

Title: Regarding reported resignation by the Union Minister of Railways.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (HAZARIBAGH): Madam, a grave constitutional crisis has arisen in this country. Parliament is in Session and this Parliament is completely unaware of what is happening to the Railway Minister. The Railway Minister is sitting here in this House. Has he resigned or has he not resigned? If he has resigned, has the Prime Minister sent his resignation to the President for acceptance? क्या स्थिति है यह जानने का हक सदन को बनता है या नहीं बनता है? यह स्थिति अप्रत्याशित नहीं है, कोई मंत्री इस्तीफा दे दे, तो प्रधान मंत्री जी जो कैबिनेट के हैंड हैं, उनका दायित्व बनता है कि वह उस पोर्टफोलियो को किसी और को दें और सदन को इस बात की सूचना दें कि मैंने इस पोर्टफोलियो को किसी और को दे दिया है। लेकिन सारी बातें हम लोग अखबारों में पढ़ रहे हैं और सदन को बिल्कुल कोई जानकारी नहीं है। पिछले दिनों सुषमा जी ने इस इश्यू को रोज किया और जो जवाब सरकार की तरफ से आया, सदन के नेता ने जो जवाब दिया, वह असंतोषजनक था। उसके बाद दो दिन शनिवार-इतवार को हम लोग अखबारों में पढ़ते रहे कि यह हो रहा है वह हो रहा है, ऐसे खींचातानी चल रही है, लेकिन कोई जानकारी इस सदन को नहीं है। मैं आपसे निवेदन कर रहा हूँ कि सदन के नेता के लिए हमारे मन में बहुत सम्मान है। लेकिन प्रधानमंत्री सदन के नेता नहीं हैं, होने चाहिए थे, दूसरी बात है कि नहीं बने। मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि प्रधानमंत्री जी को सदन में आना चाहिए। वे कैबिनेट के हैंड हैं। फर्स्ट एंग्रस इक्वल्स हैं, कौन मंत्रिपरिषद में है और कौन मंत्रिपरिषद में नहीं है, यह बताने का काम प्रधानमंत्री का होता है। इसलिए मैं आपके द्वारा सरकारी पक्ष से मांग करता हूँ कि प्रधानमंत्री तत्काल सदन में आएँ और सदन को विश्वास में ले कर बताएं कि रेल मंत्रालय का क्या हो रहा है?

अध्यक्ष महोदया : आप अपनी बात समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा : दिनेश त्रिवेदी जी सदन के सदस्य हैं और उपस्थित हैं। मैं मांग करता हूँ कि दिनेश त्रिवेदी जी स्वयं उपस्थित हो कर स्थिति स्पष्ट करें। अगर वे कुछ कहना चाहें तो वे कहें।

अध्यक्ष महोदया : अब आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा : उन्हें पूरी ओपेरेटिविटी देनी चाहिए कि वे इस बात को कहें। प्रधानमंत्री जी को सदन में तत्काल आना चाहिए।

अध्यक्ष महोदया : बसुदेव जी, आप बहुत संक्षेप में बोलिए।

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Madam, I am in this House for the last 33 years and I have never seen in the past that a Railway Minister, during a Session after the presentation of the Railway Budget was forced to resign his post. We raised this issue on last Friday. What was the reply? The Leader of the House stated that the Government is actively considering the letter which the hon. Prime Minister has received from the Chairperson of the Trinamool Congress. Now, we have come across reports in the newspapers that the Minister has resigned. But we do not know about it. The House is in the dark. The House has not been taken into confidence. The convention is that when a Minister resigns, either the hon. Prime Minister or the Minister himself makes a statement to this effect. What might have been reason for the resignation of the Minister? There is confusion in the country about this. I demand that the hon. Prime Minister should come to the House and make a statement and tell the House as to what is the position. We would like to know whether the hon. Prime Minister has received his resignation or not. The House should be taken into confidence. The House should not be taken lightly. I demand that the hon. Prime Minister should come immediately to the House and clarify the position.

अध्यक्ष महोदया : आप बैठ जाएं। आप अपनी बात को बहुत लम्बा कर देते हैं।

श्री गुरुदास दास गुप्त।

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (GHATAL): Madam, resignation to me is not the question. Since Shri Trivedi was a representative of a particular political party and that political party is represented in a multi-party Government, it is natural as per democratic principles that if the party asks him to resign, he should resign gracefully. He has resigned and it is good of him. That is not the issue to me.

My issue is a backstage drama is taking place. Kindly appreciate that Parliament is in Session and Parliament does not know as to what is happening. We wanted the Prime Minister to tell us as to what has happened. No reply was given. Shri Pranab Mukherjee said, if I am not incorrect, that we have received no resignation letter. That is also there in the newspaper. My point is that, is it the way a multi-party Government should run? No party has got the majority. It is a multi-party Government. Should a multi-party Government run in this way? If a multi-party Government cannot manage its own

affairs, cannot take into account the opinion of another constituent of the same combination and if it leads to such chaos in the country, then the responsibility lies not with them, but the responsibility lies in the weakness and mismanagement of the Government and the Governmental affairs. It only speaks of the weakness of the Government.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब आप बैठ जाएं। आपने अपनी बात कह दी है।

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam Speaker, while making his observations, Shri Yashwant Sinha referred that my response on Friday was not correct. It was correct because upto that day, we received only one communication from the Chairperson of the Trinamool Congress. Till then, when the House met on last Friday, we did not receive any resignation from the Railway Minister. I am told by the Prime Minister that last evening, the resignation letter had reached the Prime Minister and it is under the consideration and as per the constitutional practice, it will have to be forwarded to the President. As per constitutional practice, the language is very clear which says that the Minister shall hold office during the pleasure of the President and this decision, the President takes as per the aid and advice of the Prime Minister.

Therefore, last night, the Prime Minister has received the resignation letter from Shri Dinesh Trivedi and it is under the consideration of the Prime Minister. As soon as a decision will be taken, the Prime Minister will communicate it to the House and this is the earliest opportunity when we could share this information. It is true that Parliament was in Session but after the presentation of the General Budget, the House adjourned. Thereafter on Saturday and Sunday, it was closed and at the earliest opportunity, I am sharing this information to you....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Madam, is he the Railway Minister now? Will he hear and reply to the debate on the Railway Budget?...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: He has given the reply. Let us proceed with the Question Hour now. Nothing else will go on record.

(*Interruptions*) € *