

12.31 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

DECLARATION OF REPUBLIC BY RHODESIAN  
GOVERNMENT

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्ता (दिल्ली सदर) : मैं अक्लिम्बर्नीय लोकमहत्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की और वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह उस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें :-

राडेशिया की सरकार द्वारा गणतंत्र की घोषणा और उस पर भारत सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया ।

RE: CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE  
( Query )

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, General Cariappa's statement is a very serious one. Even though I have given notice about that, it has not been admitted.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Sir, I rise on a point of order under rule 376 (2). I may say in the beginning that I have nothing against the Calling Attention Notice of Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta. I will make it very clear. Under rule 376 (2) a point of order may be raised in relation to the business before the House. At the moment the business before the House is the Calling Attention Notice and I am raising a point of order on that.

Yesterday we were informed by the Lok Sabha Secretariat that a Calling Attention Notice on the statement of General Cariappa has been admitted and it is being balloted at 1 p.m. Then we were told that it will be put on the order paper for today. Unfortunately, to our surprise, we came to know in the evening that another calling attention notice moved by my hon. friend, Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta, has been put in the order paper for today. I do not say for a moment that this calling attention notice is not important;

it may be more important. But I am not on that point.

In the mean time, we see in the newspapers that Rajya Sabha is going to discuss a calling attention on the same subject today. We also find from the newspaper that General Cariappa called on Prime Minister Indira Gandhi Wednesday afternoon. The press report further says that General Cariappa met Home Minister Chavan and Lok Sabha speaker Shri Dhillon. Sir, you are the representative of the people and the custodian of this august House. You have every right to meet anyone you like. But here is a case where a calling attention notice about him was pending in the House. General Cariappa could have contradicted it outside the House. The Home Minister could have contradicted General Cariappa if he had to issue any contradiction.

But General Cariappa of all persons who was in the dock till yesterday and even this morning met the Lok Sabha. Speaker and the Prime Minister. . . . (Interruption) It is a very important and serious matter. We have tabled a calling - attention notice on the basis of the PTI news that appeared in the *Times of India* Delhi Edition, of 10th March. Then, General Cariappa met the hon. Speaker, that is, you. You have every right to meet him. But what happens if tomorrow there is a calling-attention notice against Birla ? Do you expect Birla to meet you and give an explanation ? It is highly irregular. I appeal to your sense of justice and impartiality to admit this calling-attention notice. General Cariappa must face what other people have faced in this House.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta—North-East) : Something which is apparently rather serious appears to have been reported by what the hon. Member has just now read. I do not understand the hocus, pocus behind this kind of change. Yesterday some Members were told that this matter was to be put on the agenda, the names were balloted and the subject was important enough—threatening of a *coup d'etat* by a former Commander-in-Chief of this country. If that sort of thing can be pushed out of the picture by the kind