

**Title:** Regarding safeguarding of national interests at the Third WTO Ministerial Conference's Plenary Session at Seattle, U.S.A.

12.12 hrs.

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह (बैशाली) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, कल से अमरीका के सीएटल में विश्व व्यापार संघ की बैठक हो रही है। अपने देश में और अमरीका में भी, हर जगह इसके खिलाफ प्रदर्शन हो रहे हैं, जिसके कारण कल ही सीएटल की बैठक टाल देनी पड़ी, बैठक समय पर नहीं हो सकी। पांच घंटे तक बैठक टाली गयी। कुछ विकसित देशों के ऊपर अमरीका की दादागिरी चलती है। उनका स्टैंड है कि इस तरह से ट्रेड को लेकर कानून के साथ, फिर ट्रेड को इनवायरनमेंट के साथ और फिर एग्रीकल्चर में सब्सिडी घटाने का एजेंडा उसमें जोड़ करके विकासशील देशों को नुकसान पहुंचाया जाये, जिससे उनको एक्सपोर्ट का मौका न मिले। खास कर भारत जैसे विकासशील देश के साथ बहुत भारी बेईमानी और ऐसी साजिश हो रही है कि यहां के अर्थतंत्र को चौपट कर दिया जाए। माननीय मंत्री जी ने वहां जाने से पहले हमसे परामर्श किया था। हम लोगों ने उनको आगाह किया है कि हिंदुस्तान को तीसरी दुनिया का नेतृत्व करने के लिए खड़ा होना चाहिए और ऐसी शर्तें नहीं माननी चाहिए और नया एजेंडा नहीं जोड़ने देना चाहिए, जो इस देश की अर्थव्यवस्था और उद्योग के लिए खतरनाक हो। हिंदुस्तान का छठा हिस्सा हम है, १६ प्रतिशत हम है। अब हिंदुस्तान को उठ खड़ा होना चाहिए और उठकर तीसरी दुनिया का नेतृत्व करना चाहिए। डब्ल्यू.टी.ओ. में अमरीका की दादागिरी और साजिश के खंडन के लिए प्रबल जनमत तैयार करना चाहिए और ऐसा दिखाना चाहिए कि २१वीं सदी जो आने वाली है वह भारत के १०० करोड़ लोगों की है। किसान पर आज हमला हो रहा है। सब्सिडी खत्म करने का खतरा बढ़ रहा है तथा डब्ल्यू.टी.ओ. में जनतंत्र नहीं है। इसलिए हिंदुस्तान सब बिंदुओं पर खड़ा हो, ऐसी हम अपेक्षा सरकार से करते हैं।

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to speak now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, I have given a notice. What about my notice?

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to speak.

श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव (संभल) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह विषय हमारे देश के लिए गंभीर है। कुछ विकसित देश अमरीका के दबाव में हैं। एक नहीं अनेक फैसले हो रहे हैं। इनके गंभीर परिणाम होंगे और एक परिणाम यह होगा कि महंगाई बढ़ेगी और हमारे देश के १५ प्रतिशत जो गरीब लोग हैं उनको दवाई भी प्राप्त नहीं हो सकेगी। हमारे बार-बार सावधान करने पर भी सरकार सचेत नहीं हो रही है।

12.15 hrs. (उपाध्यक्ष महोदय पीठासीन हुए)

जिन देशों ने इस तरह से अमेरिका के दबाव में या विदेशी शक्तियों के दबाव में पुंजी निवेश का काम किया है, उससे कम से कम सबक लेना चाहिए। दक्षिण पूर्वी एशिया में मलेशिया आर्थिक दृष्टि से सबसे ज्यादा सम्पन्न माना जाता था। वहां के प्रधान मंत्री ने पिछले साल जो बयान दिया था, उससे हमें सबक लेना चाहिए। विदेशी कम्पनियों और विदेशी कृषकृतियों ने केवल मलेशिया की अर्थव्यवस्था को ध्वस्त नहीं किया, बल्कि राजनीतिक क्षेत्र में भी दखल दिया। आज केन्द्र में बैठी भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार पर भी उन विदेशी शक्तियों का पूरा दबाव है। आज राजनीतिक फैसले अमेरिका और दूसरी विदेशी शक्तियों के दबाव में लिए जा रहे हैं। हम इन्हें इससे बार-बार सावधान भी कर रहे हैं और कह रहे हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान अपने स्वाभिमान को बेच कर विदेशी शक्तियों के सामने सिर झुका रहा है तथा घुटने टेक रहा है। यह केवल सरकार का सवाल नहीं है। सौ करोड़ जनता का सवाल है। मैं सरकार को चेतावनी देना चाहता हूँ कि धांधली बंद करो, मनमानी बंद करो अन्यथा आपको इसके परिणाम भुगतने पड़ेंगे। इस देश में अंग्रेजों ने जब धांधली की तो उन्हें बाहर फेंक दिया गया था। धांधली इन लोगों ने भी की। आज कांग्रेस के साथी कहां पहुंच गए ? भानुषा सरकार हम देश की अर्थव्यवस्था विदेशी शक्तियों के हाथ में देकर केवल आर्थिक दृष्टि से ही गुलाम नहीं हो रहे हैं बल्कि राजनीतिक क्षेत्र में भी विदेशी शक्तियों की दखलअंदाजी कराके देश को पुनः गुलाम करने का सबसे बड़ा काम भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार कर रही है। यह सवाल आपका नहीं है। सवाल देश का है, देश की सौ करोड़ जनता का है। यहां ५४३ सदस्य बैठे हैं। यह इनका ही देश नहीं है। यह सौ करोड़ जनता का देश है। इस तरह की धांधली और मनमानी हम समाजवादी लोग बर्दाश्त नहीं कर सकते हैं। हम अब भी आपको सावधान करना चाहते हैं। आप स्वदेशी जागरण मंच चला रहे थे। अब विदेशी जागरण मंच चलाना शुरू कर दिया है। आपने स्वदेशी आन्दोलन क्यों चलाया? आप स्वदेशी जागरण मंच से हट कर विदेशी जागरण मंच इस देश में चला रहे हैं। यह मामला गम्भीर है। आप इस पर विशेष ध्यान दीजिए और दखलअंदाजी कीजिए। आज अल्पमत आप बहुमत का सवाल नहीं है। सवाल देश का है। देश को आर्थिक गुलामी से बचाइए। इससे बचाने की जिम्मेदारी हम सब की है। हमारे देश की स्वतंत्रता को बहुत बड़ा खतरा पैदा हो गया है। इसका उदाहरण अभी दिया गया है कि हजारों-लाखों लोगों ने नहीं, पूरी दुनिया के लोगों ने सिएटल में WTO के सदस्यों के समक्ष प्रदर्शन और विरोध किया। इसका यह नतीजा हुआ कि पांच घंटे तक बैठक स्थगित करनी पड़ी। आप जन भावनाओं का अनादर कर धांधली करेंगे तो मैं अपने साथियों की तरफ से कहना चाहता हूँ कि हम किसी कीमत पर इसे बर्दाश्त नहीं करेंगे। जिस सीमा तक सरकार इस काम को करेगी, हर सीमा तक हम इसका विरोध करने के लिए तैयार रहेंगे और संघर्ष करेंगे।

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSHI (RAIGANJ): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the matter which has been raised by the hon. Member from R.J.D., Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and supported by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav is a very serious one. This morning we are told that civil emergency has been imposed in Seattle and the Ministers are prevented from entering into the hall while Shri Maran, our distinguished Minister of Commerce and Industry, was having his deliberations there. We are also told that besides the agreement on Uruguay round, which was the first and final round of discussions on G.A.T.T. and which was later converted into W.T.O., a few more items are about to be included in the discussions. We do not know the exact position which the Government has already taken in Seattle this morning or what it is likely to take there. So, it would be appropriate if the Government comes forward with a statement, after ascertaining the latest position from Shri Maran who is now in Seattle, and report to the House, so that we can react appropriately thereafter as to what is our stand in the matter. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I should be given a chance to make my submission. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, I have called Shri Jaipal Reddy now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, my name is there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes; I am not denying that. Your name is there.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir.

I wish to bring to the notice of the House that a despatch has been sent from Seattle which appeared in The Hindu this morning to the effect that the Government of India has already reached an underhand understanding with the United States. The despatch quotes a source of the United States to say that we have agreed with the United States in regard to electronic commerce Information Technology Agreement-2 - without insisting on any quid pro quo. Our approach was that we would ask for a review of the patent

regime which was mandatory as a part of the Uruguay Round. We did not get that in return. Even before the Seattle round was inaugurated formally, we have already reached a clandestine agreement.

This is what The Hindu of today says. Shri Rammanohar Reddy, who is a noted expert and who is covering the proceedings at Seattle, sent the newsitem this morning.

The Government should be able to respond to this. If you have agreed with the Government of the United States behind the back of the nation, behind the back of Parliament, even before the convention was started, we would like to know as to what we have got in return.

Shri Murasoli Maran, who is our Minister there, could not assure the country when he was responding to TV presenters on Star TV last night that he would be able to resist linking of non-trade issues, such as, environment and labour with trade.

All this only shows how weak this Government is in its approach. Therefore, even before this Government commits itself to anything, we want Parliament of India to be taken into confidence. This mistake cannot be allowed to be made because if the Government of India commits itself, Parliament becomes helpless. Therefore, I suggest that the Government makes a statement on this issue categorically that it will not make any commitment whatsoever either clandestinely or otherwise without taking Parliament into confidence.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): We should also be allowed to speak on this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, I have got a number of names.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No, Sir; I have given a notice. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You ought to have given the notice at 10 o'clock. Now only you realise that it is an important matter.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will not allow.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are a number of people who have given notices on important matters. I will allow them to speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It has appeared in today's `Hindu'. ... (Interruptions) It is a very serious matter. The House should be informed about what has transpired there and why the Government has surrendered to the United States of America. Is there any agreement which the Government propose to have with the developed nations there? The Parliament should be taken into confidence. Since yesterday, thousands and thousands of workers in Seattle are demonstrating. The local administration had to impose curfew against the movement by the workers who are against the conditions which are being imposed by the developed nations under the leadership of the United States of America. Here, Sir, in our country, more than two lakh employees of insurance sector, today, are on strike ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Where are you going, Shri Acharia? What is your topic? You are clubbing all matters together.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, this is surrendering of our country to them... (Interruptions)

**श्री अनन्त गंगाराम गौत (रत्नागिरि) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जिन लोगों ने नोटिस दिया है, उनको बोलने नहीं दिया जा रहा है।**

... (व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not complicate it further. Please take your seat. Shri Acharia, please conclude now.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we demand that the House should be taken into confidence before any agreement is arrived at Seattle. What is happening there; what are the conditions which are being imposed by the United States of America? The House should be informed of all these issues... (Interruptions)

**श्री चन्द्र मूषण सिंह (फर्रुखाबाद) : माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सरकार का ध्यान देश के आलू उत्पादकों की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।**

... (व्यवधान)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, this is a very important issue that we have raised. There should be some response from the Government... (Interruptions) There is no response from the Government... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): Sir, this is a very serious issue... (Interruptions)

**डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : देश की अस्मिता खतरे में है।**

... (व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please, Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji, the Government is reacting.

... (Interruptions)

श्री रामदास आठवले (पंढरपुर) : यह सरकार देश की अस्मिता को बेच रही है। ... (व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You do not want the Government to react!

... (Interruptions)

श्री अनिल बसु (आरामबाग) : यर सरकार ठीक से काम नहीं कर रही है।

... (व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You do not allow me also to speak in this House. A very important issue was raised and the Government wants to react. If all of you stand up like this, then how can the Government react to it.

... (Interruptions)

श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव : प्रधान मंत्री को यहाँ आना चाहिए और खुद जवाब देना चाहिए।

... (व्यवधान)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Prime Minister should come and respond... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, this is a very important issue ... (Interruptions) The interest of our country is at stake. I feel that the whole propriety demands that either the Finance Minister or the Prime Minister or someone from the Government should respond and react to the grievances and issues raised by the Opposition Members. It is not a lighter issue. A decision is imposed on us in Seattle and these issues are expected to come. Some more issues have come in the The Hindu. The Finance Minister is competent enough to respond or the Prime Minister should respond... (Interruptions)

जल संसाधन मंत्री (डॉ. सी.पी.ठाकुर) : उपाध्यक्ष जी, हम सदस्यों की भावना प्रधान मंत्री तक पहुंचाएंगे लेकिन ये कह रहे हैं, वैसा कुछ भी नहीं है। ...

(व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please hear him first.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we have raised a very important issue and no less than the Prime Minister should respond to it... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, this is "Zero Hour" and the matter has already been taken note of by the Government. How can you expect the Prime Minister to respond right now?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA): Sir, the hon. Minister says

ऐसा कुछ नहीं हो रहा है और हम प्रधान मंत्री को सूचित करेंगे। ऐसा कुछ नहीं है, यह मंत्री जी का जवाब है।

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. I will not allow this. I have to take a serious note of it.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please go to your places. Shri Mulayam Singh, please ask your Members to go back to their places.

... (Interruptions)

12.30 hrs.

( स समय कुंवर अखिलेश सिंह तथा कुछ अन्य माननीय सदस्य सभा पटल के निकट फर्श पर बैठ गए।)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I request the leaders to ask their Members to go back to their seats. This is not the way.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please go to your places. I will have to take a serious note of it. Please go to your places.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will have to take a serious note of it. Please go to your places.

... (Interruptions)

**उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : मुलायम सिंह जी, यह आप क्या कर रहे हैं?**

Shri Mulayam Singh, you are a Senior Member. What is this? You do not want me to conduct this House. This is very very unfair.

... (Interruptions)

12.31 hrs

(At this stage, Shri Tarit Baran Topdar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister can come to the House and react on this issue. It is not a matter to be taken lightly. The Prime Minister should come and react. If he is preoccupied, the Finance Minister can come and react on this issue.

**सर, श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी कहते थे कि महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे पर नेता को सदन में आकर आश्वासन देना चाहिए। यह देश के हित के लिए महत्वपूर्ण विषय है, इसलिए प्रधान मंत्री जी को सदन में आकर बयान देना चाहिए और मौजूदा स्थिति को स्पष्ट करना चाहिए, यह पार्लियामेंट की मर्यादा की बात है**

... (व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I request the hon. Members to go back to their seats.

... (Interruptions)

**श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी : प्रधान मंत्री जी को सदन में बुलाइये**

... (व्यवधान)

वह आकर यहाँ स्थिति स्पष्ट करें

... (व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please go to your places.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am directing you to go to your places. Unless you go back to your places, how can they reply?

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You please go and occupy your seats.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI): Do we have a Government inside the House?

(Interruptions).

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Now, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has come. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to react if you go to your places. Then only I will ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to respond, otherwise not.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Let the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs go to the hon. Prime Minister and tell us the position and take the House into confidence since the matter is very serious. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You please hear me. Will you allow me to speak? Will you not allow me to speak? Please go to your seats. I will ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to interfere. I will ask him to react. You please go to your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Members should first go to their seats, then only I will ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to react.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : The head of the Government, the hon. Prime Minister must answer. The Government is not coming forward with an answer.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the matter of Seattle is not a simple matter. The hon. Prime Minister should come and respond. There is nothing wrong in that. (Interruptions).

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : The Government is not discharging its constitutional duty. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would request the hon. Members to cooperate. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please help me. I will not ask the Government to react until and unless the Members go to their seats. I am helpless. You are an elder Member of the House. This is most unfortunate.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not the way. I am asking the Government to react. Shri Yadav, you will have to ask your Members to go to their seats. I will ask the Government to react. If you are not satisfied then you can raise it again. I am asking the Government. Please ask your Members to go to their seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Government will react.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : My point is that the Government should have come on their own. (Interruptions). We have raised the issue. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will request the hon. Members to go to their seats. I will ask the Government to react.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not the way. This is most unfortunate. This is 'Zero Hour'. Shri Pilot, you know that you are a senior Member. This is 'Zero Hour'.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I agree. But this is a serious matter. Let them say something. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: How can the House be conducted? I am sorry to say this. This is not the way the House is conducted.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is 'Zero Hour'. They are not expected to be sitting here like this.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It may be 'Zero Hour', Sir, but if there is information that the country's interests have been compromised, is it not important?... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure, everybody in this country, not only in this House, will agree ... (Interruptions)

**श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी : प्रधानमंत्री जी खुद कहते हैं**

... (व्यवधान)

उसकी मौजूदा स्थिति क्या है, प्रधानमंत्री जी को खबर है। वे खुद आकर जवाब दे सकते हैं और हाउस को कौन्फिडेंस में ले सकते हैं।

... (व्यवधान)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, the President of Vietnam is in the town. The Prime Minister is busy meeting with them. He cannot come immediately ... (Interruptions). The Prime Minister is meeting him. He cannot leave that diplomatic meeting with the Vietnam President and rush to the House. They must appreciate it... (Interruptions) I can contact him only after his meeting is over. How can I contact him just now when he is busy meeting the Vietnamese President?... (Interruptions) I am surprised why do they not call Shri Kamal Nath and ask him what is happening... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this is not the way. When a matter of such greatest historical importance is going to happen to this country, this should not be the attitude. Let him not show red eyes to anybody. The question is, is it a matter of concern for the country as a whole or not? Everybody knows what are the serious implications of WTO. Even the Minister concerned who has gone there, has been meeting people and even trying to get everybody's support for this. We have cooperated. Our Members have gone along with him. But the reports of what is happening there are very disquieting. The Government itself should have responded and come on its own with a statement here at the highest level. But the way the House is being treated shows as if the matter is of no importance to this country. What is the good of having this House then?... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: May I have a word on this?

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will you please hear me also?

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh, I request you to please resume your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not the way to behave.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad, I will not allow you like this.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: May I request all leaders to hear me? It is a very serious matter that has been raised. The Minister has already told you.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please ask these Members to go to their seats.

... (Interruptions)

**श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव :** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपकी चेयर का सवाल है, आपकी इज्जत और सम्मान का सवाल है। लेकिन इस समय देश का सवाल है। क्या यह कोई मामूली मांग है? अगर प्रधानमंत्री जी किसी बैठक में हैं तो वह इससे महत्वपूर्ण बैठक नहीं है। आज जो सवाल उठा है, यह पूरे सदन की भावना है।

... (व्यवधान)

इसलिए हम चाहते हैं कि प्रधानमंत्री जी यहां आएँ और उत्तर दें। तब तक हाउस स्थगित कर दीजिए। ...

**(व्यवधान)**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, let this House be adjourned ...(Interruptions).

SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH): Sir, let the House be adjourned till the Prime Minister comes here.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the Congress Party will like to make it very clear that this matter has been very widely reported today by a number of news media, followed by the latest information on what is going on in Seattle. The Members have taken up this issue in the House considering the interest and importance of the basic interests of the nation itself, not only on the economic front but on various other things related to the Seattle Conference.

When the issues were taken up in all seriousness by almost all the leaders of all the political parties here, excepting the Government, the propriety demands that the Government should have come out earlier with a statement. However, since the hon. Prime Minister is busy in his meeting with the Vietnam Prime Minister, we do not want that he should come out from the meeting. But his aides could have informed him and told us what time he will be available to come to the House and to make a statement taking the House into confidence. There was nothing wrong in it. I do not know why the Government is delaying these simple matters. ...(Interruptions) If the Government is not serious to respond to the issue by the hon. Prime Minister, it means something is going very wrong. ...(Interruptions) How can the Parliament keep quiet on it? ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA): Sir, how is it that the hon. Minister is not aware of it? All over the world, everybody knows what is happening. We have to take up this issue. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, let the House be adjourned till the hon. Prime Minister comes.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, when India has agreed to some proposal, is it not the duty of the Government to take the House into confidence? Otherwise why should the Parliament function without the Government? ...(Interruptions) Let the hon. Prime Minister come and answer. It has appeared in the Press. We came to know only through the Press. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): Sir, this is a very serious matter. Let the hon. Prime Minister come here. The Government cannot take the House for granted. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : This is an important matter with international ramifications. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : The House cannot be taken for granted. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : The Government cannot take the House for a ride.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, let the hon. Prime Minister come and clarify the position as to whether what has come out in the Press is true or not and how our national interest is going to be protected at Seattle. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, let the hon. Minister say that the hon. Prime Minister will come and make a statement. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, the Parliament is not in the ambit of the Executive. The Executive should submit to the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Can the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs say something?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I will contact the hon. Prime Minister as soon as he comes out of the meeting and inform the House. What can I say at this juncture? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, this is a matter of prime importance. The hon. Prime Minister should come and tell us as to what he is doing.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, let the House be adjourned till he comes.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : The Prime Minister should come and clarify the position of the Government.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has taken an oath. He should come here. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House is adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.47 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.03 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at three minutes

past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRACKPORE): Sir, there is no one in the Treasury Benches.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is there.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, before the House was adjourned, we raised the issue of Seattle - what happened there, what information has been sent to the Government, what has appeared in the Press - and we all, from all the Opposition Parties, demanded that the Prime Minister should come and inform this House. As this is a very serious matter, the information which is there with the Government of India should be shared with us. We demand so because it concerns the interest of our country and we do not want that the Government of India should surrender before the United States of America. Certain disturbing news items have appeared in the newspaper and we want that the House should be informed about this and the House should be taken into confidence as this concerns millions and millions of people of our country.

">So, the Prime Minister should come and inform this House as to what has happened there, whether the Government of India has accepted certain conditions which are imposed by the United States of America, what are those conditions and what are those matters. This House should be informed about it.

">श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, विपक्ष में किसी की यह राय नहीं है कि सदन में बाधा डाली जाए, लेकिन सवाल ऐसा है जो कि सैकड़ों लोगों से जुड़ा हुआ नहीं है बल्कि सौ करोड़ लोगों से जुड़ा हुआ मामला है। केवल कुछ ही लोगों का सवाल नहीं है बल्कि पूरे देश का सवाल है और उस देश के सवाल को लेकर हम लोगों ने केवल यही मांग की कि प्रधानमंत्री जी इस सदन को विश्वास में लें। हम लोगों के सुझाव और हमारी राय भी हैं। जहां तक समाजवादी पार्टी का व्यक्तिगत सुझाव है वह तो निश्चित ही यह है क्योंकि ऐसी स्थिति पैदा हो गई कि इस सम्मेलन से वाकआउट करके वापस आना चाहिए था। और विकासशील देशों का नेतृत्व करना चाहिए था। सम्मेलन में भाग लेने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं रह गयी। सिस्टल में रहने की आवश्यकता ही नहीं रह गई है।

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">हमारे सभी मित्र स्वीकार करेंगे कि जो एजेन्डा बना था उसे भी अमेरिका वाले अपनी दादागिरी से बदल रहे हैं। उसका नतीजा यह होगा कि केवल कुछ लोग बकमंचारी ही प्रभावित नहीं होंगे बल्कि हमारी खेती, किसान और गरीब लोग भी प्रभावित होंगे। अगर उस तरह की शर्तों को स्वीकार करके हस्ताक्षर कर दिए गए तो हर स्तर पर हमारी आवश्यक वस्तुएं महंगी होंगी और हमारा गरीब एवं मध्यम वर्ग बर्बाद हो जाएगा। मैंने पहले भी कहा और अब भी कह रहा हूँ कि इस प्रकार न केवल हमारा देश आर्थिक गुलामी की तरफ जाएगा बल्कि हमारे राजनैतिक क्षेत्र में भी हमारी पूंजीवादी शक्तियों की दखलअंदाजी बढ़ेगी। इसलिए अगर सदन का विश्वास लिए बिना हस्ताक्षर हो गए तो यह देश-विरोधी काम होगा। मेरी आपसे प्रार्थना है कि इस कलंक में आप शामिल न हों। इसलिए मौका दे और प्रधानमंत्री जी सदन को विश्वास में लें, यही मेरी मांग है।

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SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the forenoon, apart from raising general questions relating to Seattle Round, we referred to informal clandestine understanding reached between the Government of India and the United States.

">SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: It was `reported" in that way. Please do not take the responsibility for that news item.

">SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I am prepared to take reasonable kind of responsibility for that fairly reliable report. That report quoted the US officials, and the items on which the Government of India agreed to relate fortuitously, though not fortunately, to the portfolio which is held by my good friend, Shri Pramod Mahajan. The Government of India agreed to zero tariff on electronic-commerce, and agreed to ratify information technology agreement too. You have agreed to all these, even before the Convention was formally inaugurated, without getting anything in return.

">The understanding among all the political parties, when the Government did consult the political parties, was that the Government of India's priority would be to raise the question relating to implementational difficulties arising from Uruguay Round itself, and the Uruguay Round itself mandates that the patent regime should be reviewed by 2,000. So, why are we not taking advantage of this millennial Round, and why are we trying to concede on agriculture and other things? My friend, Shri Pramod Mahajan, would say: "How do you know all this? The Convention has not been started."

">SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Actually, you are making my speech also.

">SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Let me have the privilege of anticipating and pre-empting your speech, dear Sir. In all these international negotiations, there are bilateral negotiations that go on between Governments. Let us not forget, the mightiest man in the world, Mr. Bill Clinton, he may be a lame-duck President of the USA, but he is sitting right in Seattle breathing down the neck of every country.

">MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, please conclude now.

">SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Therefore, there is a need for the Government to come forward and say that no agreement, formal or informal or open or clandestine, has been reached.

">Shri Murasoli Maran was asked by the journalists of Star TV last night whether India was trying to assume the leadership of the developing countries. He could not give an assurance. I heard him on Star TV and the journalists of Star TV further asked him whether Shri Murasoli Maran would succeed in delinking trade from such issues as environment and labour. He was not able to give an assurance. I also heard the BBC and spokespersons from Britain and America. They were very insistent on these things. We really do not know what is happening there. We have faith in this Government but not in the will of the Government. What is required is will and commitment.

">SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I have given notice. I may be allowed.

">MR. SPEAKER: No, no. This is not `Zero Hour`."

">Yes, Shri Dasmunshi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you would kindly recall that in the first Leaders' meeting convened by you, I, on behalf of my Party proposed to the hon. Prime Minister that since the Seattle agenda is on, let the Government come out with their viewpoints as to what business they would like to transact and what should be the stand of the Government. Rightly or wrongly, the last Session of Parliament continued for a shorter period. The Government perhaps thought that that was not the appropriate time and they would make their viewpoints known at the time of the departure of the delegation.

">Sir, the delegation left before the 29th of November, 1999 and this Session of Parliament commenced from the 29th of November. Right after the departure of the delegation, in the media -- not only in the Indian media but in a number of major Asian news media as well -- it has been reported that controversial issues have come up in WTO. It has been reported, quoting US officials, that before we approached the Seattle, some kind of understanding had been reached and arrangements were made with the United States on areas of agricultural tariff regime. It has caused a serious kind of apprehension and tension in the minds of the Indian farming community about their future.

">Sir, secondly, it has further been reported that over and above the agenda of the Uruguay round of talks which was concluded as the first and final agenda of the GATT negotiations, converted into a WTO arrangement, more new chapters are being planned and propagated by the US Trade Department which is being monitored and piloted by no less a person than His Excellency Mr. Bill Clinton. Individual nations were brought into the net and they got from them an oral assurance or made some other arrangement to placate those things against the respective interests of the developing world.

">MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunshi, the Chair is this side and not that side. You are not addressing the Chair.

">SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I am addressing you only.

">MR. SPEAKER: No, you are not addressing the Chair.

">SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, whichever side he may sit, he is addressing you only.

">SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, this House has genuine reason for concern on the report which was published today, specially in The Hindu.

">All these reporters who are publishing these reports are not useless people. They are very competent people. They keep track of all the proceedings of the WTO including the proceedings at the Seattle. Further, this morning it was reported that not only in Seattle, even in the United States, huge demonstrations are going on against the new agenda and the new kind of arrangements which are against the consent of the respective nations. The result of it has been so bad that the host authorities at Seattle had to impose Civil Emergency and curfew in the entire city and even the Ministers had difficulties in entering the venue.

Sir, therefore, it is a natural thing, when the Parliament is in Session, the Parliament would react to such happenings and it is more appropriate as well that no less than a person than the hon. Prime Minister should come to the House, take the House into confidence and react to the apprehensions that have been expressed by the Members and the news media. This demand is not a very major demand. Courtesy and propriety demands that the hon. Prime Minister should come and respond to the situation.

We were given to understand by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister that the Prime Minister was in discussion with His Excellency the Prime Minister of Vietnam. We value that discussion very much and want that it should be fruitful and go in the best interest of friendship between India and Vietnam. However, there is still time. Hon. Prime Minister can come before the House now. PMO must



have received reports from Seattle. We have also received reports, we may be wrong, saying that the latest briefing in this regard was given by PMO to Shri Murasoli Maran in the late evening of yesterday. We do not know what instructions were given in that briefing. Therefore, I plead with the Government to realise the importance of the issue. In view of the importance of the issue, it is appropriate for the Prime Minister to come here and make a statement to update the position before we further react.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we are very much concerned over this issue. I believe my friends on the other side are equally concerned, maybe some are more concerned and some are less, but the country as a whole is highly concerned over this matter and rightly so. This is not an ordinary matter. Our reservations over WTO are there. Certain developments are emanating out of that and we are greatly worried. We had seen Shri Murasoli Maran expressing that he wanted to be equipped to fight against many onslaughts that were apprehended. This is precisely what has happened. Their apprehensions seem to be justified from what appears in the newspapers. Even then this Government is sitting like a sphinx. This is an important matter, a matter concerning the country as a whole, its future, its economy and the Government does not seem to wake up!

">I have been requesting the earlier Governments also that in matters of great moment for India's history such as this, the Government should on its own come and make a suo motu statement on the floor of the House. Somehow, we are not able to develop that culture. It has become a habit that unless Opposition Members rise in their places, justifiably so, and express their reservations, Government does not wake up from its slumber. This Government is following all the bad habits of some of the earlier Governments, and with better expertise it seems. It is a matter for them to consider, I do not know, and a matter which the country will decide.

">The House is agitated over this issue. The whole country is agitated. Who will tell the country as to what is happening except the leader of the Government? Who will take the country into confidence through this House? It is not a routine matter where one can say that one is not available, somebody else is there to take notes while one is away. Is this a matter to be dealt with in such manner? We are highly concerned, and I am sure you are also concerned, over this issue. Let the Government respond adequately through the appropriate authority.

">श्री. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे भी इस पर बोलना है। ... (व्यवधान)

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">MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you have already raised this issue during `zero hour" today.

">... (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Sir, there is another thing here. In view of the seriousness of the situation the Prime Minister should come to the House. The nation must know about this from the highest level because there are serious misgivings. This is our humble demand and a simple demand. I do not know why the Government is so adamant! Let the Prime Minister come here and satisfy the House.

">MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, the Government is ready to respond. The Minister is on his legs.

">SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA): Sir, kindly give me two minutes.

">MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is ready to reply. Please do not obstruct the Minister.

">श्री. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : क्या मैं बैठ जाऊँ ?

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">अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बैठिए।

">

">I have allowed the Minister.

">श्री. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : आपने सब की बात सुनी लेकिन मुझे बोलने का चांस नहीं दे रहे हैं। यह देश के हित का सवाल है।

... (व्यवधान)

मुझे इस पर ज्यादा नहीं बोलना है।

.. (व्यवधान)

">

">अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बैठिए।

">

">श्री. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : सौ करोड़ आबादी का गला कट जाए और हम बैठे रहें। ... (व्यवधान) डबल्यू.टी.ओ. पर दस्तखत होने जा रहे हैं।

... (व्यवधान)

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">MR. SPEAKER: This is too much. This will not go on record.

">(Interruptions) ... (Not recorded)

">MR. SPEAKER: His speech will not form part of the record.

">(Interruptions) ... (Not recorded)

">MR. SPEAKER: Yes, now the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, there cannot be two opinions that the Seattle Conference is a very important conference, and the decisions taken there, as rightly said by our hon. colleague Shri Mulayam Singh, are going to affect one billion people of this nation. That is why, this Government, right from the beginning, not only tried to take the decision at the Government level but we would like to talk to the Opposition also.

">For the first time in the history of the Seattle Conference, the Indian delegation is there not only with the Government delegation but the major Opposition party Members are also there to consult, advise and guide the Leader of the delegation so that the national interest is protected there.

">SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST): Who is representing from the CPI(M), please let us know. Kindly tell us the names of the persons who are representing at the Seattle Conference. (Interruptions)... We would like to know the names of the Members participating there... (Interruptions)... We are keen to know.

">MR. SPEAKER: No, no. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, please take your seat.

">... (Interruptions)

">SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: As I told earlier that any decision taken at the Seattle Conference is not only going to affect the particular portion of the society, it is going to affect the entire nation. So, naturally, we tried this time to see that the delegation also reflects the whole country, and not the Government side only.

">The Seattle Conference has started. I cannot comment as to what reports are there. But I appreciate the concern of the Opposition. It is not only the concern of the Opposition, the whole nation has a right to know about it... (Interruptions)...Let me complete.

">The nation has a right to know as to what is happening at Seattle. The nation will only know through Parliament, and Parliament is in Session. So, naturally, we appreciate the concern of Parliament and particularly of the Opposition Members that the Government should come out with the recent developments at Seattle.

">As I told you earlier, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is busy with a luncheon discussion in Hyderabad House at this juncture with Vietnamese President. That will be over by about quarter to Four. So, the hon. Prime Minister will come to the House at about five o'clock and answer all questions raised.

">If any further questions are there, the Prime Minister is competent here to answer. I will request one more thing. I appreciate the concern of the Opposition. But my only request is this : it is 2.30 p.m. now. I promise to bring the Prime Minister at 5 o'clock. Between these 2 1/2 hours, it being almost early morning or night in Seattle, nothing is going to happen in Seattle in the next 2 1/2 hours. So, I would request the Opposition to wait till 5 o'clock and then the Prime Minister will come and answer all your queries.

">श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जब माननीय संसदीय कार्य मंत्री जी ने इतना महत्वपूर्ण सवाल स्वीकार किया है तो जो हम लोगों की सुबह से राय थी कि प्रधान मंत्री को उत्तर देना चाहिए और पूरे सदन को, सारे नेताओं को विश्वास में लेना चाहिए। हमेशा उन्होंने आम सहमति बनाने के लिए बयान दिया है और माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि हम सबको साथ लेकर चलना चाहते हैं, लेकिन यह इतना महत्वपूर्ण सवाल सारे देश का सवाल था और इस पर पूरे सदन को विश्वास में नहीं लिया गया। हमारी मांग है कि जब तक प्रधान मंत्री नहीं आते हैं, तब तक सदन स्थगित कर दिया जाए।

">... (व्यवधान)

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">MR. SPEAKER: In the meanwhile, we will have business also.

">श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव : मनमानी मत कीजिए।

... (व्यवधान)

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">श्री प्रमोद महाजन : कोई मनमानी नहीं कर रहा है। प्रधान मंत्री जी को मैंने कहा कि मुलायम सिंह जी चाहते हैं कि आप सदन में आएँ तो उन्होंने कहा कि मैं जरूर आऊँगा। अब उनका ढाई घंटे इंतजार भी नहीं कर सकते हैं? इतनी भी क्या बेताबी है प्रधान मंत्री जी से मिलने की? ढाई घंटे इंतजार तो कीजिए।

... (व्यवधान)

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">श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सवाल को लेकर समाजवादी पार्टी को सदन में जोरदार विरोध करना पड़ा है। इसके विरोध में हमारी समाजवादी पार्टी पांच मिनट के लिए सदन से बहिष्कार करती है।

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">( त्वश्चात् श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव तथा कुछ अन्य माननीय सदस्यों ने सदन से बहिर्गमन किया।)

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">... (Interruptions)

">SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have suggested that if the Government comes on its own in such important matters in the morning, so much valuable time can be saved and we can know the Government's view because it came out in the newspaper. (Interruptions)

">MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

">... (Interruptions)

">MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. The hon. Minister is here.

">14.28 hours

">(At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other

">hon. Members left the House.)

">(Interruptions)\*

">MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Rampal Singh says.

">... (Interruptions)

">SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): If necessary, you must reprimand the hon. Member.

">MR. SPEAKER: This is happening many times. It is happening on both the sides. Shri Rampal Singh will now raise his Matter under Rule 377.

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">\*Not recorded.

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