

implemented so far, to streamline the various aspects of education, research and extension programme in agro-forestry for the benefit of the rural masses and the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has undertaken the following programmes in agroforestry:-

- 1) All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Agroforestry located at 31 Centres.
- 2) National Research Centre on Agroforestry located at Jhansi (U.P.).
- 3) Operational Research Project (ORP) on Agroforestry at 28 Centres.

These programmes have generated useful technology for agroforestry.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

(Interruptions)

RE: PROGRESS MADE IN PURSUING THE INVESTIGATION IN TO THE BOFORS MATTER AFTER THE SUPREME COURT'S JUDGEMENT UPHOLDING THE VALIDITY OF THE FIR LODGED BY CBI

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Sir, The Budget Session is drawing to a close. I want an assurance from the Govern-

ment whether they are seriously pursuing the investigation into the Bofors matter the Supreme Court has given a judgement on the 27th August upholding the validity of the FIR lodged by the CBI which had been challenged in the court and if the Government is serious, the way is now open for a thorough probe into this whole business. The papers say that no copy of this Supreme Court judgement has yet been even sent to Sweden and Switzerland where we are trying to get hold of some confidential papers and no Senior Officer has been sent to pursue enquiry. This seems to be a very lackadaisical approach to the whole matter. Therefore, we want to know from the Government before this Session concludes, what they are proposing to do to pursue this investigation seriously. It is a very important matter (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEV ACHARIYA (Bankura): I have given notice on this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bopalpur): We have given notice also. We wish to be associated with that.... (*Interruptions*)

It is a serious matter. We have given notice. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): We have all given notice ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We know how an attempt has been made in the name of public interest litigation to scuttle this inquiry, investigation and disclosure of the names. Supreme Court intervened almost at the nick of time, in the sense that a few days later, the time-limit would have expired. They should have sent the Supreme Court judgement. The Government is again trying to delay the matter by raising the plea of incorrect copy of the order. Till date, the Order has not been sent to the appropriate court. Now we find that another round of

litigation has started by one of those persons who is very close to the ruling party. Everybody in this country knows this and again an attempt is being made. I am sure some Law Officer on behalf of Government of India will appear and ask for time and the court may almost concede the stay order being passed. This is the game that is going on. I want to know what is the Government's attitude towards this. It is essential. we are discussing BCCI which is a scandal that has taken place. Bofors and BCCI are competing with each other. I do not know which is the greatest scandal. Therefore this, type of attempt to scuttle this must be resented and prevented and we want Government's categorical assurance and statement on the Floor of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the points concerning this issue is before you and I am sure that you are also aware of the various developments in the courts in this regard. Through, day before yesterday, the advocates were on strike and the courts were closed, yet court was open to the attorney of a person, who had been living in Dubai, to evade arrest by Indian law enforcement agencies. That person has been trying to wash off his hands in the Bofors issue, for the past few years. The Delhi High Court has once again sought his explanation. We feel that, even now, there is not even a slight change in the approach of the ruling party, which it has been following since the last four or five years. It is my belief that the explanation submitted in the High Court... it hasn't come on its own. If I am not wrong, the Supreme Court delivered its judgement in the Rest week of August i.e. on August 26 or 27. I should have been immediately sent to the Swiss Authorities and the Swiss Bank, but it did not happen. The head of the C.B.I made an excuse....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If the matter is pending in the court, will it not be *sub judice*?

SHRI. GEORGE FERNANDES: This is not pending in the court.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The Supreme Court has already cleared it.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am telling you, it is not pending in the court....(Interruptions).... If I am wrong, you may correct me.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to understand from you if the matter is pending in the court, is it a *sub judice* or not?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: No, Sir. This is not pending in the Court. The Supreme Court gave the decision on the 27th of August. That decision has to go to the Swiss authorities immediately. This Government is duty-bound to honour that decision. What this Government did through its Police Agencies was to keep that file pending and when someone confronted the Head of the CBI as to why this has still not gone to the Swiss authorities, the reply was that there were some typographical errors in the judgement and they would like to have those typographical errors removed.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Yesterday, the Supreme Court has disposed of that also.

MR. SPEAKER: Is this case pending in the High Court or not?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This is not pending in the Court.

[Translation]

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter is not pending in the Court. The Government is responsible for implementing the judgments of the court. Our complaint is that it is not doing so. As I see it, it seems to be a conspiracy. The accused staying in Dubai, submits an explanation, at a time, when the Supreme Court has already given its verdict. The Government is not implementing it and it is waiting for the Dubai-based accused to file a suit in the court and to once again entangle the whole issue in legal wranglings.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the ruling party during its earlier tenure had appointed a Joint Parliamentary Committee to investigate the Bofors scandal, but today the whole country and the World know that it was an eyewash.

Elections were held in Sweden on Sunday, and the Bofors issue including the fact that requisite information was not provided to the Indian Government has become a subject of public debate in the country for the then ruling party and other political parties. The owners of Bofors have lost a lot of money in litigation and the factory has already been taken over by the Swedish Government. The Swedish Government is in possession of all information, concerning the activities of Bofors. At the moment, we demand only two things, from the Government. First of all, our Government should request the Swedish Government to give all those information, which the Nobel Industries had refused to part with, earlier. Secondly, the Joint Parliamentary Committee constituted in this regard earlier, was an eyewash, intended to befool the people that the Government was sincere about finding out the truth. To amend that mistake, the Government should appoint a new Joint Parliamentary Committee and the findings

of this committee should be made public.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have queried from the Chair whether we can refer to this matter because in your understanding the matter might be *sub Judice*. I would like to say this is not *sub judice*.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it pending in the Court or not?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Supreme Court has already cleared it (Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is not pending in the Court (Interruptions)

The issue is pending. It is not a question of the case pending in the Court. It is not *sub judice*. You have queried whether we are referring to something which influences the decision of the court. But we are not referring to any.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not have any information about all those things.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: We are not referring to any legal aspect of the great corruption scandal of Bofors. We are not making a reference whether 'x' took money or 'y' took money or if the Government is involved etc.

MR. SPEAKER: I don't have the information about these things.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: We are sharing the information with you.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I just wanted to know from you whether this matter is pending in the court or not.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: No, it is not pending in the Court. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The matter was disposed of by the Supreme Court. The validity of the FIR filed by the CBI cannot now be challenged in the lower Court by Shri Vin Chadha, which he is trying to do. This is all a subterfuge. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is now the concern of the House. The collective concern of the House is very simple. After years of prevarication after years of trying to some how prevent the truth about this greatest scandal on arms procurement hence national security emerging finally, the Supreme Court has ruled. And what does the Supreme Court rule? It has ruled that the FIR filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation is well within its power and it is a valid document. That is all. Thereafter, if those corrupt businessmen with political nexus sitting, as my friends have said, in Dubai wish to pervert the administration of justice and wish to pervert the law, then I think, the Legislature certainly comes in...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: With Official patronage.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Yes, with official patronage. I am sorry, Sir, we have to make such statement because the continued conduct of the Government raises these doubts. After all a very simple course of action was to be adopted by the Government. No sooner did the Supreme Court had ruled that the FIR was a valid document, then the simple course of action was two fold. Firstly, a copy of this had to be immediately dispatched with a covering letter from the Central Bureau of Investigation to the Swiss Bank which, in any case has kept these accounts frozen. They have now further extended the time of freezing of those accounts. I am distressed to know that despite the passage of almost a fortnight, more

than a fortnight, the Government has not yet been able to send a copy of the Supreme Court judgement to the Swiss Bank so that subsequently follow up action could be initiated by the Swiss Bank.

Secondly, what is extremely worrisome is this aspect of unauthorisedly resident Indians, living in Dubai or elsewhere about whose extradition the Government is not prompt or energetic, but when they wish to move to Indian courts of law to cover up corruption, then the Government moves with double speed and on holidays, the high court of the land takes cognisance of these matters. This is an extremely worrisome aspect because doubts are raised about the *bona fides* of the Governments. What is the Government doing? Why did it not act on the FIR? Why did it not protest against the high Court of Delhi granting permission to this infamous Shri Chadha to move to high Court and file case.

Thirdly, even though the Government has denied it, my doubts and apprehensions are raised because a report appeared in a small Swedish Radio Station that an official of the Government of India contacted the Swedish Embassy here and said, that contacted the Swedish Embassy here and said, that "no further action was needed be taken on Bofors." And in the first instance, when the original information about Bofors scandal had surfaced over the Swedish Radio, the first response of the Government also been a denial. And I am led to believe that this denial of the Government is on similar lines. Therefore, on these three aspects, there must be a clarification by the Government today. And I share my good friend Shri George Fernandes's concern in this and I do want that a Joint Parliamentary Committee be appointed on Bofors so that this great white-wash of yesteryears can finally be brought to light..

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had raised this matter about one week back. I won't quote the court in this regard. The Government should inform the people of the steps being taken over an issue involving rupees 1400 crore. All of us, including the whole country is anxious to know as to what the Government is doing in this regard. We have come to know that some dedicated officers of the C.B.I and other investigating agencies, involved in the investigation of this scandal, have been transferred. I won't refer to any names, but the most competent person has been transferred and another has been asked to proceed on long leave. The intentions of this Government....(Interruptions)... Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev is a Minister. He is

[English]

Sir, I need your protection... (Interruptions) ...I am glad that the Minister is rising in his seat.

[Translation]

I was telling you that a very competent officer of the C.B.I has been transferred and another one has been asked to proceed on leave. Mr. Speaker, Sir, such a big scandal, that has taken place at the highest level should be exposed...(Interruptions)

Sir, What I mean to say is that is honest officers are selectively transferred in this manner, the C.B.I will lose its credibility. In Sweden, a movement is going on to expose the names of the recipients of Kickbacks from Bofors and the leader of opposition in the Swedish Parliament and the Vice-President of the powerful Parliamentary Committee Shri. P.H.R Gransted has predicted the fall of the ruling Social Democrats in the ensuing Sunday elections.

Shri Gransted has also said that he doesn't understand as to why the Social Democratic party whose members are also involved in the scandal, is hesitant to disclose the names of the kickback recipients. However, he has promised that his Government would constitute a special Independent Investigating Commission to inquire into the Bofors scandal. My question is, what are we doing in our country in this regard? Why has no officer of the Government of India or no politician gone there so far? Mr. Speaker, Sir, why it has not been done so far? Then how will corruption at the highest level be exposed? The matter was discussed in Parliament. I shall be happy if a Joint Parliamentary Committee is set up under your Chairmanship and the scandal involving Rs. 1400 crore is exposed that the entire matter could be made public.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri George Fernandes was making mention of the Nobel industries just now. When the Nobel Industries became bankrupt the Government took it over. Is it so that since the control of the Nobel Industries came under the Government, the Government of India would not put any pressure on the Government of Sweden? If the Government does not pressurise, the Swedish Government what will happen? Though Bofors and Nobel Industries have been taken over by Government, yet under the competence clause, the Swedish Government can ask them and put pressure on them. But it appears that Government of India is totally unconcerned for this. I would like to request you and also all sections of the house to rise above their party lines and take a decision on it. I would also request the Congressmen that a decision to this effect should be taken during the tenure of the Tenth Lok Sabha by setting up a Joint Parliamentary Committee for the purpose and exposing the kickbacks that had been taken. This is all I want to say. (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR (Durg): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have observed

that whenever elections are held in India. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have given a notice. I met you and told you that I wanted to raise the matter. But you are not allowing me.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Somnath Chatterjee has spoken on your behalf. [Interruptions] Mr. Chndrakar is talking on the same thing. He has also a right. (Interruptions) I am not allowing you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: : I want a categorical statement from the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want to allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: After 15 days of Supreme Court's judgement, a copy of the judgement has not been sent to the cantonal court of Switzerland. Why is it so?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, I allowed Shri Somnath Chatterjee who is the leader of your party, to speak on your behalf. Now you expect me to allow each and every Member. (Interruptions) It is not like this (Interruptions) I have allowed Mr. Chandrakar to speak on the same point.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have observed that when elections are held in India, people make propaganda in the name of Sweden that bungling was done in Bofors case. Similarly when the elections are going to be held in Sweden, they are again raising the Bofors issue. It is their trick. So much cheating! So much conspiracy! ... (Interruptions) ... Sir, the

conspiracy is very clear and whenever the elections are held they make so much hue and cry over it. What were they doing when they were power?

(Interruptions)

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh had said that he would make everything public within one month and disclose all the names. For how many months they were in power? One of their colleagues is raising the issue emphatically. What were they doing when they were in power, they could not do anything. They became nervous. Had they got any clue, they could have finished our party. Now, when they are sitting in the opposition benches, they are making a hue and cry. They are hatching all such conspiracies. [Interruptions] They can not mislead the people of the country by hatching much type of conspiracies. Once they have befooled the people. They cannot do so time and again.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems that elections are going to be held in Sweden. That is why they are raising this issue. When the elections would be held here, they will raise this issue here also. I would be raised in Sweden also. It is very misleading. The conspiracy will come to fore very soon. (Interruptions)

Friends, in this way these people want to mislead the people of India as well as the people of Sweden. The people have understood it. They can't deceive them by this trick time and again. They remained in power for one and half years. What were they doing? They raised the issue in the House everyday and made a claim that they would unravel the truth within one month. Why could they not do? Why don't they say the reason of not unravelling the truth within one month? They say that they conducted this inquiry and that inquiry. For how many years

they want those inquiries to continue. Their intension is only to keep the issue alive.....

(Interruptions)

They can't befool the people always.
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. V.P.Singh.

(Interruptions)

SHRI H.V.THANGKABALU (Dharmapuri): When you were in power, you could not get at the truth and now, you are standing up to explain your position. You had fooled the people of India enough. You cannot fool them any further.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla): These people remained in power for one year. Why did not they do anything. They made a promise to bring out everything within one moth. What did they do? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH (Fatehpuri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Chandulal Chandrakar has put a specific question that when we were in power, what had we done?

(Interruptions)

Since he has asked this specific question, I stood up to reply it. Otherwise there was no need for me to say anything further beyond what my hon. Friends have said. Since he has put the question, he must have the patience to hear the reply.... *[Interruptions]* Sir, on the Basis of the documents available with the previous Government i.e.

the Congress (I) Government, we were able to get the Swiss Bank Accounts frozen. Not only that....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What these people did not do.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Not only that we have won the cases in two courts regarding A.E. Services, both in lower court and upper court. We could achieve some success with regard to A.E.Services and got the relevant documents in which their connection with Jordan was established. In addition to that we acquired the secret portion of Audit Bureau Report relating to further new weapons system of Bofors, which the previous Government could not collect. We blacklisted them. It had to impact on them. Sir, today they are asking us about the same documents whereas it was proved beyond doubt that we achieved this much success within these couple of months.

Sir, unless some crime is committed, the Swiss Court does not order freezing of accounts and supplying of documents. Normal commission is not considered as a crime there. They consider bribe as a crime. Earlier, it was only in the form of an allegation. For the First time, the Swiss Court admitted that it was a crime. Our Government got it done with the help of Swiss authorities. The previous Government was not able to collect those documents. *[Interruptions]* Bribe has been paid. Sir, the earlier J.P.C gave the theory of winding up charges. But now it has been proved beyond doubt that it was absolutely wrong. Now new facts have come to light. The documents of A.E.Services have been collected. Bank accounts have been frozen in Switzerland and secret portion of Audit Bureau Report is also available with us. We can also collect information from the Nobel industries which has been taken over by Swedish Government. The proceedings of the last J.P.C were merely an eyewash. Now, only a new J.P.C could reveal the facts.

I would like to know as to why are they scared
of an inquiry? *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L.FOTEDAR):
Sir, I have not responded when Shri Jaswant
Singh or Shri Rabi Ray intervened on this
issue because I consider both of them as
innocent as any other Member of this House.
But I feel persuaded to respond when the
Former Prime Minister, Shri Vishwanath
Pratap Singh got up to say certain things. I
must confess that he has got tremendous
capacity to mislead public opinion. You may
recall that in 1986-87, when he defected
from the Congress.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH:
Change the word. There was expulsion and
no defection. You may correct yourself.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.V.THANGKABALU: He was
expelled because.**

MR. SPEAKER: That will not go on
record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: All this will not go on
record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI K.V.THNGKABALU: I withdraw
those words Sir.

12.35 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Srikanta Jena and some
other hon. Members came and sat on the
floor near the table*

MR. SPEAKER: Please, to back to your
seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: May I request you to go
back to your seats

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jena, If you go
back to your seat amends can be made. You
have to go back to your seat

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us be reasonable.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why should the leader
of the House come? If a member has said
some thing wrong, he will make the amends.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, this is not correct.
Please to back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It does help you to
follow the rules. Please go back to your
seats. We will see that amends are made.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We adjourn the House
up to 13.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then Adjourned till Thirteen
of the Clock*

13.01 hrs

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at one
minute past Thirteen of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the chair]

RE. PROGRESS MADE IN PURSUING INVESTIGATION INTO THE BOFORS MATTER AFTER THE SUPREME COURT'S JUDGEMENT UPHOLDING THE VALIDITY OF THE FIR LODGED.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri. Thangkabalu.

SHRI. K.V.THANGKABALU (Dharmapuri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we were discussing the Bofors issue, there was a difference of opinion between this side of the House and that side. During the heated exchange, I expressed certain words which were not good. I withdrew those words and also if those words had created a wrong impression in the minds of the Members here or outside, I feel sorry for that. It was a slip of the tongue.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L.FOTEDAR): Sir My colleague has withdrawn the words and perhaps he did not mean it. There are no two opinions about it that such language should not be used either in the House or outside.

I am a democrat. When we come to this House, our heads should meet and heads should not break. While discussing issues, we should generate light and not heat. That has been the tradition, that is the tradition of the House and I can assure you, Sir, that we, on our part, will maintain that tradition.

So far as Shri V.P.Singh is concerned, I must confess that we know each other since early fifties. He knows me, I know him. We have been very close to each other...(Interruptions)...I am close to everybody.

So for as I am concerned, I do not misjudge any issue. I say certain things. But I do not get provoked. But, when he came to

power and took over the stewardship of the country of the 2nd of December, 1989, he had promised to the people of India that within fifteen days, within a fortnight, he will bring all the facts regarding Bofors before the people and bring the culprits to book.

And Mr. V.P.Singh remained as Head of the Government, I think, for 11 months. He had all these documents with him. He had a control over the entire country. He tried his utmost but he had accepted the defeat that what he had said before he became the Prime Minister he could not do it. And as a gentleman, as a person, who had held the highest Office in the Country, I would like him that he should apologise to the people of India for what he had promised and what he had not been able to fulfil. That is all that I would like to say.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): We are thankful to Mr. M.L.Fotedar for changing the atmosphere in the House. Does he want to say that because Mr. V.P.Singh allegedly could not fulfil his promise of disclosure within a fortnight. Therefore, it is your contention that this new Government will not try to get this disclosure? Why don't you say what you are going to do? Have you stopped your endeavour because he had failed in 15 days (Interruptions)

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: There is nothing in the case (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): I wish to make it very clear that the Government is taking all steps with extreme attention to do all that is possible to ensure that the prosecution in the matter of Bofors case moves quickly and comes to a conclusion bringing proper justice to the matter.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA(Bankura): Why was a copy not made available to the Tribunal Court even after a fortnight?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM: With regard to issues which have been raised in this House, some matters I do feel need a little correction. I mean no criticism. But the Supreme Court has not pronounced clearly in its judgement its opinion on the question of validity of the FIR. It is our Government's stand that the FIR is valid; and we have argued about it in the Supreme Court. But the Supreme Court, in the interest of justice, has formed its own point of view, keeping in mind that what it considers is justice has observed, that what it considers is justice has observed, that it would not make an observation on the validity of the FIR until a person will *locus standi* like one of the accused persons is known who is really interested, and who personally approached the court and those persons who have approached the court are not persons who have *locus standi*. Fortunately or unfortunately, there is one of the persons, who has been named as accused in the FIR, who seems to have approached the high Court. That is not in any way stopping us at the moment we are proceeding in the latter to take all steps that are required, as soon as possible.

With regard to within 14 days or 15 days, I do not have that information available with me at the moment; as soon as it is available, we will come to the House.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH (Fatehpur): The point that has been made is that there is a new set of circumstances justifying a new change. The hon. Minister has not replied to what the hon. Members have said and what we all feel. In view of the fact that we have documents of AF services, in view of the fact that we have further the secret part of the Audit Bureau Report, in view of the fact that Nobel Industry has been

taken over by the Swedish Government, we feel that this is the proper time to have a new JPC to put pressure and the Government should act. On this, the hon. Minister has made no comment; and he has pronounced already that there is nothing in the case. This raises a serious doubt in our mind, when there is so much. The AE Services Document says, there is a connection to Jordan. Unless we had gone into it, we could not have got the documents. The secret part of the Audit Bureau Report is there. Nobel Industries has been taken over by the Swedish Government. All this, together now the FIR is also considered in order; not on the merits of it but at least that it is a valid document. In all these cases no reply has come. That shows that the intention of the Government is not to come to the truth but to try to avoid it. And so far as action is concerned, what has been done, this has been done in a few months. These very documents you had them for three years. What did you do with them? What we could do in a few months, we got the papers, we got the bank accounts frozen, the secret part in a few months. For years you could not do it. That is the point and you want to avoid it again.....(Interruptions)

We lodged the FIR and they could not file the FIR.

And about this matter, the words were transferred to my mouth and they go on quoting "fifteen days." In a public meeting some worker made a statement and it was transferred in the Press to my mouth and that is the point. The point is, what they could not do for years, in a few months we could achieve it, in spite of all those Win Chadha and company coming and stopping it, that was the achievement that we have achieved. Even in Macro's case the Philippines has not been able to get any documents. That is our achievement and it is a singular success of our Government. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): We should not be unduly criticizing the former Prime Minister, but he may clarify whether he did not make the statement attributed to him when three national leaders were present, at Patna and which was printed in headline by National Newspapers namely "15 days". If he could say that he had not said it, we can tell the public that it was wrong on our part, so that we are not guilty of it.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Have a JPC and let us have it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Please, order please.

SHRI ROSHAN LAL (Khurja): Your party has also promised so many things. Your party has also said that the prices will be rolled back within 90 days. Where has that promise gone?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You have promised one crore jobs every year.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the decision will be conveyed to Switzerland? when the verdict of the Supreme Court will be conveyed.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please take your seats now. I have realised that we are going wrong some where in the House. I must have realised that the hunger and the anger do have some effect. It would be better to have the lunch—break than to have a force-break.

Now let us not prolong this issue. There are other issues also which we have to take

up. Now I am going to ask Mahant Abedya Nah to make his statement.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MAHANT ABEDYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you, that you have given me an opportunity for personal explanation. Yesterday during zero hour Mr. V.P. Singh, the hon. Member and former Prime Minister referred my name while reading a paper in connection with the murder of Shri Sharda Prasad an ex-MLA from Gorakhpur and former State Minister. Sir, I do not know the intention of the former Prime Minister, but it is clear that I never had any enmity with Rawatjee. I have contested five times for the U.P Legislative Assembly from Maniram constituency alone in Gorakhpur and have come elected from the Gorakhpur Parliamentary constituency third time. I have been continuously contesting from Gorakhpur. Many people have been my opponents in the elections but my personal relations with all of them have been very amicable. Mr. Rawat too, like many others was one of the candidates against me in the last elections but there was never any bitterness between us during elections and there had never been any grouse against me, but I am feeling extremely sorry the way I am being connected with this murder.

Sir, no member of the family of the deceased has mentioned by name or any of my workers in the F.I.R and the names mentioned in the F.I.R have been confirmed by Sh. Lal Chandra Yadav in his statement who was injured in the murder incident. I am unable to understand at all as to how I am being involved in this incident. It is clear that a new story has been fabricated immediately after the participation of big leaders of J.D. in the funeral of Shri Rawat so as to take political gain and to malign my image.

Sir, I have won all the elections I have

ever fought and nobody ever has filed petition against me. Had I ever resorted to any unfair means, there must have been some or other Kind of litigation against me. I am proud of the fact that I have always honoured the social-moral and democratic values in my long political career.

Sir, I am a 'Sadhu' who has devoted all his life to spiritualism and has been always fighting against violence, hatred, enmity and revenge. Today, such an allegation hurts my ascetic belief of 72 years.

Sir, Everyone know the work that I have done for Eastern Uttar Pradesh particularly for Gorakhpur. Apart from my help in the setting up of a University I am running more than a dozen educational institutions along with many other services even today. I have always struggled against social curses like untouchability I have come always elected only because of my social services. Surprisingly enough, no efforts have been made to find out the facts before imposing such a serious allegation against me and by this letter efforts were made to tarnish my clean image for political gains. I have committed only the mistake that I had defeated the aspirant of Janta Dal with the help of immense love and support of the people.

Sir, I would like to say in this regard that the people whose name have been included in the FIR belong to the family of Sh. Rawat and they have a dispute over a piece of land which Mr. Rawat had snatched and deprived them of it. This is the root cause of the dispute. I want to make it clear enough that I am no way concerned with it. *[Interruptions]*

[English]

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he cannot just make an allegation against a person who is no more in the world. Have you seen the total text of his statement? Is he reading out the

text or is making an allegation? ...*(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is objectionable in his statement?

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV: Sir, he said that Mr. Rawat, who is no more now, had been killed because there was litigation about his land.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North): His son has said that.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not allegatory. Now you please sit down. Shri Sonkar Shastri.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow me to conduct the business of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North): Sir, I am on a point of order. If he is giving any personal explanation....

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow me to conduct the House. There is no point of order at this point of time. Please sit down I have a discussion with all the members

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): Sir, Yesterday some allegations were levelled against me in this House by fabricating a new story. I would like to make some clarifications.....

(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, no. such words have been used either by my party or myself which could hurt anyone's feelings*(Interruptions)*

Sir, the story which was narrated yes-

terday is entirely fabricated one. I have never called God..*... I called...*..., Day before yesterday I referred to episode of 'Sham-book' and told that he had killed 'Shambook'-(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down, Do not interrupt unnecessarily. As it has been already discussed, you should not complain.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, even after giving explanations he called Ram once again.....*.... What is the use of such explanation?

MR. SPEAKER: I shall see, please! sit down. If there is something like that it would not be recorded. Please hold your tongue. What a rule ! You go on speaking all the time and no time for Speaker!

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to say certain thing on this issue. The words have been used by Members in the House which should not have been used. The Members have done certain things in the House which they should not have done. However, we have to work and transact the Business. So, we forget and forgive. Now, as far as the statement made by Shri Jaswant Singhji about Shri. V.P.Singhji is concerned, yesterday something happened and I discussed with Members and I found that there was substance in what Mr. V.P.Singh had said yesterday. Now, that is why I have said that we have to forget and forgive. We better follow the practice and procedure that would help us. I would request the leaders to speak to their Members in this respect and I would not like to have anything more on this thing and I would like to close this matter here only.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not speaking on that subject. Mahantjee's feelings have been hurt, perhaps these may be soothed by my explanation. sir, I have not levelled allegation against any individual.

(*Interruptions*)

It is proved from the records that I have never levelled any allegations against any individual. I have only pointed out the doubts and suspicion that Rawatjee had predicted in his life time, I had only mentioned them and no allegation was made from my side. So this clarification is necessary, because he thought that the allegations were made by me which is false, and is not correct. I had drawn the attention to the contents of the letter which was denied by the authorities....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Paswan, be seated, please.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): Mr Speaker, your orders are being disobeyed. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sonkar, please take your seat. My special request to Shri Paswan and Shri Khurana is that they should not make personal remarks against each other.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr, Speaker, Sir, I had given a notice to you yesterday also..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sonkar, you have taken much of the time of the House, please be seated.