

[Sh. Chandra Shekhar]

to my notice that there was an increase in the issue price of rice. We have gone into this question and we have issued necessary instructions that the prices should not be increased and the rice should be available at the old price.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.52 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI IBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Manjeri): What about the adjournment motion regarding communal situation? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): We have not heard the Prime Minister about Mr. Kalvi's induction. *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you coming forward. Please be seated at your place.

*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI IBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Manjeri): What about the communal situation in the country? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I am coming to that.

*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, human rights have been infringed in Ayodhya... *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

14.00 hrs

RE. ALLEGED SUPPORT BY SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, FOR 'SATI PRATHA'

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, the Prime Minister is here now. Is it permissible that the House will continue with Mr. Kalvi as a Minister just because he is an ardent supporter of *Sati*? We cannot allow a *Sati* supporter in the Ministry.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Prime Minister.

*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Listen to the Prime Minister.

*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): Mr. Speaker Sir, some hon. Members raised certain points in the morning about Mr. Kalyan Singh Kalvi. Even at that time, I wanted to make some clarifications but unfortunately, we could not hear each other. When this matter was raised three or four years back, it was debated in the Rajasthan Assembly and was discussed in the then Janata Party also. Mr. Kalvi is on record in the Rajasthan Assembly that he has never supported *Sati Pratha*. He had said

that as long as intelligent people are there in Rajasthan, they will never like revival of *Sati Pratha* and subsequently he made that statement in a public meeting also. Shri Kalvi was ready to make a statement in this honourable House this morning that he does not support *Sati Pratha*. I want to make it clear to the hon. members that nobody will support *Sati Pratha* and anybody supporting *Sati Pratha* will have no place in this Government. I can give this assurance to the House. Mr. Kalvi made his position clear at that time and even today, he stands by that position... (*Interruptions*) ... There are some differences which I want to make it clear. There is a *Sati* temple in jhunjhunu which is 400 or 500 years old. When some people demanded the demolition of that temple, not only Shri Kalvi but many other people opposed it. So, I do not want that Members should say something which injures the susceptibility of certain people. Otherwise, *Sati Pratha* is something which should get condemnation of everybody and I assure that through you Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Kalvi or anybody supporting *Sati Pratha* will have nothing to do with this Government. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Let him say this before the House. Let him say that he is not supporting *Sati*. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I am ready to answer your points. (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: He had visited that house. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Yes. He went to that house because they were his relatives and it is quite common and it is a matter of courtesy and etiquette in this country. Whenever a person dies even a normal death, people go there and Shri Kalvi also went there. What is wrong in it? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: He should state whatever he wants to say in the form of a statement. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kalvi.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please hear Mr. Kalvi?

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel extremely sorry for the present discussion. I want to make it clear that I am not going to give any clarification in this regard, because you will say that it's an afterthought... (*Interruptions*) ... Whatever I have spoken in the Legislative Assembly is on record. It is included in the proceedings. I will read that out for you. This will make everything clear... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is the problem now?

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: As I had already said, so far as Rajasthan is concerned, there was nothing of the sort of *sati* practice nor is there any today. So long as sensible people remain in Rajasthan, revival of such a practice or even an apprehension of it is quite baseless. Nor shall we ever allow such a thing to happen. (*Interruptions*) I want to make this thing clear that this has never been our tradition.

DR. THAMBI DURAI (Karur): Sir, It is well known that in Tamil Nadu a lot of anti-national activities by the Sri Lankan militants have been going on in the recent past. The normal life of the Tamil people has been affected greatly because of such activities. On December 24, when our party leader, Miss Jayalalitha went to visit the MGE Samadhi to pay her respects on his death anniversary at Madras, one Sri Lankan militant came with a weapon and tried to kill her. I want to know from the Prime Minister what action has been taken by the Centre as also by the State Government in this regard... (*Interruptions*)