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Title: Regarding issues relating to the Tenth Five Year Plan on Defence.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Winter Session of this House will be over on 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month. Our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, carrying the goods wishes of the entire nation, shall visit Pakistan in the SAARC Summit for which we all wish him good luck for the country, our future interest and goodwill between Pakistan and India.

Mr. Speaker, similar good wishes were given to him on the eve of Lahore summit. Unfortunately, Pakistan retaliated in the Kargil event in which our *jawans* laid their lives.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, thereafter the Prime Minister in his wisdom appointed a Kargil Review Committee and we all know the outcome. In this very House, last week our most competent and indispensable colleague and a patriot, Shri Madan Lal Khurana's leadership provided a Report of the Standing Committee on Defence, which was laid in this House. This Reports says on Page 3 and I quote:

"The Committee were particularly concerned that under-utilisation of funds earmarked for capital expenditure had weakened the process of modernisation of Defence Services with possibilities of ominous consequences in the prevailing international and national security environment. "

It further reads : "â€¦.The Tenth Defence Five Year Plan period, the Ministry had not yet formulated the plan." It further says:

"The Ministry of Defence have started a dialogue with the Ministry of Finance because certain amount of approval of the C&AG would also be required to enable this to fructify. The Ministry of Defence hope that during the course of this year, all the details and modalities would be finalised. If everything goes well, from the next fiscal year, this kind of a 'Defence Modernisation Fund' would come into existence."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I quote the more serious thing. It says:

"The Committee noted with the gravest and utmost concern that the Tenth Defence Plan (2002-2007) has still not been finalised along with indications of rough financial commitments, â€¦.. The Tenth Defence Plan has not yet been formally approved by the Cabinet and it is in the process."

Now, I come to the most shocking thing about which our Jawans will cry. The Committee observes that acquisition of one lakh bullet-proof jackets at an approximate cost of Rs. 150 crore has not been completed. It says:

"The Committee are extremely unhappy that the procurement of a life-saving item involving only Rs. 150 crore has not been completed even after the lapse of more than two years and thus the precious lives of thousands of Indian soldiers continue to be endangered. "

It was requisitioned in 2001 and even after the lapse of more than two years, the process was not completed. The Committee has also recommended that the Ministry should simplify the procurement procedure.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the duty of the Head of the Council of Ministers, the Prime Minister, that before his visit to Pakistan, he should take this House into confidence giving a full statement about the preparedness of our Defence in the light of this Report. I feel, before the rise of the House on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, the Prime Minister must make a statement about this. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that we would take up this matter in the meeting of Business Advisory Committee.

...(*Interruptions*)

**श्री रघुनाथ झा (गोपालगंज)** : अध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री दासमुंशी जी ने जो प्रश्न उठाया है, मैं चाहता हूँ कि सदन में इस विषय पर बहस हो। लेकिन मेरा कहना यह है कि माननीय सदस्य ने जो प्रश्न उठाया है और जिन मिनिस्टर से संबंधित है, उन्हें सुनने का इन लोगों में साहस होना चाहिये। माननीय सदस्य यह प्रश्न उठाकर सदन को गुमराह करने का काम कर रहे हैं और देश को गुमराह करना चाहते हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस विषय पर बहस हो और बहस में डिफेंस मिनिस्टर को सुना जाये। इनको सुना जाये और इसके साथ ही दूसरे सदस्यों के विचारों को भी सुना जाये। (ब्यवधान)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This issue does not relate to Defence Minister. It is about the Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan and he should take this House into confidence about Defence preparedness. ...(*Interruptions*)

श्री रघुनाथ झा : ऐसा नहीं हो कि बोलने न दें, यह बहाना नहीं चलेगा।

श्री धर्म राज सिंह पटेल (फूलपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहता हूँ कि (व्यवधान)

डॉ. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बात बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट है कि क्या कांग्रेस पार्टी डिफेंस के बारे में सीरियस है, क्या वे डिफेंस मिनिस्टर को सुनने के लिये तैयार हैं?। अगर ये सुनने के लिये तैयार नहीं और इसके वॉक आउट कर जाते हैं तो यह ईश्यू उठाने का क्या फायदा? (व्यवधान)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is not an issue concerning Defence Minister. ...(*Interruptions*) They are belittling their Prime Minister. ...(*Interruptions*) जब तक यही डिफेंस मिनिस्टर रहेंगे, हम सुनने को तैयार नहीं (व्यवधान) प्रधान मंत्री जी से कहिये कि ऐसे डिफेंस मिनिस्टर की छुट्टी करिये। (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: His notice will be examined and the Prime Minister or the concerned Minister will reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Why should the concerned Minister not reply?

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I have said.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : The concerned Minister has to reply and they have to listen to it. They cannot behave in a very undemocratic manner.

MR. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister has the privilege to reply to any question raised in the House. So, either the Prime Minister or the concerned Minister will reply. Let the Government decide.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : When the Question on our Defence preparedness with respect to Pakistan came up on 11<sup>th</sup> December, they did not listen to the concerned Minister and walked out. ...(*Interruptions*)