

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE
(Dumdum): Sir, can there be Question Hour today? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now it is question hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us proceed with the question hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
How can we proceed with the question hour.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I will request you to take your seats. Let us proceed with the question hour.

(Interruptions)

11.06 hrs.

RE. ALLEGED THREAT OF ARREST TO
THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA BY SHRI
SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY, A UNION
MINISTER

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
Is it a parliamentary democracy? *(Interruptions)* The Minister has threatened the Speaker.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA
(Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Lok Sabha Speaker, has been threatened. How can we proceed with question hour in such a situation.

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat.

[English]

Let us proceed with the question hour.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
He should submit his resignation... *(Interruptions)*... How can there be question hour... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): What happened to the privilege motion that I had given? *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me proceed with the question hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
The Prime Minister has to explain. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tyagi, you please go back to your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We want that the Prime Minister should come and explain. How can such a Minister remain in the Cabinet? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us proceed with the question hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please take your seats?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Advani.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

I am on my legs. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I request the Members not to press the issue. I have disallowed all motions in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: The Speaker is on his legs.

(Interruptions)

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: He cannot be allowed to be in the Cabinet. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you all please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (New Delhi): Mr. Speaker, not only the Opposition but I am sure that all sections of the House have felt extremely disturbed by the news that appeared this morning in which an hon. Member of Parliament and a Member of the Council of Ministers is reported to have threatened having the Speaker arrested... (Interruptions) ... Now, this is not a party issue at all and this is not an issue between the Opposition and the Government also. It is an issue which cuts across all party lines and I am sure that if there is an iota of truth in this report, then this House has reason to feel agitated about it. It is not a personal matter concerning Mr. Rabi Ray. It is a matter concerning the honour of the whole House and the honour of the Speaker is the honour of the whole House. The report also said that the Prime Minister also came to you or saw you and tendered apology, etc. which is befitting for the Prime Minister. But I would plead with you and I would beg of you not to close the chapter until the full facts are told to the House. It may be that the report is not correct. There are variations in it. The facts, as they are, should be known and proper action should be taken. This is my view Sir. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Rameshwar Prasadji, please take your seat. Mr. Acharia, take your seat. I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tyagi why are you standing when the Speaker is on his legs?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have disallowed all the Adjournment Motion and the Privilege Motion in this regard.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not finished.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: He has insulted the entire House and the entire country. He should submit his resignation. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Since it involves me, I would request the Members not to press the issue.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Mr. Speaker, rest assured, none on the side of the Opposition wants to make it an issue of confrontation with the Government. The question is not just to pass remark that since you are involved, you do not want us to raise the issue. Sir, you are right in your sensitivity to it. Since you are the Speaker and you are occupying the Chair,

you are not to be put in an embarrassing position. I have given a notice of privilege under Rule 222 against Dr. Swamy and I have said that it is not your behaviour that is being discussed. We cannot discuss the conduct of the Speaker in the House. It is likely that the report is wrong also and I have said that you would be the first person to verify the report that has appeared whether it is correct or not. There are three aspects that I would like to point out. It is learnt from the report that he came to yours saying that extension should be given to those who had to reply to the notices regarding disqualification and you have said that it cannot be done. Further three issues are involved in this matter. Firstly, disqualification does not concern the Speaker. As far as disqualification is concerned, if we go to Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, paragraphs 6 and 7 very clearly say that the ruling, regarding disqualification, by the Speaker is final.

Secondly, in para 7 it is stated that no court has jurisdiction as far as the issue of disqualification is concerned. So your decision is final. The Constitution is being violated and it is an affront to the Constitution. The provisions of the Anti-Defection Law are also being violated. If, in your wisdom, you have decided to give extension, it is different. But nobody can threaten you. Everybody has a right to request. The Leader of the House can request you to extend the time because some members have yet to give explanation. It is not the question of your conduct that we seek to discuss through the privilege motion. I said that very clearly.

As far as Dr. Swamy is concerned, first of all it is a deliberate contempt of the House, of the Speaker and also an affront to the Constitution. As far as Scheduled 10 is concerned, it is completely violated. Therefore, at whatever time you want it, you should allow our privilege motion to be heard and then you should decide. I do not think there is any other case. I will sit down by quoting just this.

In the regime of Charles I, the King come to the House of Commons to arrest

certain members and said, "Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to arrest these four persons." The Speaker said, "Your Majesty. I am the servant of this House. I see with the eyes of this House, I hear with the ears of this House and I am the servant of this House. Your Majesty, I cannot oblige you." He went away and all the members on both the sides of the House of Commons shouted against His Majesty, "Your Majesty, breach of privilege, breach of privilege." The King came with the army but he had to walk out. That was how the Speaker showed dignity.

It is not the question of Mr. Rabi Ray. It is the question of the seat that you are occupying and it is the dignity of the House. No member can threaten you. Even when the King challenged the Speaker, he was driven out of the House. I would like you to take that position and allow our privilege motion to be heard at the appropriate time.
(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: We do not know what the press has reported. We do not know whether they have reported correctly or not. But it is obvious, and it is true that the entire House is agitated over what has appeared in the press. If it is true, the gravity of the crime is all the more. Therefore we feel that this is not merely an insult to the Chair. The Chair represents the House and this is an indignity heaped on the entire House and through the House on the entire country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I am on another matter.

11.18 hrs.

WELCOME TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I have to make an announcement.

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, His Excellency Mr. Bernard Dowiyogo, President

of the Republic of Nauru is currently on a state visit to India.

I am glad to inform the House that his Excellency Mr. Bernard Dowiyogo, President of the Republic of Nauru is now seated in the special box to watch the proceedings of this Honourable House.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Honourable Members of the House, we extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Bernard Dowiyogo. We wish him a happy and fruitful sojourn in our country. We also wish to convey our greeting to the Parliament and the friendly people of the Republic of Nauru.

11.19 hrs.

RE. ALLEGED THREAT OF ARREST TO THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA BY SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY, A UNION MINISTER—*CONTD.*

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): Any person in this country who threatens the Speaker with arrest is not fit to be a citizen of the country. A person can be arrested for burning the Constitution. This is worse than burning the Constitution. Thus, the matter of threatening the Speaker is very serious. It is an insult to the country that such a person—if the report is true—has been inducted into the Cabinet. In this case, the minimum sanction is that he is liable to be arrested without any delay. If the Prime Minister does not come out either with the facts or with an explanation of the facts, we cannot allow this House to continue in this fashion. This is our birth right. We have come here to revive the Parliamentary democracy. We cannot allow anyone to thwart the Parliamentary democracy and subvert the Constitution. We, therefore, request you for a full discussion and all the reports must be

immediately placed by the Prime Minister so that we can be taken into confidence and we can take a decision as to what should be done with that particular individual.

This is my request to you. I wish that you would request the Prime Minister to immediately come forth with the facts and explain them.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not only the question of Speaker, but it is the question of the House. The issue involves the question of the Constitution also. The way the news has come, whether it is true or not is not known to us. But the whole country is disturbed. Even, Charles the I, did not care to arrest the Speaker, who was beheaded.

So, Mr. Subramaniam Swamy's the remark he has made against the Speaker, if it is true—conduct is under question. We want the Prime Minister to make a statement not only to get him dismissed from the Cabinet but also arrest him. It is not only in the interest of the Speaker Rabi Ray but it is also in the interest of the Parliamentary democracy and the Constitution.

[Translation]

SHRI K.C. TYAGI (Hapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a basic issue. Since it is an issue which concerns the decorum of this House and you are holding the top most position in this august House, I request you kindly to enlighten us with the entire details of the conversation you had with Dr. Subramaniam Swamy in your chamber and Shri Satya Prakash Malviya in this regard.

Before the Prime Minister gives a statement in this regard, I would like that the conversation between these three people should go on record.

I had already objected that a person who has links and loyalties outside the country, had no right to be a Minister

He should be arrested.

[English]

He should be arrested on question of treason and on the question of causing insult to the Speaker.

[Translation]

Keeping in view this fact that he has links with Israel and America, he should be arrested and dismissed from the Cabinet. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
He should be arrested.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): It is an allegation. He should withdraw it. It should not be there in the records. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chitta Basu. Maliniji, you please take your seat. Now I shall call Shri Harish Rawat... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): We want to know the truth.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we were feeling embarrassed. It is not the question of Mr. Rabi Ray or anybody, but it is the question of Speaker.

Sir, you, as the Speaker of the House, represent the dignity of the House. The remarks which have appeared in the press, which were made by Mr. Swamy, are a direct assault on the office of the Speaker. No Member of the House, what to speak of a Member of the Cabinet, has got the right to assault on the office of the Speaker. Therefore, he has violated the fundamental conduct, as a Member of the House.

Secondly, you are the custodian of the rights and privileges of this House. I am an

ordinary and a private member of the House. My rights and privileges are always safeguarded by you. Therefore, an assault on the Speaker means a contempt of the House. It is a clear case of the breach of privilege. Therefore, a Motion has been moved and you should follow the procedure in that regard.

Lastly, we have got a Cabinet, a Cabinet of defectors. In that Cabinet, we find many personalities whose conduct is against the basic principles of this House. The Prime Minister, I hope, will make a statement. (Interruptions) Sir, it is quite pertinent that we know what transpired between you, Mr. Satya Prakash Malviya who happens to be the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, an Hon. Minister...

SHRIMATI SUBHASINI ALI (Kanpur): Dishonourable, not honourable.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: For the time being, he is honourable. (Interruptions) Even now, he is an hon. Member of the House. What transpired between the three should be made known to the House, because this is the highest representative forum of the people. I think it involves the conduct of the Minister, it involves the rights and privileges of the House, it involves the prestige and the authority of the Speaker. Therefore, I want that those details should be made known to the House.

Lastly, a person of that nature should not adorn the benches of the Cabinet. He should be immediately sacked, because he has committed a crime, not against anybody but against the House as a whole. Therefore, the Prime Minister should decide what he should do in this matter. (Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): There is lot of heat being generated on this, and Mr. Subramaniam Swamy and Mr. Malviya, both are here including the Prime Minister. I think you should give them a chance, Sir for us to hear. (Interruptions) You can, thereafter, call all the heads of the parties to your Chamber.

I have a very important question also. So, after giving them a chance, call them to your Chamber. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kamal Nath, will you please take your seat?

[*Translation*]

HON. MEMBER: Don't try to protect the guilty person. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI INDERJIT (Darjeeling): The report in the 'Hindustan Times' today raises issues of great importance to the functioning of our Parliament, as also to the future of our democracy. It is very difficult to believe that any responsible Member of the Council of Ministers could possibly make a statement, as he is reported to have made. It is equally difficult to believe that a newspaper of the standing of the 'Hindustan Times' could publish a report of this kind. The House Mr. Speaker, is entitled to know the truth. It is not enough if the Prime Minister speaks. Dr. Subramaniam Swamy is here. I think he should speak, as also the Prime Minister.

Lastly, I would like to make one point. The Speaker, as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said, represents the dignity of the House, and indeed the dignity of the nation. Any assault on this office is an assault of very grave consequences. (*Interruptions*) Therefore, I would urge that the House should first know the truth before we sit in judgement over the matter. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Sir, when we saw the news item, we were really shocked in one sense of the term, because the news item starts with bold headlines, speaking of a cabinet Minister having threatened to have you arrested, etc. We do not really know exactly how far this

news item is correct; and it almost quotes you, then it quotes Dr. Swamy and then it quotes Mr. Malviya; how far it is correct and how a it is wrong, is to be known. You in your best judgement, having received a Privilege Motion and knowing the facts—I think this is a matter where you yourself was present—took a decision not to admit the Privilege Motion. (*Interruptions*) It indicates the veracity of this report. That decision itself indicates that whatever is in this report is not exactly correct. Mr. Malviya and Dr. Subramaniam Swamy are both present here. You yourself are also present. If it is necessary, it could be looked into. But, I think it is in the interest of the House—when the Speaker says that no farther probe is required—not to go into it further. (*Interruptions*) It is the prestige of the House not to go into it and spoil the matter further. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Prime Minister.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU (Balasore): I am on a point of order. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order? What rule has been violated?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: My humble submission is that I have given a notice of the Privilege Motion today. If it is true—Mr. Kumaramangalam has said here—and he has said that that he has decided about it with the Prime Minister—then you being a party, Sir, you should not take any decision on this Privilege Motion. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: First of all, with all respect, you are not only supposed to be the custodian of the rights and privileges of the Members but also to guarantee the dignity of this House. This atrocious behaviour of this Minister... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Please don't take any decision yourself on this; somebody else should take a decision on this. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is the Leader of the House. I now all upon the Leader of the House, the Prime Minister to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Basudeb Acharia, please take your seat. I have called upon the Prime Minister to speak.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR): Mr. Speaker, I share the views expressed by the Leader of the Opposition. I know that if you have to function in a parliamentary democracy, the dignity of this Chair should be maintained. I want to assure the members and the people of this country that there is no King; even if the King was beheaded, no Minister can dare to threaten the Chair in any way. No sooner was this brought to my notice by somebody... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUBASHINI ALI: Who was that? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: You admit that this is true. If this is true, then why do you retain him in the Council of Ministers. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, let him speak. The Prime Minister is on his legs. You are an experienced Parliamentarian, please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Basudebji, when the Prime Minister is speaking let us listen to him.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr.

Speaker, Sir, I assure the hon. Members, when they demand some statement from the Prime Minister, they should know my limitation. I was not present there. How can I say whether it is true or not? (*Interruptions*) I am giving what I know. I cannot give what I do not know. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Is it true that you apologised? Why did you apologise? What did you apologise for? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at least I enjoy that much right which the hon. Members enjoy. I am also a member of this House and I have also a right to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Anadi Charan Das, please sit down. The Prime Minister is on his legs. Will you please give him a patient hearing? Nirmal Babu, please sit down.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Tell us what has happened. Otherwise why did you apologise to the Speaker? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Prime Minister.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: He says he was also present. Has he not got time to talk to his Minister? Why did he apologise.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Please tell us as to what the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has told you.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are satisfied with the reply of the Prime Minister but whatever transpired between three of you should go on record.

MR. SPEAKER: Subhashiniji, you please take your seat. The Prime Minister has noted what you have said. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, may I request the hon. Members to listen to me? I shall not take more time. What I know I shall say.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, please, you allow him to speak.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no sooner I came to know that...*(Interruptions)*

Please hear me. Let me complete my sentence. This is not the way I can also make noise. But it is not the way. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, I tried to contact you, I got in touch with you and I asked and specifically if anything of this sort has happened and I was assured by you that nothing serious has happened and I should not take notice of it. *(Interruptions)* Yes, I requested the Speaker, that anything which is insulting to the Speaker is insulting to the House and if the Speaker feels in any way aggrieved, I am ready to take any action, at the moment. When I was assured by the Speaker that nothing of this sort has happened, I thought that nothing happened. Even then I said, "Mr. Speaker, nothing of this sort should have ever been rumoured about. I apologise to you if something like this happened." And Mr. Speaker, you were kind enough to say that there is no question of apology, that this matter should not be taken seriously. This is what has happened. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: It is not just a matter of apology. *(Interruptions)* He has to say how he continues to be a member of his Council. How does he continue to be a member of your Council? *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Nirmal Da, take your seat please.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Ask him to stand up and say whether it is true or not... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUBHASINI ALI: Malviyaji will have to speak. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Mr. Malviya stood up. Please ask him to give the facts... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI K.C. TYAGI: When Shri Malviyaji is going to speak, I want that he should contradict this news and should say that the report is not correct. It is the opinion of all of us that the talks held among the three should form part of the proceedings of the House, because this was not a private conversation. We would like to know whether this reported news is correct or incorrect? Malviyaji should throw light on this news here in the House... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: You are generous... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu go back to your seat please.

[English]

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: It is the property of the House.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Go back to your seat please.

[*English*]

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: There cannot be any compromise on the dignity of the House. He wanted to arrest you. He wanted to show his authority... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: What did the Hon. Prime Minister apologise for? If a man, who has committed murder, apologies can he be acquitted? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: You should tell us whether it is a fact or not?

MR. SPEAKER: Resume your seat please... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. TYAGI: We hope that he will throw light on truth.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: I was very much surprised to read the news in the Hindustan Times, because the news which appeared in it is not true. After the Hon. Prime Minister's statement on this matter, there is no need to pursue it further... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Why did the Prime Minister apologise? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make it clear that the news that has appeared in the Hindustan Times is not true. It is far from truth... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You may please resume your seat, now. I am now calling Shri Ram Vilas Paswan to speak... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rarely speak here as you

hardly permit me to speak... (*Interruptions*)
...Sir, just now, the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Parliamentary Affairs respectively made their statements here in the House. The Prime Minister in his statement said here that he asked the Speaker whether he was hurt by Shri Swamy's behaviour or not and whether he was pained by his statement? But we want to know whether such words which lowered the dignity of the Chair were used or not? Even Malviyaji did not throw any light on this. I think that this issue should be straight away sent to the Privilege Committee and only there after any further action in this regard should be taken. It must be clearly denied, if such incident has not really taken place. A Member threatens the Chair and an attack is made on the dignity of the office of the Speaker, thereupon he is asked by the Prime Minister whether he has been hurt or not and if he has any grievance against that or not? Despite all these happenings, the Minister of the Parliamentary Affairs claims that the news which has appeared in a newspaper is incorrect. So, we would like to know as to what is truth after all?... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, even before the Press reported, it reached the ears of the Prime Minister. Let us get the facts. If he denies that whatever has come out in the Press is untrue, then there will be breach of privilege against the Paper. You must remember that even before the Press report came out, it reached the ears of the Prime Minister and you are denying that... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Malviya, a poor Minister, a good friend of mine, has already added fuel to the fire by saying that what has appeared in the Press is not true. This has made the matter much more complicated. He is a Minister. Now the question is your honour and your dignity is not yours; it is ours, of all of us. There are no two opinions about it. Now, after all the things that have been said, he has brought about a change. The Prime Minister has brought some conciliatory note,

I must say, whatever it may be. But now our Minister has completely changed it saying that it is not true. The Parliamentary Committee must examine it... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: He denies even the fact that the Prime Minister has met you. *Hindustan Times* has reported that also. The Prime Minister has admittedly met you and he wanted to apologise before you. He denies even that. There should be a privilege motion against him also... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The Parliamentary Affairs Minister has contradicted what the Prime Minister has said... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (New Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that a gross contempt of the House has been committed. It is either the Minister, Mr. Subramaniam Swamy or then the *Hindustan Times* who has been guilty of contempt of this House. I am surprised that no one from the ruling party or from the Council of Ministers has denied it. Shri Satya Prakash Malviya has suggested that the report is not quite correct. That is what he suggested. I would think that if what he says is true, then the *Hindustan Times* has been guilty of contempt of this particular Member concerned. The Prime Minister tendering an apology to you, if you feel aggrieved about it, cannot close an issue of this kind. This is an issue involving the dignity of the House and, therefore, I would plead with you to review, reconsider your decisions on the various Privilege Motions moved by my colleague from this side and refer all those Motions to the Privileges Committee either on their instance or *suo motu* so that even if the *Hindustan Times* is found guilty, it can be taken to task. Otherwise the Members of this House concerned can be taken to task. But this matter cannot be closed with an apology from the Prime Minister if you feel

aggrieved. You may be very generous and, therefore, you can say that you are willing to overlook this worst amount of insult made to you.

But this House and Parliament cannot condone insult to the dignity of the House. This is my submission.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: When did the Prime Minister tender his apology to you. I would like to know whether the Prime Minister had apologised to you after the news was published in the newspaper or before the news had appeared in the Paper?

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, you can hear me also.

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What decision has been taken about this after all?

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, this is a very peculiar situation. The Prime Minister makes one kind of statement and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister makes another kind of statement. We are in a fix now. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs denies what the Prime Minister said. Here is a very peculiar situation, Sir.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Sir, a privilege motion should be moved against

Malviyaji for misleading the House, as has stated in his speech that no such incident has taken place and in contrary to his statement, the Hon. Prime Minister is apologising to you.

SHRIMATISUBHASINI ALI: If that News is not correct, what is truth then...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIBASUDEB ACHARIA: *If what has appeared in The Hindustan Times is not true, why then the Prime Minister apologised for what has happened? (Interruptions)* This is the dignity of the House that is affected. You cannot rule it out saying that it is not a privilege case. *(Interruptions)* If it is not correct, if it not true, then this should also be referred to the Privileges Committee. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAYKUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should kindly state as to what had happened on that day. You should also revise that decision.

SHRIMADANLAL KHURANA: Sir, what Shri Malviyaji has stated is not correct. If you say, I will not refer to the name, but what has appeared in the Hindustan Times is correct and the incident has actually taken place. The incident mentioned in the News is true as I have come to know all about that from your own office. I can mention the name of that official in your chamber. This incident has, therefore, actually taken place. I would like to challenge what Shri Malviya has said. Shri Malviya is trying to mislead the House about this incident which has actually taken place. I would, therefore, like to submit that the Privilege Motion should be moved not only against Shri Subramaniam Swamy, but also against Shri Malviya for misleading the House.

SHRIMATI SUBHASINI ALI: What had the Hon. Prime Minister apologised to you for? Does he daily apologise to you as his Ministers often indulge in such acts?

[English]

SHRIBASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, we want full discussion on this, because the Parliamentary Affairs Minister has confused what the Prime Minister has said. He has contradicted it. We want full discussion just now. We want to know, the House wants to know how can a Minister can say like this. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: He denies that even the Prime Minister met you. That is the kind of denial that he is making. That is what he said. He says, according to the report in *The Hindustan Times...* *(Interruptions)* The Prime Minister has said that he has met you and apologised to you and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister denies everything. We want a discussion on this right now, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the press reports, all this took place between you and an honourable Minister.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: How can he be called honourable? One, who indulges in criminal acts, can't be called honourable.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, other honourable Ministers were also present at that time. I don't see any reason in asking anybody or in appointing any Committee to look into the matter because it all happened with you. You can take the house into confidence.

MR. SPEAKER: I am already doing this.

House. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, whatever happened in your Chamber, whatever was said there, you know better, then what is the need of appointing any Committee. Sir, you are the Hon ourable Speaker of this House and so cannot be asked to stand witness before any Committee of this House. Even if you provide the complete detail of the incident that took place, it will help the House in arriving at a conclusion. If all that has appeared in the press is correct, then it definitely amounts to Contempt of the House and breach of privilege. And in these circumstances action must be taken against the person, whosoever he may be, as per the Rules of the House for using threatening language.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I once again appeal to hon. Members, after hearing both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. Members, not to press the matter and let us proceed with the business of the House.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:
No... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAYKUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, you may please call these people in your Chamber and sort out the matter there because it involves the dignity of the House.

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: We should discuss the conduct of the Minister. And we should also discuss the conduct of the Parliamentary Affairs' Minister. The Prime Minister has acknowledged that he has met you. But had denies everything in his statement. He is guilty of misleading the

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: I am on a point of order. In this letter there is a basic fundamental difference. We are here to have protection from you for the dignity of the House. But here you yourself are involved in this matter because as per press reports when you said something, Mr. Swamy emphasised something. So you are a party to this.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: My point of order is, as many hon. Members have suggested, you are feeling embarrassed in this matter. If it is so, kindly step down; let the Deputy Speaker come and decide. You cannot become a judge in your own case. So, kindly allow this matter to be decided by the Deputy Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Shifting of Offices of Government/ Public Sector Undertakings Outside Delhi

*82. SHRI K.C. TYAGI:
SHRI M.S. PAL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to shift some of the offices of Government/Public Sector Undertakings from Delhi/New Delhi to the neighbouring towns like Ghaziabad etc. to avoid congestion in the Capital city of Delhi;