

the public and the public wants our reply on it..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record. He is speaking without my permission.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record. He is speaking without my permission. I will allow him to take part in the debate when it comes up and give him time.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This House belongs to you and so you can make as much noise as you want. Do whatever you like.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that statement should be made on it and reply should be given by the Prime Minister on the debate fixed for it. I am saying that this matter does not relate to any minister. Three or four ministers have been involved in it. Aspersions have been made on the Committee also which has been set up by the Prime Minister himself, then who else will reply to it. Therefore, Prime Minister should reply the questions on it and action should be taken against the corrupt persons. It should not be the practice that the matter is given up after the reply is given on the debate as it had been earlier. It should not be like earlier when no action used to be taken against those found responsible for corruptions.

[English]

I am saying that the heads of those responsible for corruption must roll and the country is interested in knowing who are the corrupt people.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Yadavji, I have allocated time for it. Please sit down, other people are raising objection to it.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for allocating time.

[English]

But, I am saying that the corrupt people must be brought to book, heads must roll and country must know as to what is being done in this country.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will keep myself confined to the issue for which I sought your permission.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, we politicians are very careful about our image but the people from civil service are not given a chance to speak here. I am raising an issue involving a person who is no more in this world. The Government should not keep quiet about it.

I am making a mention of the former Governor of Punjab. Shri Surendranath. He was one of the good officers. He worked in Jammu and Kashmir. He worked as Chief Secretary of Mizoram, later on as Governor of Punjab. He served the country at the time of crisis. He died in an air crash. Several members of his family also died with him. But the news items that appeared after his death were really astonishing.

Newspapers have published these news items in detail that a huge property has been recovered from the Governor's House. It consisted of diamonds and other precious gems. He had movable as well as immovable property. A huge amount upto Rs. 300 crore was deposited in his bank account. The Minister of Home Affairs has also been implicated for having allegedly brought some suitcases from there. It seems that, that very suitcase is on a historic trip and presently going to the house of Minister of Home Affairs. But Home Minister kept quiet on the issue. I wish that...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): I have denied the allegation.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You have made a denial for the suitcase and not for the property recovered from the house of Shri Surendra Nath. Proofs about this property have also been found. This House and the whole country wants to know about it. It is really a serious matter if such a huge property have been recovered. If the property had not been recovered and the published news items were not based on facts then...(Interruptions) You are interrupting me. I am raising a serious matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR (Faridkot): Hon. Leader of opposition is getting angry but I was saying that I will speak on this issue after you.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I never interrupt anyone but when someone interrupts while I am speaking, it really hurts me (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are well within your right.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur): You are Atal (quiescent).

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: No, I am 'Bihari' (vagrant) too.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a compliment to Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am not making any comment on the people of Bihar.

I would like to draw your attention and the attention of this House towards a very serious matter. If such news items appears after the death of an executive and the Government neither deny or support it, such an attitude defames the whole service. Really it brings down the morale of the entire service. If these reports are true then matter is more serious. I would like that the hon. Minister

of Home Affairs should clear the situation and he should take the House in confidence as to what extent the propaganda in this regard is right or wrong.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR: I connect myself with the issues raised by hon. Leader of Opposition, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He was Governor to the State I belong to. The whole State discussed the issue and all the members of his family died in an unfortunate air crash. Elections were held in Punjab under his Governorship. He was considered an outstanding executive Governor and Administrator. But later on some reports were published which were not contradicted on behalf of the Home Minister and Chief Minister of the State. It has given several serious questions in the minds of the people because the whole country knows that he had deep and cordial relations with the hon. Home Minister. 'Hindustan Times', 'Tribune' and Varnakular news papers has published news items that during his visit Minister of Home Affairs had brought an important file with him. People came to know about the property through the persons who collected it from the Governor's house because his son reached there late. The whole secretariat discussed the huge treasure of precious gems and jewellery alongwith crores of notes of Rs. 500 denomination recovered. Now the God alone knows the truth in it but no denial came regarding this. It is really a serious matter that it had been said that a part of this money and funds from Home Minister's Discretionary Fund been used for secessionists activities in Pubjab and for creating conflicts among political parties.

[English]

The hon. Governor is no more. One should not talk about people who exist no more. But because.

[Translation]

It is a very serious matter. He withdraw Rs. 50 lakh which was used to gain political ends. The whole country and Punjab would like to know about it. In Punjab these views are in the air that along with the terrorists, some governmental agencies were also involved in secessionist activities and perpetrating atrocities against the common man. It is really something very serious. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has raised this issue. After the Governor's death a committee was constituted to set up a Fund. A committee was set up for it. His son has given a statement before the committee that none has contributed even a single pie in that memorial Fund and he himself came from Jammu and deposited Rs. 5000 in it.

[English]

Niether the State Government, nor the Indian Government has deposited a single rupee in that account. We would like to know from the hon. Minister what is truth, what are the facts.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the news about the death of the former Governor, Shri Surendra Nath, reached me when I was at Nanded. A special plane was sent by the Prime Minister and he wanted me to go and attend the funeral. From there I went to Bidar and from Bidar I could go straight to Chandigarh.

In about half-an-hour or so I was in the Raj Bhawan to lay the wreath on my behalf and on behalf of the Prime Minister. Thereafter I was at the cremation ground for almost three hours. After coming back, I did not go to that Raj Bhawan. I went to the other Raj Bhawan, Haryana Raj Bhawan, and from there I had come back.

It is true that I have had good relations not only with him but with all the Governors in the country. So, if that becomes a disqualification for the Governor, for which some people are saying unnecessarily after his death, this is very unfortunate that this kind of an issue should have been raised after his death, when all his family members were not there. Thereafter I had an occasion to request the Governor to make full enquiry. He came and told me and I had also thereafter gone to Chandigarh in some other connection. I had made personal enquiries also with the A.D.C. who, in fact, was with him. After the death, all his rooms were locked. There was no one available in the family. There was only one son who came and joined later on before the funeral.

After full enquiry I can say, without any fear of contradiction, that there is no truth in the statements which have been coming in all the papers. The only thing which was found in the entire information which was given to me was about Rs. 70,000 of which some might be from the Government. I would not exactly remember how much of—it is Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000 that was found in the chest of the Governor—and the others were his personal belongings—usual kind of jewellery and other amounts that have been found. Besides this, I do not think, there was any other thing which possibly can lead to this kind of an inference that hundreds of crores of rupees were found and Rs. 500 notes, as the hon. Member is saying, were found. If it is within this amount, certainly I cannot say anything.

But to say that something substantial has been found there is without any basis. I have made personal enquiries. I am fully satisfied that there is nothing of the type. And that is why, I would like to take the House into confidence and say that making enquiries, I am giving this kind of a statement here which, in fact should satisfy the House....(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Let us go to the business on the Agenda so that we have enough time for other things.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to take one minutes regarding identity cards ... (Interruptions) The issue of identity cards is most important. My submission to you is that we have given notice in this respect... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, the Member wants you to listen to what he is saying.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, both the House and the Government are aware of the fact that 15th January has been fixed for issuing identity cards all over the country and particularly Bihar. Through you I