

11.04 hrs.

COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT ON THE
PENDING MATTER OF THE SCALE OF
PAY AND CONNECTED MATTERS IN
RESPECT OF THE SECRETARIES-GEN-
ERAL OF HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT

Report

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Committee of Parliament on the pending matter of the scale of pay and connected matters in respect of the Secretaries-General of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Mr. Speaker, now the report of the Committee under item no. 10 has been laid on the Table of the house. It is most unfortunate that many Parties and Groups have not been consulted. The matter of Secretary-General's emoluments is the concern of the entire Parliament. It brings in and involves the prestige of Parliament in relation to other services in the country. We are not aware, nor are many of the Groups in the House aware of this. What we want is, before the report is implemented, this should be intimated to all Members of different Parties/Groups (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The Secretariat cannot be discussed here.

(*Interruptions*)

11.4 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBER'S
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Minutes

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): I beg to lay on the Table Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the First to Sixth Sitting of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the current session.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Babanrao Dhakne.

Shri A. Charles.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN: SOZ (Baramulla): Sir, I have to say something very important about the statement of the Home Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to you.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): Sir, I would like to raise with your permission a very important matter relating to the deterioration of conditions in Punjab. Only the other day, we learnt that once again in the Golden Temple, people have gone in with arms. All the holocaust and catastrophe in Punjab mainly began by converting the Gurudawaras into fortresses, if you remember. Armed people go inside and build up so called castles there, from where then the attacks on the people outside get launched and, the most sophisticated arms being collected.

I do not know what is the policy of the Government. Do they want the reversal of the entire process? Is the surrender so complete that openly the leaders of pro-Khalistan elements can go in with arms—as we saw even from the photographs—and the police just stand by? I would really like to know from the Government because the whole country will be concerned now. If this is what is going to happen under your very nose, then what kind of progress or development or normalisation can be expected? You are just now saying that you are going to work towards elections in Punjab.

I would like to know from the Government what is their attitude. What measures are they taking? Will they ensure and promise the country that they will not allow the Gurudwaras to be converted into such fortresses filled with arms and will you see to it that people are not there with arms? Except the traditional sword that is allowed, nothing else should be allowed to be taken. No arms should be allowed to be taken into Gurudwaras and temples. I would like to know the attitude of the Government.

SHRI DINESH SINGH (Pratapgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir with your permission I would like to raise two very important matters this morning. The first relates to the situation in Sindh in Pakistan. As you would have seen in the newspapers today, in the firing that has been going on there, 82 people had been killed including a large number of women who were demonstrating with Quran Sharif on their heads. More than 300 people have been injured. We do not wish to interfere in the internal affairs of Pakistan. But, this is a matter which is of some concern because it happened right on our door step. These are the people who were misled at the very beginning when Pakistan was constituted into believing the two-nation theory and who had gone to Pakistan with hopes that had been generated in the two-nation theory and having gone there, are now in such a position that instead of being accommodated and given a decent life, they are being fired upon and shot at. We are concerned that unless Pakistan does something

to find a peaceful solution, we may have a lot of trouble on our hands, the refugees and others. And therefore without wishing to interfere in the internal affairs of Pakistan, we would wish to draw the attention of the Government and through this House of the people that a peaceful solution should be found to this problem.

The second matter that I wish to raise is concerning the functioning of this House now in its extended term. It has been a position taken by us and at the very beginning the Leader of the Opposition had made it known in this House, that it is our intention to give constructive cooperation to the Government in the functioning of this House and, also you would have noticed it has been our endeavour to do so and, as a result, a number of Bills have been passed in this House as well as in the other House with full cooperations from us.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Even without discussion an important Bill like the Finance Bill was passed. (Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Yes. The situation is that on the one hand, the Government wishes to seek our cooperation in the business of this House, on the other hand, they take every occasion to try to have insinuations thrown at us based on half truths. From the very beginning, if you remember, from the Address of the President in this House, we have been asking the Government for certain papers to be placed on the Table of the House. These papers are in the possession of the Government. There is no difficulty in placing them on the Table of the House. Then the country and the world will know what the truth is. If those papers contain names or allegations or anything about us, we would wish to see and early implementation of any judicial or other process that the Government may wish to take. If our names do not come, if the names of people sitting on the other side come, then also we would wish to see that there is early implementation of whatever action the Government proposes to take. But this kind of

[Sh. Dinesh Singh]

suspended insinuations is neither good for the democratic functioning of the country nor for the relationship between the opposition and the Government. And therefore, we have been pleading with the Government that whether it is papers connected with the Bofors, whether it is papers connected with the Airbus, whether it is terms of reference of inquiry on Meham, these papers must be placed on the Table of the House. If these papers are not placed on the Table of the House, the Government can hardly expect cooperation from us in the passing of the Bills that they propose to bring in the House. Therefore, I should like to mention very categorically that the cooperation can be that only if both sides cooperate. It cannot be an expectation from one side without taking into account the demands and the requests of the other side. Therefore, if the Government wish that we participate in this extended term and assist them in the passing of the Bills, then these papers must be immediately placed on the Table of the House. We have already given four days notice to the Government. There is no difficulty in collecting these papers. But if they are not placed in all humility, I would like to mention to the House that they would force us not to cooperate with them in the passing of these Bills. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (New Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I being perhaps the only Sindhi Speaking person in the house, confirm Shri Dinesh Singh's assertion that the developments of Sindhi are very serious.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Advani, Sindhi Language is included its in the VIIIth Schedule of the Constitution, in that way all of us are related to Sindhi Language.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I know that all of us had contributed in the inclusion of Sindhi in the VIIth Schedule. The Government of India or India would not like to interfere in the internal affairs of Pakistan. But we have to

keep in view that the developments of Bangladesh had greatly affected our country and ultimately we had to involve ourselves actively there. The happenings of Sindh indicate that due to its internal problems, Pakistan is muddling in our Kashmir and Punjab affairs. The Situation is explosive to such extent that within a day 120 persons were killed in Sindh which is a small province. The developments in Sindh may have greater impact in our adjoining regions of Rajasthan and Katch and in the whole of our country. So we have to be very cautious in our approach. At the same time India shall continue its diplomatic efforts to compel Pakistan to prevent if from interfering into the affairs. Kashmir and Punjab. We should give a hint as well as a warning to the rulers of Pakistan to refrain from indulging in his adventurism and making our internal affairs an international issue to cover up its internal problems.

Secondly, I want to say that the Government, should apprise in the Parliament of the situation that has been prevailing Punjab during the last 6 months. In 1984 a white Paper on Punjab was issued. Thereafter, there has been many incidents. I am very sorry to say that the migration which has now begun in Punjab also is a sign of deterioration of the situation. The Government should inform the House of all the facts about Punjab. In the last few days the situation has further deteriorated because of the frequent cases of kid-napping and ransom. I think, these incidents are more disturbing than that cases of murder and violence.

Last week, I myself visited Abohar and met the people of that small Tehsil Zira. The people from there came to meet me. They told me that within a month ransoms of about rupees one and half crore to two crores had been paid to secure release of kidnapped persons in that Tehsil. These are the serious situations prevailing there. the Government should take the Parliament into confidence and bring out a second white-paper which should indicate the facts not mentioned in the fresh white-paper and also details how Pakistan is interfering in Kashmir.

SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY (Roserā): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with what has been said by Shri Dinesh Singh Ji and Shri Advani Ji about Sindh our country has always been the staunch supporter of democracy. We have always supported the movement for democracy in every part of the world. Sir, in the Sindh Province of Pakistan a struggle for restoration of democracy has been fur going on four several months. The Pakistani Government is bent upon to Gush the movement which is being piloted by Muhazir-Kaumi-Movement under the leadership of Shri Gulam Mustaba Jatōi who is the leader of the united opposition Party. As our leaders has said in Karachi and Hyderabad water and electricity supply has been discontinued for 13 days. The local Maullavi through the Mike announced that people have come in street to lodge their protest when the people came out on the road in protest, they were crushed by the Army. The Army Killed 135 persons and injured more than 300 persons.

I, therefore, want say that it is our moral duty to support the movement for the restoration of democracy being launched there and we denounce the efforts of the government of Pakistan to crush the movement.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Sir, hon. Member, Shri Dinesh Singh has raised a number of issues. First thing, we have not made any insinuation about their cooperation or functioning in this House. We are grateful to whatever cooperation they are giving-sometimes constructive, sometimes otherwise.

SHRI ZULFIQUAR ALI KHAN (Ram-pur): Again an insinuation.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Statement of fact. Sir, we had a meeting of the leaders of all parties last week. In that meeting we decided on the business to be taken up this week. In the meeting, the leaders of the Congress (I)

raised the question of placing some documents on the Table of the House which they demanded earlier. And we promised that whatever papers have to be placed or can be placed, the Government will place them before the end of the session, that is, before the end of this week. Particularly they mentioned documents relating to the Bofors deal, the Airbus deal and the terms of reference of the inquiry into the Meham incident. All the three are engaging the attention of the Government. The Cabinet is taking a view today and tomorrow and, as promised by the Government, we will try to place whatever documents can be placed before the end of the session.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: In this connection, Sir, this ambiguous statement made by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is what causes concern. He Says: "whatever papers have to be placed and whatever can be placed." That means, he will select what papers can be placed. This is what our objection is about. We want all papers to be placed so that he does not play around with that. (*Interruptions*) It is this kind of concealing certain papers that shows the intentions of the Government. (*Interruptions*)

I would then suggest to the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs that he might postpone voting on these Bills till he has taken a decision, if he desires our cooperation on them. If he does not desire our cooperation, it is a different matter. But then the responsibility for the Bills passing or not passing will be his, not ours.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, so far as items 16 and 17 in today's list of business are concerned, one deals with the Amendment of the Constitution relating to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission-statutory powers to be given-and the other relating to land reforms.

I would like to know from Mr. Dinesh Singh whether his party, with or without the papers being laid on the Table, is going to support or oppose the Bills. Let them decide

[Sh. Somnath Chatterjee]

whether they are going to oppose the Bills. We insist that these Bills should be taken up by this House. These are two important Bills. They should be non-controversial Bills. These cannot be matters of a *quid pro quo*. These are types of Bills which cannot be a subject-matter of a bargain. In the name of so-called constructive opposition, they cannot hold the country to ransom.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): While appreciating the demand for laying Bofors Papers on the Table, I would like to appeal to the Congress Party not to make that a pre-condition to the passing of these Bills. (Interruptions) These are such Constitution (Amendment) Bills to which they are also committed. Therefore, I make an appeal that these two Bills be passed with the requisite majority.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): This shows the intention and motive of the Congress (I) Party. (Interruptions) They are demanding a pre-condition for passing two important Constitution (Amendment) Bills. The Bill to include land reforms in the Ninth Schedule is an important one. This Bill also gives statutory power to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission. As stated by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Government will place all the papers... (Interruptions)... We know that they will place all the relevant papers on the Table of the House... (Interruptions)... But you should not bring this issue in the way of passing these two Bills, one of which is regarding land reforms. Is it that you do not want the Land Reforms Bill to be passed or you do not want to give statutory power to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission? Kindly inform about this to the House.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): This is just like holding a sword at my throat and then asking me to give my reply. Here are the

Bills which we ourselves were anxious to pass. It has so happened so that they have come in now. Do they want to hold us to ransom? Here are the papers about which we have been worried, troubled and pained for three years. I do not speak only for myself. I myself have been anxious, more than others, to know the truth, the whole truth... (Interruptions) ... Mr. Speaker Sir, I went out of my way—Let me take the House into confidence—to ask the highest man concerned in our party, in our Government to assure me that there was nothing wrong on our side and I was given that assurance which I accepted. But nevertheless, they have been saying 'something is there' and my conscience had been at great pain. Now, we want all the papers to be laid on the Table of the House. Why is it that they want to keep them? Still people of this country are wondering as to whether there is something wrong because masses behind us are under the impression that we have done something terribly wrong. Is it not the time that we should face the truth, the whole truth, nothing but the truth? Is it wrong of us to say this? And, we are giving all our cooperation. They have no other right except the right of democracy and our attachment to it. Otherwise, could this minority Government be there? Since we are devoted to democracy, we are supporting them. And they want to do it this way—holding us to ransom? It does not lie in the mouth of my friends in their new enthusiasm for democracy to say like this. ... (Interruptions)... Here is the son of a friend of mine.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Nostalgia is good but it does not help us today. (Interruptions)

PROF. N.G. RANGA: I want the truth, the whole truth. Let the papers be placed on the table of the House. Is it wrong on our part to ask for that? Should they not cooperate with me, the oldest democrat in this House? We are asking for all the papers. You are the custodian of our rights.... (Interruptions). It is their elementary duty to respond to our demand. We have been waiting for all these years and we have been cooperating with

them. We are at the fag end of the session and we are going beyond the date that they themselves fixed for this session. We are asking them for the papers. Please for God's sake, let us clear the conscience of the people and place the papers on the Table of the House. Should they not cooperate with us? From their cooperators, their allies and themselves, can we not expect this much of minimum cooperation? That is all I have to say.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, I quite appreciate the concern of Shri Dinesh Singh and our great leader, Prof. Ranga to know the truth and the whole truth. Yes, in earlier years we had also been demanding to know the truth.

We have listened to the Government's position in this regard. Government wants to place before the House the relevant documents.... (*Interruptions*) But Sir, I am astonished to see that now these Congress leaders have taken recourse to hold the entire agricultural labour and peasantry of our country to ransom by not agreeing to cooperate with the Government to pass these two Bills. The agricultural workers number about ten crores in our country. They expect that the land reforms should be implemented and implemented as speedily as possible. This is not the Time for me to emphasise the importance of the land reforms. They have failed in a very dismal manner for the last four decades in this respect and now when the people of our country, particularly the peasantry and agricultural workers want that the land reforms should be implemented expeditiously, they want to hold the entire agricultural workers and peasantry to ransom. The country would like to know what position they have taken in this respect.

So far as the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are concerned, they are having a statutory right to get their grievances redressed and the Government want to pass these very important measures which they have brought forward before the House. I would appeal to them in the name of the people of our country, in the name of millions

of agricultural workers and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes that they should agree to pass these two Constitution Amendment Bills at least. At the same time, they should continue their fight for getting the truth and we shall also be with them in the matter of getting the truth. We also want that the corruption should be checked at the high places and it should not be encouraged and must be brought to light.

I therefore, request my friends to cooperate so that these two Bills are passed.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NANI BHATTARCHARYA (Bengal): In the all party leaders meeting—I also had the privilege of attending that meeting—S/Shri Singh, Sathe and Kumarmangalam were also there. The leaders of the Congress Party were also there and there was a sort of understanding where it was said that the papers will be laid on the Table of the House. It is a matter of common sense that not all papers—papers which are likely to infringe the defence question, the security of the country cannot be made public. Papers sufficient to reveal truth regarding corruption and corrupt practices—are relevant and can be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM (Salem): What is relevance? You please define relevance because last time they said relevance has no relevance.

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: So, the understanding was that all the relevant papers will be laid on the Table of the House may be on the first day or the last day of the Session. Now, it is surprising that these gentlemen are going back on their understanding and on their assurance.

SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM: We are not going back on any assurance.

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: Sir, it is surprising that they have put a pre-condition to extend their support to the Constitutional (Amendment) Bills. Let these gentleman.

[Sh. Nani Bhattacharya]

You tell the people of the country that they are opposing the constitutional amendment bill which is intended to safeguard the interest of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Similarly, let them also tell the people that they don't want to safeguard the interests of the poor peasants by giving the constitutional authority to the land laws.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): I can suggest a compromise formula.

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: The Constitutional (Amendment) Bill makes it obligatory on the part of the State Governments to implement the provisions of the relevant clauses. So, I request Mr. Sathe, Mr. Singh and others to see things, to go deep into the affairs.

SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM: Yes, we want to go deep.

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: There are papers which reveal the corrupt practices at the high level. The understanding was that they should be placed on the Table of the House.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, hon. Shri Dinesh Singh, for whom I have great respect, obviated the need to call for any insinuation. He made it so plain and crude, but...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: But soberly. That is his qualification.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Sir, I can understand if the Opposition takes exception to the passing of the Bills if the papers are related to the bills. They have nothing to do with the bills under consideration. They are absolutely different papers, not related to the bills. I don't know why they are linking up the laying of the papers with these bills which are very momentous bills and for which we have been waiting for a long time. People of this country

particularly the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the landless workers are waiting for these bills. They also raised the question of papers. They have taken exception to my adjectives. Sir, they have been in the Government for decades and they have rendered an invaluable service to the nation. They should understand which papers are to be laid on the Table of the House; what can be disclosed and what cannot be disclosed and also the practical difficulties. I can only take two examples. For example, the terms of reference of the Supreme Court inquiry. As you know, the Chief Justice of India has to be approached for his approval to name the Judge. An approach has already been made. We are waiting for a reply from the Chief Justice of India. As soon as we receive, it will be laid as well as the terms of reference will be announced simultaneously.

As regards the Bofors' documents, we have received the unpublished report. Again, it requires the approval or concurrence of the Government of Sweden to make it public. An approach has already been made to the Government of Sweden also to make it public. I have given two examples of these practical difficulties or the practical problems involved in laying. Here, we are expediting it. We stand by our promise. I told them that before this Session ends, whatever papers can be laid, we will lay them. That is exactly what I said. I will stand by that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHEMCHANDBHAI SOMABHAI CHAVDA (Patan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me to say something. We are concerned with the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Items number 15, 16 and 17, all these three items relate to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Please allow me to say something... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chavda, please take your seat.

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker,

Sir, hon. Member, Shri Somnath Chatterjee had made a reference to me. I hold Shri Somnath Chatterjee with great respect.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You are making a personnel explanation.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Both, Sir.

[English]

SHRISOMNATHCHATTERJEE: I said, he is a very sober person. He is a mis-fit there.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I have watched his performance when he used to sit on this side of the House. But something has changed very much in this transformation that has happened, that is, when he crossed the floor. I am sorry that in this request of ours to place the papers on the Table of the House for a very specific reason he is trying to mix it with various issues to give an impression that we are not interested in those issues. I am sorry that Somnathji has raised the issue of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He knows very well that much before his party came into existence in the world, the Congress Party, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, had been fighting for the rights of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please order.

Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Now, there are many so called supporters of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But I remember those days that if you sat and ate with the members of the scheduled castes, you were thrown out of your caste and community. It was then that Congress was struggling. It is very much easy now to sit in a restaurant and eat with somebody from the scheduled

castes. (Interruptions) All that I am trying to say is that, it is not our intention... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): That congress is dead.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH SINGH: All that I am saying is that, we are equally interested in seeing that these Bills are passed. That is why, we are suggesting to the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs that he should facilitate the passing of these Bills. It is not that we are asking for these papers only from yesterday or today, we have asked for them three months ago. Does it take the Government three months to collect these papers? It is their intention of not parting with these papers or placing them on the Table of the House that is creating concern in our minds. They want purposely to create a wrong impression in the country that they have certain materials and that they will not share them with the House. It only shows that they do not have any worthwhile case and they want to keep this charge going merely to gain a political advantage. And it is not our intention to permit them to gain this political advantage. I have great regard and affection for Mr. Upendra, but I see that he has begun to perform like his leader who combines many roles in one film. (Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Krishna, Duryodhan and Karna-all in one. (Interruptions)

SHRIDINESH SINGH: Sir, he was trying to do the same thing in the House. I would beg of him to remain Mr. Upendra, and not to perform various other roles that are being unfortunately thrust upon him. I can only assure him that it is our intention to assist this House in passing this Bill; but we have limitations and difficulties on this also. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat there is unanimity about SC/ST.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chavda, Please sit down. We are already discussing what you are referring to.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: I have only one suggestion to make on what the hon. Minister Mr. Upendra said. He has said that Government has written to the Swedish Government for disclosing the contents of the Audit Bureau Report, which was not published. I wish them success in their persuasion with the Swedish Government. If they fail, then without bothering about what the Swedish Government is saying, they should come out openly with facts.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order? Mr. Soz, please take your seat. He has raised a point of order.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Sir, my point of order is that just now the learned Member Shri Dinesh Singh has said that his party had been struggling for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from the very beginning even when the Communist Party was not in existence. I would like to remind the hon. Member about Jawaharlal's book, "A Glimpse of World History" in which he has written that the Revolution of 1917 under the leadership of Lenin is a beacon for the poor and the down-trodden of the whole world and that it was proving to be very helpful in the Freedom-struggle of India. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a point of order. Please take your seat.

[English]

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ (Baramulla): Sir, the Home Minister is not here; and my privilege is involved.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of privilege-you make your point.

[English]

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: I have said it, and it has gone on record, that the Prime Minister's impulse regarding Kashmir is very sincere, because I had the privilege of talking to him a number of times. But the Home Minister's statement has misled the House as also the Prime Minister's which he had made on the 22nd in this House. He not only quoted a wrong figure of those who fell dead in the firing that was done by the paramilitary on the mourners on the 21st; and when I quoted the figures, he said that I was wrong, and he contradicted me and said these figures were concocted, wrong, untrue and then he said that I had got the figures from the terrorists.

Now, my list is complete. I raised a question, with this House would you not like to know what has happened? I want to ask the Home Minister to inform this House: how many people died on the spot, and how many people died in the hospitals by that evening? It cannot be less than 50 that day. (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: How many officers? (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. There is no point his standing.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: In Kashmir, there is terrible heart-burning on the Home Minister's statement here. He has contra-

dicted me. Now 137 officers have appealed to the citizens of the world. It has come in *The Indian Express* and other papers. (*Interruptions*) I have not completed it. He owes an explanation to me, rather an apology. You must hear me because this is very important. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): There is discussion on this under Rule 193. I do not know how have you allowed him to raise this point. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Discussion on this point is listed under Rule 193 today.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: No question of discussion.

He must withdraw the words saying that my information was based on the information from the terrorists. I will not insist on my privilege motion if he withdraw the words saying that my information was based on the information from the terrorists. He must withdraw these words. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Why are you raising it now? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khurana.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: The Prime Minister should not abolish the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs. (*Interruptions*) The Ministry of Kashmir Affairs cannot be abolished. He must consult leaders of political parties. (*Interruptions*) The Home Minister must withdraw this expression.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not accepted your notice by motion 2 Privilege.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (SOUTH DELHI): I am on a point of order,

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Soz, Sir. Please sit down.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Sir, my point of order is that you have not accepted the Privilege Motion and hon. Home Minister has said that discussion on Jammu-Kashmir is listed under the rule 193. My request is that if discussion on Jammu-Kashmir continues we would also like to say something. We have brought all the documents. The way his name is associated with Terrorists..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order, you please sit down. I have listened to your point of order.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: My request is that we also want to say something. Will there be only one issue in the discussion?

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order, You please. take your seat. You have already spoken about point of order. Mr. Ram Naik, you may raise the discussion about the strike.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: He must withdraw this expression that my information was based on the information from the terrorists. (*Interruptions*) My information was not based on the information from the terrorists. I have no truck with them. He may be having it. (*Interruptions*) I will better walk out. (*Interruptions*) He must withdraw that expression and apologise.

[*Translation*]

I will not yield till he withdraws his remarks. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: He must withdraw this expression saying that my information was based on the information from the terrorists. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Telecommunication system in the country has been disturbed for the last four days..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you standing? I shall call everyone.

SHRI RAM NAIK: The officers of the Telecommunication department are on strike and ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KHEMCHANDBHAI SOMABHAI CHAVDA (Patan): I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI KHEMCHANDBHAI SOMABHAI CHAVDA: On a point of order. Mr. Ram Naik is speaking. Then Prof. Soz is also speaking. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Which rule has been violated. Shri Chavda, Please sit down. There is no point of order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI (Misrikh):- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your Point of Order? Under which rule you want to raise your point of order?

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI:- I am going to place my Point of Order Just now, but please listen to my point. Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now, an Hon'ble Member of Bhartiya Janata Party has levelled this allegation against Mr. Soz in the House..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no Point of Order. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Soz, you take your seat.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: He has to withdraw his words. He has misled the House.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER:- Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want that you should safe guard the honour of the Hon'ble Members..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. There is no Point of Order. You are speaking against the order of the Chair.

SHRI RAM NAIK:- Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole Communication System in the country has been disrupted which has resulted in total chaos and collapse of the Communication system. People can neither talk with each-other in our country, nor there is any telecommunication link with the foreign countries. Secondly, the computer system has been broken out at all places whether it is Indian Air Lines Reservation system Railway reservation system Fax System or it is a Telex system of Oil Companies. The news have not been coming through Teleprinters in the newspapers, as a result of which information is not being provided to the entire country. Such a serious situation has been created. It has been reported that the employees of the telecommunication system—telecommunication Engineer Service Association and Junior Telecommunication Officers Association have been agitating and launching work to rule agitation. During last November '89, the Government had accepted the recommendations of Telecommunication Commissioner, but the present Government has not been accepting those points, that is why the present agitation has been

launched. It is being said that the Ministry of Finance has been creating some obstacles in its implementation. In the Bombay city alone, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam has been incurring a loss of Rs. one crore daily I would like to say that the Minister of Finance and Minister of Telecommunication should take the House into confidence about the situation and make a statement in this regard today itself. It is my submission.. (*Interruptions*) ...

[*English*]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, the session has been specifically extended to complete pending urgent Government business and it was decided in the Business Advisory Committee as well as in the meeting of the Leaders, that other issues will not be raised until these Bills are passed. Again, we are spending lot of time on these issues. I request you to take up the legislative business of the House. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT (Nagpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, such a mismanagement has not been seen in the Ministry of Communication till today. I come from Nagpur, though the telecommunication system has been completely disrupted in the entire country, but telecommunication system has totally collapsed in the nine districts of Vidharbha region of Nagpur. The services of Teleprinters, U.T.I, P.T.I. and FAX has been completely discontinued to the local newspapers of the state. Industries and Business has completely come to a standstill, because telephonic talk can not be made to other places of our country from Gujarat. Even there is no means of Communication to send messages to Delhi and Bombay for life saving drugs. FAX services has also been disrupted. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the telecommunication, system has been disrupted so much during the regime of present Government that no efforts has been taken to solve it. No talks have been held about the demands of the employees. The communication system may be improved

after holding talks with the employees. Today, such is the situation in Nagpur city... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

12.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kumaramangalam.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the telephone situation is extremely bad and the telecommunication system is almost completely broken down. Yesterday night we could not make local calls.... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, it is most unfortunate that after I have been called to speak, I note that the Minister gets up to speak and on his own he is trying to make a statement. There is a certain method... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Mr. Speaker, Sir, all that he is saying.....

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have called Shri Kumarmangalam.

[*English*]

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, this issue has come up earlier. It was settled very amicably by discussing with the Junior Engineers Association, the Telecom Officers Association. Unfortunately, the Government is not taking positive steps to solve the problem. Communication is coming to a halt. Yesterday we could not make even local calls and the reason is because the Government is taking the matter lightly. If only they could call the Association, discuss with them, they could settle the issue within minutes. Unfortunately this Government does

[Sh. P.R. Kumaramangalam]

not seem to take any matter seriously and the whole telecommunication system is collapsing. I would plead with the Government that they discuss with the Association immediately on certain matters. Certainly it is not difficult... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lokanath Choudhary.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpura): Sir, the entire telecommunication system in the country is paralysed.... (*Interruptions*) The Government should come with a statement today as to what steps they propose to take to solve this problem.. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chitta Basu.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, as many hon. Members have drawn the attention to the complete disruption of the communication system in our country, the hon. Minister for communication should make a statement.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): We are also supporting this.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The Junior Telecommunication system officers and the Assistant Engineers had been agitating on this issue for a long time. They submitted a demand of having time bound promotion in October last. They demand that there should be a promotion in case of Junior officers after twelve years of continuous service and in case of Assistant Engineers, they should have this chance of promotion after ten years of service. This is a long pending demand of a very important section of our telecommunication officers. There have been some talks. I hope, the talks will bring about the desired results. I want that the Minister himself takes up the negotiations and brings about a peaceful settlement of the situation so that the people can be relieved of this problem in telecommunication.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I would like to submit about telecommunication system that you should ask him to make a statement, because telecommunication system has been paralysed there. My telephone has been out of order for four days— (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: On behalf of the entire House, Sir, you can ask the Minister to make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not coming in the way. They are there and they can make a statement.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Keeping in view the atmosphere in the House, you should direct him to make a statement. You should ask him to make a statement in this regard.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRINATHU SINGH (Dausa): I make a request that Government should make a statement on the situation which has been created only by the strike of Engineers. Government should make a statement on the entire telecommunication system. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): I will convey the feelings of the House to the concerned Minister and request him to make a statement about it.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to submit only this much that so many members have given their names to ask the Questions. Therefore, first of all, I would like to say that in the beginning that Bill may be taken up for which the sittings of the House have been extended.