would venture to resort to such activities.

MR. SPEAKER: When I give you time, you should abide by what I say.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: It is high time the Central Government thought of amending this Act. In this particular case, I would like to

know whether the Government would institute an inquiry.

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever he is saying, will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir. I remember that in this House when the congress party used to sit on opposition benches and when in Karnataka.....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I will conclude in two sentences. When the issue of tapping of telephones was raised in Karnataka all the members of Congress party had raised hue and cry over the matter in the House and violated all the rules and norms. I would like to know why all of them are now silent when the telephone of one Minister of the Cabinet, a lady member and also of another Member, who has raised objection to it in the House, have been tapped by the Chief Minister of Karnataka belonging to their own party?... (Interruptions) Should I understand that Shri Bangarappa has been instructed by the Central Government and the Congress party to do so? We would like to know the fact, because your silence leads us to presume that there is some mystery behind it. You cannot play a double game. Today Shri Jaffer Sharief and Shri Kamal Nath are sitting on that side but at that time they used to sit on this side and had raised great hue and cry.

I would like to submit that when they had raised the matter our Government came forward to give clarification. Therefore, we would also

*Not recorded

like the Hon. Prime Minister to kindly reply the point raised in the news item appearing in newspapers that Shrimati Margaret Alva has made a complaint to the Hon. Prime Minister that her telephone is being tapped and sought protection. Therefore, the Prime Minister should kindly be asked to give reply in this regard. Besides, the Government should clearly state the steps being taken against the Government of Karnataka? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue has been raised several times in this House. I remember that in 1977 when I was in the Government, Shri Jagjivan Ram had said before an Enquiry Commission that the Telephones of political leaders were being tapped merely on political grounds. I am glad that the then Prime Minister took immediate action and stopped this practice. As per my knowledge it was only from the year 1977 to 1980 when the practice of tapping telephones of political leaders was discontinued. But this practice was resumed in 1980. The matter was twice brought to the notice of the Government in this House and the Government gave an assurance that it would not be done in future. Telephones of politicians, trade union workers and of the persons active in Social life would not be tapped at least. Telephone tapping was made permissible under the law only to check crime and not for these motives. I repeat my earlier suggestion that this outdated law enacted by the British Government which has always been misused by bureaucrats, even by the lowest police officials, should be removed from the statute book and a new law should be enacted in its place. Safeguard should be provided in the law to see that nobody is able to misuse it. In this particular case, communication being a Central subject, the Government should ask the Chief Minister to explain the reasons for violating the rules and

the assurances given earlier in this regard. Action should be taken against him. Shri Bangarappa should resign, and the Government should take further action against him as the allegation levelled by Congress party and by a Union Minister also, seems to be true.

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): You know it, Sir. You were a Member of the Ninth Lok Sabha also—though not occupying the Chair.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: To make the record straight, I must say that these allegations and denials have appeared in the newspapers.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: You remember that only two constables were enough to topple the Government at that time. At that time itself, we reminded the House and we demanded action. And as a matter of fact, this issue of phone tapping was sent to the Privileges Committee. Who are the people who are authorised to do this ultimately? Have we to learn that even the municipalities and gram panchayat authorities are also indulging in the phone tapping arrangements along with the police officials and the communication authorities? It has been suggested and we know that it is possible to tap the telephones of political people if the phones are in their premises and if they are involved in cases like BCCI. And when phones are tapped of those political people who are involved in criminal activities, we cannot take exception to that. But let us remember that Shri Kumaramangalam's phone was also in that list which said that phones were also being tapped—tapped by no one else, but by the Government of India of his own party at that time.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Shri Pranab Mukherjee's phone also.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: This was the kind of situation which was revealed at the time of Ninth Lok Sabha. And today, we are hearing about it once again. It is a repeat performance. Today, we should say that the ruling Congress(I) is shameless to the extent that a State Government can tap a telephone of somebody who is a Member of Parliament and a Member of the Council of Ministers. Is this a democracy in such a situation? Or is this a situation which needs to be corrected without any delay. I entirely support the demand made, not because of the Cauvery Water dispute between Shri Bangarappa and Ms. Jayalalitha. We are not siding with that. We demand that.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. R. JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): You should not say that. You withdraw the name. It is not for you to say that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: We have never asked for the dismissal of a Chief Minister in any way engineered from the Centre. We have not supported it. But in this case from the ruling party here is it not necessary that instruction should go to the ruling party in Karnataka that under the circumstances the Chief Minister has no other way but to resign for indulging in such kind of activity? It is this that we want. We also demand that a statement about the veracity of the whole matter be presented here from the Communications Ministry and also to indicate to us as to what steps can be taken by the Government to modify the arrangement.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a

serious issue. The leader of the House Shri Arjun Singh is present and you are also the guardian and protector of this House. As Shri Advani has stated telephones of members and those working in public life have not been tapped during the period between 1977 and 80 and between 1989-91 when there were non-Congress Governments at the centre. But whenever Congress Government came into power the practice of telephone tapping was started again on one ground or the other. Many Union Ministers, leaders and Members of the House are present here. All the Members are unhappy and agitated over the issue. The matter is not of one particular party only. The matter has been raised by a congress Member. Therefore, I think that the Government should give clarification in this respect. It has been the convention of the House that whenever such a matter has been raised the concerned Minister has always contradicted it and has given assurance to take action. I regret to say that this Government has been silent over the matter. You are the leader of the House, you should make the whole issue clear or contradict it. (*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Hon. Sir, I have seen this in the past few occasions. Paswanji is a little impatient and I don't think impatience is a bad thing when you are really worked up and concerned. My problem is that I cannot intervene when an hon. Member is speaking. I have to listen to everyone and only then I can say something. My patience has a basis and the impatience shown perhaps does not have a basis.

On this specific issue, let me make it very clear that this Government neither condones nor ever would encourage anything of this nature by anyone.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): What will you do if it is correct?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Let me say, if you don't want me to complete the sentence, that is another matter.

So far as this specific case is concerned, I would like to assure the House that we will look into the facts, gather them and bring them to the notice of the House. I am saying this because as you were kind enough to remark in between, there is a categorical statement by the Chief Minister denying this. Therefore I think he must get an opportunity to say what he wants to say. But we will get the facts and place them before the House. This much I can assure you. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we would like to know whether any letter from Shri-mati Alva has been received in this regard or not.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): It is shocking for the last 38 days Shri Doraiswamy, Executive Director of the Indian Oil Corporation is being kept captive by the J&K militants. It was told that some modalities are being worked out and the Government is eager for the early release of Shri Doraiswamy. For the last 38 days, the people of the country are waiting for the release and are anxiously waiting for the release. It is very unfortunate that in the last 38 days nothing has come out. The Home Minister assured both the Houses that certain steps are going to be taken. I request the Government to take urgent steps for the release of Mr. Doraiswamy. I also request that adequate and extra security must be given to

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the Central Government officials who are working in Jammu & Kashmir for their safety.

SHRI C. K. KUPPUSWAMY (Coimbatore): Sir, I want to raise an important issue regarding the movement of LTTE persons in my Constituency, Coimbatore. In Coimbatore two days ago, the police had found a hand grenade factory which was run by the LTTE and captured that factory. The people of Coimbatore which is my Constituency, are afraid very much because of this LTTE movement. I would like to know as to what action the Central Government has taken in order to curb the LTTE activities in Coimbatore. I want a detailed statement from the Home Minister in this regard. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. LAXMI NARYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the problem of the hundreds of candidate who appear in the examination for Chartered Accountants. The Institute of Chartered Accountants is under the Ministry of Industry. It was decided in 1984 that all the examinations would be held in English as well as Hindi and text books and question papers would also be made available in both the languages. It is a matter of regret that the Institute has failed to make available such books. Consequently, hundreds of students are facing difficulty due to non-availability of books. Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister through you that he may kindly issue necessary instructions so that the students could get books.

[English]

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG (Shillong): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a point of grave public importance. In Meghalaya the Constitutional Head, the Governor had directed the Speaker to call the