

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI IQBAL SINGH) : (a) The volume of cargo handled by Calcutta Port from 1966-67 is as follows :

	(in millions of tonnes)
1966-67	10.10
1967-68	8.99
1968-69	7.95

(b) Yes.

(c) The decline in traffic has been primarily due to slowing down of the economy and the adverse effects of recession on engineering industries. The other commodities which contributed to the fall in traffic were petroleum and other cargo under imports. The fall in petroleum and lubricating oil traffic was to a great extent due to the degree of self-sufficiency achieved through expansion of local production. The decline in the import of other cargo was due to import licensing restrictions and stagnation in trade. The commodities under export, which contributed to the decline in traffic, were coal, ores and gunnies. The fall in coal traffic was primarily due to loss of foreign markets and to diversion to rail movement of the bulk of the coal meant for Railway use in the Southern Region which earlier used to move by coastal ships. In the case of gunnies, the fall in traffic was due to slump in the trade. As regards ores, competition from neighbouring ports, which are in a position to offer better drafts and fast loading facilities, accounted for the fall in the export traffic. Another factor contributing to the decline in traffic is the comparatively higher incidence of port charges at Calcutta owing to the heavy expenditure that the Calcutta Port Commissioners have to incur on dredging and maintaining the 126 mile navigable channel between the sea and Calcutta Port. One redeeming feature is the slow emergence of iron and steel as a major export item.

(d) It is difficult for any port to create traffic when commercial activities are adversely affected by various factors beyond

the control of the port authorities. However, steps have been taken by the Calcutta Port Commissioners to induce and sustain a regular flow of traffic in selected commodities by giving relief in port charges and by simplifying procedures with a view to augment ore export rebate of Rs. 2 per tonne in port charges has been offered by the Calcutta Port Commissioners provided the tonnage shipped increased progressively from year to year. On Ethyl Alcohol a new item of export, the port charges leviable have been reduced. To avoid undue delay and extra expenditure to the Exporters, the normal practice of assessing port charges on exports of iron and steel on the basis of actual weightment has been dispensed with and sectional weight forms the basis for assessment of port charges. A post of Traffic Promotion Officer has been created to attend to the grievances and difficulties of trade, to identify their problems and seek solutions.

The opening of the Haldia Dock to traffic in 1971 offering deep drafts and mechanised handling facilities and the expected commissioning of the Farakka Barrage by about that time is likely to help the growth of traffic through Calcutta Port as these two projects are designed to overcome the limitations of the existing port in regard to draft and length of ships which inhibit the growth of traffic.

12.28 hrs.

RE. MAINTENANCE OF DECORUM IN THE HOUSE

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH (Buxar) : Sir, I want to say a few words. This morning in the papers some disturbing news has appeared and it is about you. I feel that we must not be deprived of your continuing guidance and therefore I request you that you may not take that extreme step. I also trust you will kindly bear our request in mind. I also expect that the Prime Minister, who seems to be totally forgetful about her responsibility in regard to helping you, should also be sincere in her efforts to help you.

There is another news, regarding Shri Dinesh Singh. Something has transpired between the Prime Minister and Shri Dinesh Singh under the curtain and press has removed that curtain, that purdah. I hope that the Prime Minister should not hide that fact from us and she must bring it to our notice.

SHRI S.A. DANGE (Bombay Central South) : Sir, we do not know whether my friend was speaking on behalf of the Opposition as a whole. My party completely disassociates itself from this statement. We still hold—(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

SHRI S.A. DANGE : We do not regret our behaviour yesterday because we think that the hon. Chair should not be influenced by interview with ex-Generals and decide his line in view of such interviews. Therefore, what we did was absolutely correct and we do not regret it.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK (South Delhi) : The way his party misbehaved yesterday was an insult not only to the Chair but to the whole House and we demand that they should apologise before the House for insulting the House and the Chair. Their behaviour was most despicable. (Interruption).

DR. KARNI SINGH (Bikaner) : We cannot allow the communists to hold the House to ransom. We have complete faith in you.

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त (दिल्ली, सदर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा कहना यह है कि डांगे साहब और उनके साथियों को किसी बात पर स्पीकर से मतभेद हो सकता है लेकिन जिस तरह का मददा व्यवहार और गंदी गालियाँ स्पीकर को दी गई वह बहुत निन्दनीय हैं। सारा देश इस को कंडेम करेगा और जिन्होंने इस तरह का गलत व अशोभनीय व्यवहार किया और गंदी बातें कहीं उनको सदन में माफी मांगनी चाहिए और उस पार्टी के नेता को अपने उन मेम्बरों को कहना चाहिए कि वह इस तरह का बर्ताव न करें। (व्यवधान)

They have no faith in democracy and they want to wreck the Constitution. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I request you not to raise a debate over this. (Interruption)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : We say that what happened in the House yesterday arose out of the decision taken by you. We have nothing more to say in this regard. It is for you to decide whether you should resign or not.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : What the Chair did or did not do was in its own judgment. However, there is nothing that the Chair can do that can justify such uncouth behaviour on the part of a member. Therefore, I would like to say that we do not want to sit in the same House with these uncouth people. (Interruption).

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त : आखिर इस सरकार को भी तो कुछ कहना चाहिए। आखिर वह डांगे साहब को क्यों नहीं कंडेम करती है? क्या वह उनके ऐक्शन को सपोर्ट करती है जो खामोश बैठी हुई है? चुप्पी साधे गवर्नमेंट क्यों बैठी है? क्या इससे यह समझा जाय कि वह डांगे साहब को सपोर्ट करती है? सरकार को बिलकुल मदद नहीं देना चाहती दरअसल वह डांगे साहब को खामोश रह कर सपोर्ट कर रही है (व्यवधान) यह बड़े शर्म की बात है कि डांगे साहब के मिसबिहेवियर को कंडेम नहीं किया जा रहा है और यह सरकार चुप बैठी हुई है। यह बड़े शर्म की बात है। (व्यवधान)।

MR. SPEAKER : I request you not to raise a debate over this.

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR (Palghat) : We are not associating ourselves with Dr Ram Subhag Singh's statement. (Interruption).

DR. KARNI SINGH : The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should say something.

SHRI NATH PAI (Rajapur) : We want to know the meaning of the petrified silence from that side. (Interruption).

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री (हापुड) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा निवेदन है कि अध्यक्ष का जो पद है उसके लिए निर्वाचन संसद की किसी एक पार्टी से नहीं होता है। अध्यक्ष के पद का निर्वाचन संसद की सभी पार्टियाँ, संसद के सभी सदस्य मिल कर करते हैं। अगर संसद के अध्यक्ष के ऊपर या उसकी प्रतिष्ठा के ऊपर किसी तरह का आघात होता है, तो एक तरीके से वह व्यक्ति के ऊपर आघात न होकर हम सबके सम्मान पर आघात है क्योंकि अध्यक्ष सारे सदन के सम्मान व प्रतिष्ठा का प्रतीक होता है।

दूसरी बात विशेष रूप से मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जहाँ तक इस आसन की प्रतिष्ठा रखने का प्रश्न है वह केवल उस एक पार्टी का ही दायित्व नहीं है। अर्थात् वह सारे सदन का दायित्व है। विरोधी पक्ष के लोग भी उसके सम्मान की रक्षा करें और जो सत्तारूढ़ पक्ष के लोग हैं उन्हें भी इस आसन के सम्मान की रक्षा करनी चाहिए। लेकिन साथ ही साथ एक निवेदन मैं आप से अवश्य करना चाहना हूँ और मैं चाहूँगा कि इस पर आप गम्भीरता से विचार करें कि देश के अन्दर कुछ व्यक्ति और कुछ पार्टियाँ इस प्रकार की हैं जो आज जान बूझकर देश में अव्यवस्था पैदा करना चाहती हैं, और इस सदन में भी अव्यवस्था पैदा करना चाहती हैं, उनकी आपत्ति पर आप कोई निर्णय न लें। यह मेरा आप से निवेदन है। (व्यवधान)

SHRI J. B. KRIPALANI (Guna) : We come here and we are sent here to perform certain duties. We cannot perform those duties if we are not allowed to speak freely and to listen to the proceedings that are going on. Yesterday we could make nothing out of the proceedings going on. If we say anything that is unparliamentary, it is for you to decide and take away those unparliamentary remarks. Our duty is only to refer the matter to you. As for keeping the order in the House, it is your exclusive privilege. I have said this before. Even when my communist friend sitting here was not allowed to speak, I said, he must be allowed to speak. We stand for some kind of dignity at least in this

House. We are all called MPs. If one MP misbehaves, it is a slur on all of us. We want to escape being aligned like that for no fault of ours. If some people commit fault, they must bear the blame. If they are not pointed out then the blame comes to all of us that this House becomes a fish market.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) : For sometime past, we have been noticing certain incidents in this House and certain behaviours which affect the dignity of the House and also the prestige of the Presiding Officer. Government deplore it, whether it is from this side or that side or from any side. This House and the Chair cannot function until all of us give our whole-hearted support to the Chair and obey the rulings of the Chair, whether they are palatable or not. We assure you, Sir, of all the support of the Government in this matter.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (बलरामपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं कल नहीं आया लेकिन मैंने कल की कार्यवाही पढ़ी है और आज जब इस मामले पर चर्चा हो रही है इस सदन की नेत्री सदन में मौजूद नहीं हैं। इस सदन की नेत्री के नाते ऐसे अवसरों पर उनका अनुपस्थित रहना एक बड़ी गम्भीर बात है।

इस सदन में हम पहली बार नहीं आये हैं। हमने इनसे पहले दो प्रधान मंत्री देखे हैं। जब कभी सदन की प्रतिष्ठा का मामला होता था तो नेहरू जी सदा उपस्थित रहते थे और सदन का मार्गनिर्देशन करते थे। लेकिन वर्तमान प्रधान मंत्री कल भी तस्वीर में नहीं हैं और आज भी वह तस्वीर में नहीं है और उन्हें सदन की नेत्री के पद से त्यागपत्र देना चाहिए।

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with what my hon. friend, Shri Vajpayee, has said about the responsibility of the Leader of the House. But in addition to that I wish to say that if my hon. friend, Shri Dange, and his group have any conflict with the speaker, they are wel-

come to bring forward a motion of no-confidence against him. Then it is for the House to take a decision on that. But whatever might be anyone's view in regard to any action decision taken by the speaker, certainly what had been displayed yesterday by his friends and his group is not justifiable. They could certainly have thought of a vote of censure and brought it forward and it would have been left to the House to decide whether the House should be on their side or not. So far as we were concerned, we made it very clear yesterday itself—Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, myself, Shri Bal Raj Madhok and Shri Dwivedy—that we had confidence in you and that we did not agree with our friends. I am glad, today at last the Government has come forward to express their confidence in you. It is for them, if they so wish, to bring forward a motion..... (*Interruption*). I have no objection to that at all; that would be quite parliamentary. But the manner in which they behaved yesterday and my hon. friend, Shri Dange, comes forward here and says that he has no regrets to offer only shows that what is happening in the country is also being repeated here and displayed here and they are not ashamed of it..... (*Interruption*). I hope, the House is with me in censuring them on their behaviour..... (*Interruption*).

श्री हरबयाल बेचगुल (पूर्व दिल्ली) : हम अपने अधिकार से यहाँ आये हैं। हमें बोलने से कोई नहीं रोक सकता। (ब्यवधान)

श्री इसहाक सम्भली (घमरोहा) : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि स्पीकर कौन है? यह हमको टोकने वाले कौन होते हैं? (ब्यवधान)

شہری استحقاق سمبھلی (امروہہ) -
جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ اسپیکر کون ہے؟ یہ ہم
کو توکلے والے کون ہوتے ہیں (ویجدھان)۔

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : आज वह पूछ रहे हैं कि स्पीकर कौन है, कल नहीं पूछा कि स्पीकर कौन है। (ब्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR (Peermade) : Who is responsible for all this?

AN HON. MEMBER : You.

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. I saw the statement this morning. I did not issue any statement. What happened was that yesterday there was a Business Advisory Committee meeting and Members asked me to settle down some business at the end of the Budget. Then I made a casual remark that all depends on the Speaker, who ever happens to be there at that time.

It is engaging my mind very seriously as to how we are going for sometime past, not only yesterday but for sometime past. I am seriously thinking whether—I am sitting here—it is worthwhile. I represent the whole House. You elected me as your Speaker unanimously. I think, one bad side of being elected unanimously is that everybody's friend is nobody's friend. Everybody thinks he is a friend of this side and he will protect him and the other side feels he will protect him.

I have found that, besides the other weaker sections, there is still one more class, that is, the class of Presiding Officers. We are most defenceless people sitting here. Very often, if not like women but any other section, we are unprotected, undefended and sometimes unaided. My sitting here cannot be successful unless you come to my protection and my defence and give your cooperation. It matters little as to which group is there and which is not there.

I have been the Chairman of the Presiding Officers' Conference and, recently, this was discussed there. I receive telephone calls from many Presiding Officers and I am very much distressed the way the Presiding Officers are going through a lot of difficulties in the States and, in my case also, sometimes I have to pass through the same torture and ordeal.

I am seriously thinking about what we are doing. Should I compromise my personal self-respect, the dignity of the Chair and the decorum of the House with exigency and expediency or should I accept the challenge and stand up to this? It is seriously engaging my mind. I am not going to act

[Mr. Speaker]

in a hurry. I am seriously thinking over it. Resignation is not my personal thing but it represents the will of the House.

Then, as I told you the other day, the man sitting here is not infallible. He is liable to err. After all, there are questions of interpretation and even the lawyers, the judges of the Supreme Court, do not agree with each other. I may also err. But, in that case, the proper procedure is not to disrupt the sitting of this House but I would request you to see me in my chamber and discuss it with me. I can say, on a word of honour, that since I become the speaker, I gave up my personal inclinations, my prejudices, my ties and everything. When somebody is not allowed a supplementary, when somebody is not allowed a call attention motion or when somebody is not given his turn, he feels angry and I try to assuage his feelings. I also try to calm him down. But then sometimes I see the dignity of the Chair and the decorum of the House going down. These are the two things about which I am worried. Personally, I try to calm him down and I try to soothe the Member. Sometimes, you will see a Member, when he enters an argument with me, being very harsh and the next moment we forget it. And he gets up again.

Now, if we are to function and carry further the ends of democracy, it is through this House alone and this House is guided by rules of procedure, decorum and dignity. In case you differ with me, I request you to kindly see me in my chamber and I can call the officer and I can send for other advice. But I request you not to allow the proceedings of this House to be disrupted. This is my humble request to you. I differ from what Mr. Dange thinks. We had enough of discussion yesterday and I thought that the matter was over. Still I think there is nothing controversial. One thing is that is for the House to decide, for the Rules Committee to decide whether, if anything is said about anybody, he has a right to represent to the Minister or send a letter or give some literature or not. This I am going to refer to the Rules Committee. How far can we leave it to that decision? The moment my decision is wrong, I will openly express my regrets in the House. These are matters of

interpretation, procedure and conventions. I hope you will kindly bear in mind that we cannot run this democracy unless we behave in an orderly manner in this greatest temple of democracy.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : What about Gen. Cariappa's statement?

MR. SPEAKER : That will also be decided by that Committee.

SHRI M.L. SONDHI (New Delhi) : Before you go to Gen. Cariappa, what about Mr. Dinesh Singh's resignation?

MR. SPEAKER : That will come separately. Don't link it with me. I have finished my observations and now if the Minister wants to say something about other matters, he can very well do it.

Mr. Shivachandra Jha raised yesterday that I first allowed and then disallowed it. I very much appreciate your point. I told you that I had kept it pending and sent the papers to be seen by the Members concerned. I was waiting and I kept it pending. But the main reason for my accepting it is this. I make it clear that it was allowed in the other House and the Home Minister made a regular statement on it. In view of that I don't think I should make it a point of personal prestige. I don't want this House to be deprived of the privilege to discuss a thing which the other House has done. That is my point of view. That is the explanation. I appreciate the point raised.

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : I think the House wanted me to say something about the news appearing in the *Statesman* that Mr. Dinesh Singh has resigned.

AN HON. MEMBER : Let him say.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (मधुबनी) : मैंने इस पर कालिग एटेंशन नोटिस दिया है।

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : I am authorised by Mr. Dinesh Singh to say that there is no truth in that statement. There are no differences between him and the Prime Minister regarding any policy or implementation thereof.

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर) : इसीलिए तो झंझट होता है। अभी इन्होंने किस चीज पर बयान दिया है, क्यों दिया है ? इसके बारे में ध्यानकर्षण का नोटिस दिया गया है। अभी तक मैं चुप था। अब मेरी बात सुनिये। बिलकुल अवैध तरीके से उन्होंने बीच में बयान दिया है। दिनेशसिंह जी के इस्तीफे के बारे में जो खबर छपी है उसके बारे में बाकायदा नोटिस दिया गया है। मंत्री को चाहिये कि उसके जवाब में बयान दें ताकि हम लोग प्रश्न पूछ सकें। इसीलिए तो झगड़ा होता है।

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : I asked the House if they wanted to know it. They said 'Yes' Therefore, I gave the reply.

12.54 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED STATEMENT BY GEN. CARIAPPA CALLING FOR IMPOSITION OF MILITARY RULE IN INDIA

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

Reported statement by Gen Cariappa calling for scrapping of the Constitution and imposition of military rule in India.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my attention was drawn to the reported statement of General Cariappa suggesting the scrapping of the Constitution and imposition of President's rule in the country followed by spell of administration by the army. I considered this statement as most irresponsible and utterly uncalled for, General Cariappa met me on 11th March 1970 and informed me that his remarks were not correctly reported in the Press.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : This appeared in the *Times of India* on the 10th March, 1970, It Seems that there was a contradiction also by Gen. Cariappa. There was a statement of the Home Minister also. (*Interruptions*) we wanted to raise the issue, Sir, because it is not Gen. Cariappa only but a section of those right reactionary elements who are the enemies of parliamentary democracy and who are starting a whispering campaign in the country that there should be a military rule. And that is why, Sir, some of the ex-Army Generals and some of the ex- I. C. S. officers are members of this particular party. They want to perpetuate this idea of a military rule.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : And some Ex- Communists also.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I do not want this sort of uncouth behaviour and interruptions. So, Sir, I would like to know if General Cariappa is a Government pensioner and he is doing politics at the cost of Government money.

AN HON MEMBER : He is a free man.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE ; He is a pensioner. Mr. B. T. Ranadive was a free man. Mr. A.K. Gopalan and Mr. Namboodripad were free man. When he said something about the Constitution, there was a furore in this House, by these so-called champions of Parliamentary democracy who pounced upon them for a pound of flesh and said this was very bad. But now it a question of Gen. Cariappa. I would like to know as to what action is being taken against Gen. Cariappa, whether Government will seriously consider it fit to warn him that any recurrence of such a statement from him would amount to forfeiture of his pension, because it is said here: General Cariappa said he had been asked by many important politicians, including Congressmen of both factions, if the Indian army was capable of taking over the ruins of Government'. So, Sir, both the factions, I mean, both the Indicate and the Syndicate have something to do with this question. (*Interruption*)

12.56 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the chair]