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12.36 hrs.

Title: Regarding India's stand on war on Iraq.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Sir, I have given a notice of Adjournment Motion as the stand taken by the Union Government in regard to the impending war on Iraq is very confusing. Rather it seems that it is contrary to the policy of non-alignment followed by our Government.

Sir, through you, I would like to appeal to the Government that we should have a full-fledged discussion on this subject. What is our stand in regard to war on Iraq? May I know whether the Government is against war-mongering or this jingoism of the US Administration? This should be made clear.

My point is that this item should be taken as a priority item for discussion in this august House.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Sir, yesterday, on behalf of the Government, Dr. Malhotra said that, if necessary, the Prime Minister would make a statement on the floor of the House. We appreciate it.

The situation is worsening day by day. The Parliament is in Session; it is necessary that the stand of the Government should be made clear to the Members of Parliament. If it is not made clear to the Members of Parliament, we would be held responsible for having not done our duty; and the Government will also be held responsible for not having informed the Members and having not done its duty. Therefore, we are seeking that the Prime Minister should come before the House. This is the most important issue for the world, for many countries and for India also. So, the Government should appraise us of the stand that it wants to take. We are making a submission to you, Sir, that the Prime Minister should be advised to come to the House and make a statement.

डॉ. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दक्षिण दिल्ली) : अध्यक्ष जी, कल सभी राजनीतिक दलों के नेताओं की मीटिंग हुई। (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप सुनिए, बीच में व्यवधान न डालें। इतनी अच्छी तरह से चर्चा चल रही है, उसको चलने दें।

डॉ. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : सरकार की तरफ से मैंने बयान नहीं दिया था। सरकार को अगर बयान देना है तो वह बयान देगी। मैंने कल पार्टी की तरफ से कहा था। मैं अपनी बात कह रहा हूँ। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: I will see whether the Government wants to react or not.

श्री लक्ष्मण सिंह (राजगढ़) : यह क्या तरीका है कि यह पार्टी की तरफ से बोल रहे हैं और सरकार अलग वक्तव्य देगी।

डॉ. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : मैं बयान नहीं दे रहा हूँ, मैं अपनी बात कह रहा हूँ।

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Dr. Malhotra is one of the leaders of a Party.

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी (खजुराहो) : यह सरकार का वक्तव्य है, इनक अपने वक्तव्य से क्या मतलब है। सरकार सदन के अंदर जिम्मेदार है। उसकी तरफ से बयान आना चाहिए और प्रधान मंत्री जी को बयान देना चाहिए।

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Dr. Malhotra to speak; let him speak.

डॉ. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : इराक के मामले पर सारे देश में और सारे राजनीतिक दलों में लगभग सहमति थी और उसमें कोई मतभेद नहीं था। मेरा केवल इतना अनुरोध है कि इस सवाल पर देश को बंटा हुआ न दिखाया जाए। (व्यवधान)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I strongly object to it. We are not dividing the nation. We only want the Government to step forward and take a stand in consonance with the mood of the people of India against war....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Sir, I am on a point of order. Please allow me to speak for a minute....(Interruptions) Sir, please allow me to raise my point of order....(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALGHAT): There is no point of order during 'Zero Hour'....(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : So many times in the past, points of order have been raised during 'Zero Hour'....(Interruptions) When you have allowed me, why should they object to it?... (Interruptions)

Sir, you have said that all those Members who have given notices for the Adjournment Motion will be first given an opportunity to speak. I agree to that. But, as per the convention, a Member of the Ruling

party cannot bring in an Adjournment Motion....(Interruptions) So, all the times the Opposition will bring Adjournment Motion in the House and thus will get the first opportunity to speak....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Every day, in the name of bringing an Adjournment Motion...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, he can also move an Adjournment Motion against the Government....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I must explain to you that under rules, you are not prohibited from bringing the Adjournment Motion. If you wish to bring any Adjournment Motion you can do it and I will follow the same procedure. You can move the Adjournment Motion on any issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I am talking of the convention.â€¦! (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to change the convention, there is a procedure. You can come to the Rules Committee and get it changed.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I will do that. Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is correct that there was a meeting of the Leaders of all parties on a very-very important issue which is agitating all sections of the House, namely, the situation developing in Iraq and the stand of the United States Government, which is openly threatening war in spite of the Security Council's Resolution to the contrary.

The leading countries in Europe, like France, Germany and Russia have openly opposed this. Even in England there is a revolt by the Members of Parliament against the Prime Minister. In that meeting, we wanted that the view of the country as a whole should be very clearly stated through a Resolution passed in the House. My humble proposal in that meeting was supported by the majority of the leaders attending that meeting. But that has not found favour with the Government. No reason has been given as to why India as a whole should not oppose the threat of war. Nothing has been said in spite of our clearest request to the Prime Minister of India that at least we should make clear that we condemn the attitude that has been taken. At least a Resolution in this regard should be passed in the House. We should make it clear to the world that India would not give any facility in case of any war. We should make our position clear. We are the leader of the NAM....(Interruptions) Unfortunately, a very disappointing reply has come, as if it was justified...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting the Government to make a statement on the issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, the Prime Minister should come. This is a very serious matter...(Interruptions)

श्री रामजीलाल सुमन : प्रधान मंत्रीजी इस सदन में जवाब दें। बहुत गम्भीर सवाल है। â€¦!(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: I know that is your demand. Let the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs say on this.

...(Interruptions)

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्री (श्रीमती सुमा स्वराज) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस विषय पर बोल नहीं रही हूँ, मैं केवल आपकी बात का जवाब दे रही हूँ। सदन की भावनाओं से मैंने प्रधान मंत्रीजी को अवगत करा दिया है। मैं उनकी सुविधा की जानकारी ले रही हूँ कि वे कब वक्तव्य देंगे। उनकी सुविधा प्राप्त करके मैं आपको सूचित करूँगी।

MR. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister is going to make a statement.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (BALLIA, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the Members have said that it is a developing situation. It is developing into a serious crisis. If things are today something, tomorrow, they may be different. So, the House cannot commit itself to any position that the Government may take today. The nation should be one. The Prime Minister has made a statement that he wants peace and that we are not going to support war in any way. If the whole nation is to be represented by the representatives of various political leaders representing here, they should sign a statement along with

the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition and that statement should be made available to the whole world. If you discuss something in the House, I am sorry to say that different types of views will be expressed here and it will not express the unity of the country but would express the divergent views.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, I may be allowed to submit that we are not in favour of dividing the House or the country. We have not yet asked for a discussion. We have asked for the statement by the Government....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, a lot of doubts have arisen because of the Prime Minister's statement of taking a middle path. What is the middle path *vis-à-vis* the situation in Iraq.

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श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान (विदिशा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे भी बोलने का मौका दिया जाए। वेई!(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जरूरत हुई, तो एक बजे के बाद भी मैं आपको बोलने के लिए मौका देने वाला हूँ।

कुमारी उमा भारती (भोपाल) : महोदय, आपने विय को गम्भीरता से नहीं लिया है। मैं आपकी आज्ञा से सदन से जा रही हूँ।

12.48 hrs.

(Kumari Uma Bharati then left the House)

श्री सुन्दर लाल तिवारी (सीवा) : महोदय, यह घमकाने की कोशिश नहीं तो क्या है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह घमकाने की कोशिश नहीं है।

...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री जयपाल रेड्डी जी मैंने आपको बोलने के लिए मौका दिया है। अगर आपकी पार्टी के लोग ऐसा करेंगे, तो आपको मौका कैसे दूंगा। आप नहीं बोल सकेंगे।

...(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: At least, you should control the Members of your own Party.