

Fourteenth Loksabha

**Session : 4**

**Date : 21-04-2005**

**Participants : [Dasgupta Shri Gurudas](#)**

Title: Regarding Assam Bandh on 21.4.2005.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I want to inform the House that the entire State of Assam today is in the grip of a general strike. I call it a bandh. But since there is a little allergy on the word of bandh, I do not use it. The total Assam has come to a halt. The bandh has been called by the Oil Field Protection Sangram Samiti of Assam, which consists, I am glad to say, all the political parties. Even the Government of Assam has expressed the solidarity with the demand of the bandh. Therefore, today, a holiday has been declared there. The reason is very simple, and I would like the Government to respond to it. The issue is relating to the leasing out of Amguri Oil Field to a foreign corporate multi-national company by the Minister of the present Government although it is said that the decision was taken by the earlier Government.

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दक्षिण दिल्ली) : उन्होंने किया हैं और हमें कह रहे हैं।... (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, why are you interrupting him?

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not bound by his statement.

... (Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : This Government has done it. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not be allergic. You are not bound by his statement.

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : जो भी ब्लेम करना है, सीधे-सीधे इन्हें ब्लेम करें, हमें क्यों कह रहे हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : दोनों को ही कर रहे हैं, मिडिल पाथ है।

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : The point is simple. The decision might have been taken by the earlier Government but this Government had its own power to reverse the decision. That was not done. Why? ... (Interruptions)

The ONGC had carried out primary exploration.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief. There are many hon. Members who want to raise important issues.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : The whole country knows that the ONGC is a cash rich company. It had the resources to explore, develop and expand the Amguri Oilfield. Therefore, there is no reason why when the ONGC had been allowed to do the primary exploration it has been handed over to a private Canadian multinational company. I would like to know the reason from the Government. The Government has the discretion either to respond or not to respond but I have a right to demand an explanation.

The Common Minimum Programme on which we stand united to support the Government categorically says that there would be encouragement for profitable public sector enterprises.

MR. SPEAKER: Please try to conclude. This is not a discussion.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Why has the Common Minimum Programme been violated? Why is Assam on strike? Is this the way in which the Common Minimum Programme is going to be honoured by the present Government? ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Are they going to bite also?

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\* ...*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi.

*... (Interruptions)*

अध्यक्ष महोदय : क्या बात है, आपकी पार्टी के ऑनरेबल मैम्बर ने एक इम्पोर्टेंट नोटिस दिया है।

*... (व्यवधान)*

MR. SPEAKER: An hon. Member has given an important notice about wildlife poaching which is going on in our country. Please do not interrupt.