

border of Madhya Pradesh are becoming sanctuaries of criminals. The criminals after committing crimes take shelter in these hills and this is becoming a serious problem for the Government. Buxar, Jhabua, Rohtas and Aurangabad districts of Bihar, Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh and Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh are affected thereby. I urge upon the Government to set up a cantonment on the Camoor hills situated on the Southern Side of Rohtas district and Sasaram district headquarters in view of the public interest as well from administration point of view so that this growing menace could be contained.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the issue which has been raised several times in the House. It pertains to Meghalaya. This matter came before the Supreme Court day before yesterday i.e. the 23rd instant. The attorney General of India who can come and sit in the House to witness the proceedings spoke in favour of the Speaker of Meghalaya. Supreme Court Justice Kuldip Singh has observed that:

[English]

"Can the Speaker do whatever he likes? Can he be a judge in his own cause? You are now appearing for the Speaker. That is not fair."

[Translation]

This was said by the Justice Kuldip Singh to our Attorney General. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue is becoming very serious because inspite of raising this issue again and again, no assurance is coming forward either from the Government or from the Prime Minister or from the ruling party to the effect that anything that is contrary to the constitution will never be allowed to happen in Meghalaya. The Speaker of that House got himself elected as a leader, then suspended five members and later on removed them from membership. We were not given any assurance to the effect that

such a thing will not be allowed to happen there. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Justice Kuldip Singh(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are quoting something which is not before the House. Please do not quote exact words.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I was only saying that those people who were present in Court.....(Interruptions).....

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not speak like that.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHETTERJEE (Bolpur): What is the attitude of the Central Government? How is the Attorney General appearing without the clearance of the Central Government? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are quoting exact words. We do not know what was said there.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can contradict me, if I am wrong.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are quoting exact words about which we do not know. If you have to quote from any document or anything, you have to put it before the House also. So, please do not quote, but give the gist.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am quoting these words on my own responsibility. All right, do not put these words in quotes and unquotes, but if the Attorney General said there

that the Speaker would continue to function in his own way, what can I do. In Supreme Court he was told that

[English]

This Speaker has forfeited the grace attached to the office of the Speaker.

[Translation]

and Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request that you are not only the Speaker of this House, but you are also the Chairman of the Presiding Officers' Conference.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not give me so much authority.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I would like to urge that such a situation has arisen that we had to listen to such comments from the Supreme Court about the office of the Speaker and the Speaker of Meghalaya for his own political gains has forfeited the grace attached to the office of Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Government and the Prime Minister to categorically tell us whether he and his Government will abide by the orders of the Court or not. The Attorney General is involved in it and he pleaded the case of a person for whom he should not have gone there to plead. This would have prevented us from raising the issue again and again in the House and my submission to you too is that in case you have any machinery such as a standing committee of the Presiding Officers, the Conference of which is held once or twice a year, then as a Chairman of that Committee or as a Chairman of the Conference of the Presiding officers you should ensure that Constitution of the country is not violated like this.

[English]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the last fortnight, this issue of Meghalaya has been raised quite a few times. I think that the murky happenings in Meghalaya ought to have received immediate attention of the Home Minister and the ruling party which is common here at the Centre and there in the State. Unfortunately, it seems nothing has happened and in this case remaining a passive spectator means collaborating in all that is happening there. What is happening there has called for comments of this kind from the Supreme Court in respect of the Presiding Officers' functions and the office. This is very serious and I would expect the Home Minister to tell us as to what is the Government's stand in this regard. What does the Government propose to do about it? This should not happen like this: an 'Operation Topple' is going on and in this the Speaker seems to be the principal leader. This is very unfortunate and that you as the Chairman of the Presiding Officers' Conference—you may not have any executive authority—have a moral influence which can be exercised in this matter.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): Sir, there is absolutely no doubt that this is an extraordinary situation as Mr. George Fernandes and the Leader of the Opposition have indicated.

What we are in search of is, is there a way out of this. Are there any steps which we can take here so that such things may not occur?

The suggestion which I would like to make here is that the Leader of the ruling party, not as a Government, should make a statement here that such a thing is condemnable and that it damages the parliamentary fabric, not only in Meghalaya but all over the country.

This kind of a statement must emanate from this House which is regarded as the topmost legislature in the country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): You are talking about Meghalaya. What about Manipur? What about Goa?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Kindly help us in doing this at least. (*Interruptions*) If there is any good sense left, we are trying to appeal that the ruling party should indicate to the whole country that such a step should not be taken.

Comments from the Chair are also relevant. I suggest that as a matter of principle, what is it that the Chair of the highest Legislature in the country think to be correct, think to be proper and think to be inconsistent with the parliamentary fabric of our country?

MR. SPEAKER: Do you realise you are asking me to do something which I cannot do?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Why? My submission is you can make a general declaration. You cannot guide, you cannot instruct the people in Meghalaya. But you can indicate before the whole country that this is what the norm should be.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You can inspire them.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: As the leading body, let us lead. If we do not do it, today it is one part of the country, tomorrow we do not know what kind of pressures the ruling party will unleash in this legislature also. This is what I want to say.

MR. SPEAKER: You are giving me authority over other Legislatures!

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG (Shillong): For many days, this question of Meghalaya had come up here. It appears that a group of Ministers from the Government of Meghalaya

are here in Delhi for the last ten days meeting the Leaders of the Opposition parties, and giving wrong information on the political situation in Meghalaya. In Meghalaya, we have a Leader of the Congress Legislature Party Mr. John Deng Pohrmen. The Speaker, in his judicial capacity has given a judgment on the Tenth Schedule which should not be brought here in this august House. You have this power and he too has this power under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India that it should not be brought here. In Meghalaya, the Congress party is trying to take the Government which is only democratic. In 1990, the Congress Government was toppled by the Janata Dal Government. (*Interruptions*) The Governor in Meghalaya was changed overnight to achieve this end. I brought this to the notice in the House at that time but nobody listened at that time. Today the Central Government has nothing to do with Meghalaya.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): Sir, it is with deep regret that I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the Diesel Locomotive Works in Varanasi. The hon. Railway Minister is present here. When a discussion was last held on this subject, I had said that it has become a den of corruption. Be it recruitment or be it auction of scrap, corruption by senior officials is rampant in every sphere of activity.

Sir, day before yesterday, on 23rd August, senior officials of the Enforcement Directorate raided the Diesel Locomotive Works. The offices of the Manager and other officials and their residences were surrounded. Sir, after a continuous search for 24 hours currency of countries like America, England, Belgium, Australia and Holland totalling 20,000 dollars were seized. When the officials of the Enforcement Directorate asked as to how foreign currency was lying there, they had no answer. 300 such files were seized which showed that there had