

Title: Demanded a thorough Parliamentary probe into the agreement signed by the Government of India and a US-based private company IUNET regarding the implementation of the Sankhya Vahini project of the Ministry of Communication.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government and the entire House a very important matter. Though the matter has already been raised, yet it has not been answered.

Today, in the newspapers, we all read a news item. In the presence of the hon. Prime Minister, the BJP took their Members into confidence in regard to the *Sankhya Vahini* project. Of course, it is the right of their Party to do that. We have no questions about that. But I want to point out the manner in which the arrangement has been made to a private company through a Joint Venture Project violating all the established norms and practices of the Government in the past. A sum of Rs.94.26 crore has been budgeted for this project this year about which the Standing Committee on Communications has made a very strong recommendation. I quote:

"The Committee strongly recommends that the matter should be looked into in-depth and fullest disclosure should be made as to why a particular technology has been selected without following the usual procedure and why DTS was kept out of the process of evaluation. The Committee strongly recommends a full review of the matter before the Joint Venture Agreement is fully entered into."

The question of the country's security as also the apprehension of espionage has been raised widely in the media. Almost all the parties in the country, cutting across party lines, have been raising this for the last two months. The envisaged project cost is Rs.1300 crore for which a provision has now been made. 49 per cent equity has been offered to the IU Net, 45 per cent to the DoT and 4 per cent to the individual institutions of India...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, during the discussion of the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Communications, many hon. Members raised this matter and the Minister also replied to that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): What I am trying to say is that during the discussion on the Demands for Grants, this issue was taken up but it was not addressed.

How can a joint venture deal be signed without inviting tenders? That is why it favours the agents of the United States. ...(*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, we demand that the Government should come out with full disclosure. We demand a discussion and a probe by a Parliamentary Committee. This is a matter of security of the country. We, from Congress Party, demand a Parliamentary probe and a full disclosure in the House. How can a Government enter into an agreement without identifying the equipment? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, the Minister is going to reply now.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am concluding. I only submit that the Government should honour the recommendation of the Standing Committee. There should be a full Parliamentary probe and full disclosure of this Bill, which is causing concern for the security of the country and possible espionage. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kurup, do you want to raise the same issue?

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): Yes, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)

श्री श्रीप्रकाश जायसवाल (कानपुर): अध्यक्ष महोदय, दलितों के हत्याकांड का मामला बहुत ही संवेदनशील है।

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): There should be a thorough inquiry into this deal. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has given notice on the same issue.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : The Standing Committee has already expressed its apprehension about this project and none other than Shri Madan Lal Khurana has come out in the open criticising this MoU. Now, he is keeping quiet. Probably he has been offered a ministerial berth! This is not a matter to be settled between Shri Khurana and the Prime Minister. The country has to know about the facts. Circumventing the established route of inviting global tenders, an MoU is signed between the Government of India and the IUNET, a U.S.-based company. They are not investing anything and mysteriously they own 49 per cent of the shares. ...(*Interruptions*) The Telecom Commission was informed two months after the MoU is signed. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kurup, please understand. During the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry

also, the Minister has replied to the matter raised by some of the hon. Members.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This is a very serious question. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How can you raise the matter again and again.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP The Prime Minister himself has responded defending this commercial deal. The country wants to know as to what is the shady deal. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Minister is replying. Please listen.

...(Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय: आप बैठिये, आपको बाद में बुलायेंगे। Shri Acharia, please understand. The Minister is replying.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We demand a thorough probe into this deal. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister reply.

...(Interruptions)

श्री एस.पी. सिंह बघेल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, दलितों की हत्या की गई है, मामला संगीन है।

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Some of the Members of the Standing Committee are present here. The entire Committee, cutting across party lines, made this recommendation. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It was a unanimous recommendation.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members have raised the matter but they are not listening to the reply of the Minister. It is a peculiar situation. Shri Acharia, please take your seat.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): We would like to hear from the hon. Prime Minister. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This is not the proper way to raise the matter. You have raised the matter and the Minister has replied during the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : The Prime Minister defended the deal in the BJP meeting. The House wants to know.â€¦!
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Other Members have also given notices in regard to a very important matter. Please understand. Please do not obstruct other Members.

...(Interruptions)

श्री राम दास आठवले (पंढरपुर): अध्यक्ष महोदय, खुराना साहब को प्रोटेक्शन मिलना चाहिये।

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members have raised the matter. Now, allow the Minister to reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the reply of the Minister.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members are not cooperating.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): We want to hear the Prime Minister. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kurup, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : We want to hear the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister should come before the House with facts. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Kurup, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister will reply if Shrimati Sonia Gandhi raises something. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just as the Prime Minister took his party into confidence, let him take Parliament into confidence. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you behave like this, it will be very difficult for me to conduct the House. You have raised an important issue and the Government wants to reply

*Not Recorded.

to that. But you are not allowing the Minister to reply. What is your intention? This is not correct. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want the Prime Minister to reply to this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot compel the Prime Minister to reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are others also who have given notices. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Minister's reply.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to make it clear that there is nothing mysterious about the Sankhya Vahini project. When the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Communications were discussed in this House, the Sankhya Vahini project was discussed in detail and after the discussion the House had passed the Demands for Grants unanimously when they were not present here.

Sir, the other House is going to discuss this matter tomorrow under Calling Attention Motion. If the Opposition wants to discuss this matter further in this House, the Government has no hesitation because we have nothing to hide about this project. We are ready for a discussion. At the same time, let me inform the hon. Member, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, that even though he is opposing this

*Not Recorded.

project here and asking for a parliamentary probe, which is totally absurd and unnecessary, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, who belongs to his party, has written that the Sankhya Vahini project should be implemented and the headquarter should go to Mumbai. This is the demand made by his own party's Chief Minister. So, there is nothing to hide and it is a clear project in the national interest. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel.

...*(Interruptions)*

प्रो.एस.पी.सिंह बघेल : सर, टूंडला के निकट बसई गांव में चार मजदूरों की हत्याएं की गई हैं। (व्यवधान)

श्री रामजी लाल सुमन (फिरोजाबाद) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, टूंडला में दलितों की हत्याएं हुई हैं। (व्यवधान)

12.18 बजे

(इस समय श्री रामजी लाल सुमन तथा कुछ अन्य माननीय सदस्य सभा पटल के निकट फर्श पर खड़े हो गए।)

MR. SPEAKER: I called your name. Please go to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपको भी बुलायेंगे, पहले आप अपनी सीटों पर वापस जाइये।

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand the anxiety of other Members also. You are simply obstructing the proceedings of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.19 बजे

(इस समय श्री रामजी लाल सुमन तथा कुछ अन्य माननीय सदस्य अपने-अपने स्थानों पर वापस चले गए।)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : प्लीज, आप बैठ जाइये।

श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान (विदिशा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सदन की वरिष्ठ सदस्य कु. उमा भारती पर हमला हुआ है, वह उनकी हिट लिस्ट में है। (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपको इनके बाद बुलायेंगे।

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has answered a question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rajesh Pilot, please understand the anxiety of other Members also who have given notices.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, the Minister has not answered the main question. When the Standing Committee on Communications has unanimously recommended for a probe, why does the Government hesitate to accept it? The Standing Committee is a part of Parliament. Why should they hesitate to accept the recommendation of the Standing Committee?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied that they do not have any objection to discuss this matter in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, why do they not accept the demand for a parliamentary probe? I am not asking for a C.B.I. probe....*(Interruptions)*

PRAMOD MAHAJAN: The whole House can discuss it.

श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी : आपको जांच कराने में क्या दिक्कत है?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने डिस्कस करने के लिए बोल दिया है।

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We are talking something about the decision on the Report of the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is a part of the House....*(Interruptions)* The parliamentary democracy is being

diluted. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, you protect the findings of your own Committee. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, you do not accept the recommendation on the PDS. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. The Government has replied. Even today, you have a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee also. If there is anything, you can discuss it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, it is not about a discussion. ...(*Interruptions*) I am talking about the system. ...(*Interruptions*) My question is to you as the Speaker. You have appointed the Standing Committee....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is his intention? There should be some discussion. The Minister has already replied. They do not have any objection to discuss the matter.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : His intention is about a probe. His intention is not for a discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Again and again, the same thing is being repeated. Now, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी : मैच फिक्सिंग का मामला आप सीबीआई को दे सकते हैं, इसे क्यों नहीं दे सकते ?^{â€}! (व्यवधान)