

[Sh. Vishwanath Pratap Singh]

The only proper document to be read in the House regarding any Member's statement are the proceedings the House and not newspapers. May I tell honourable Dinesh Singhji that I did not even mention his name? I do not know how and by what imagination he thinks that I have mentioned his name. You see the proceedings here. You should have gone to the library and seen the proceedings there. *(Interruptions)*. I did not even mention your name here. I do not know how you are under that impression. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Amal Datta. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): I have a personal explanation to make Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give whatever explanation want to give. I will listen if all the Members will listen to you. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you given notice to raise this point?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am giving notice now. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give notice and then I will see. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Kewalji has raised a point about the Mandal Commission. I assure the hon. Members of the House that in the first six months, we have covered quite a bit of our National Front manifesto and during the coming six months, the Mandal Commission will be given the top priority to start with *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Dimond Harbour): Sir, I want to mention a very important matter before the House. A very disturbing and frightening information has come about the mismanagement which is and has been going on in affairs of Vayudoot Airlines... *(Interruptions)* ...I want the Prime Minister and the

Minister in charge of Civil Aviation to take immediate steps because the safety of the passengers is involved in this. Vayudoot is not maned by experience engineers and the maintenance facilities are very poor and whatever facilities are there are not being used properly. Therefore, the passengers are in great danger. Is the Government waiting for a crash to take place? I warn the Government that unless they take immediate steps to stop the mismanagement including the extravagant expenditure, the passengers will be in danger. Most of the persons in driving pockets have been appointed during the last regime and they are still continuing to do whatever they were doing. So, the Government should take notice of these points and do something about this matter to ensure the safety of the passengers. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want to know from all of you as to whether you want me to proceed with the business of the House or you want time to listen to everything you are saying *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Not everything but important things. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will straightaway go to the business of the House.

11.44 hrs.

CONSTITUTION ON (SIXTY—SIXTH AMENDMENT) BILL—*CONTD.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up discussion on the motion for consideration of the Constitution (Sixty-Sixth Amendment) moved by Shri Upendra Nath Verma on 29th May, 1990. Shri G.M. Lodha may continue his speech.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): Mr. Chairman Sir... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): If you allow Mr. Sathe to speak, then you have to allow us also to speak. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will allow only those Members who want to speak on the business taken up by the House, i.e., Constitution (Sixty—Sixth Amendment) Bill and not otherwise.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: If you allow Mr. Sathe, then we also have some urgent issues to be raised in the House. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Satheji, do you want to say anything on the Constitution (Sixty-Sixth) Amendment Bill?

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): I want to indicate our attitude on the business of the House... (*Interruptions*)

I am on a point of order.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is on a point of order. I will be listening to his point of order only.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: My point of order is that before the business is taken up, and the Constitution Amendment Bills moved by the Government are taken up, I would once again request the Prime Minister to agree to lay the Bofors papers on the Table of the House..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order. You can only speak on the business before the House.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: If you do not place the Bofors papers on the Table of the House... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order. I am asking Shri Lodha to continue his speech. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I have called Shri Lodha only.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): Mr. Chairman speaker, I would like to remind my congress friends the words uttered by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru on the issue of land reforms when the First Constitution Amendment Bill was being passed. He had said that would tantamount to betrayal of crores of farmers if the land reforms were delayed even for a day. (*Interruptions*) He had said so in this very House. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have ruled out your point of order. We have already started with the next item on the Agenda.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We will not sit unless we have had Our say. They cannot mislead us like and make us sit like this. You must first listen us. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The Congress have betrayed the nation. Mr. Chairman, Indian masses will never forgive them. I would like to remind them that when first Constitution Amendment relating to land reforms was brought forward in this very House. Pt. Jawaharlal had said that such land reform measures are not only necessary but inevitable for the poor and landless labourers. The landlords and contractors have exploited the poor and downtrodden people. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the congressmen that they should at least follow the path shown by Jawaharlal Nehru. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): We are not obstructing them. It is they who are obstructing the proceedings of the House. You allow Mr. Sathe to speak. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, what is your point of order?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, I would say... (*Interruptions*). Sir, I must have my say. We will allow them also to speak. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Sir, this House has not yet turned into their private property. We are also equally entitled to put forth of views. You will have to first listen to us and thereafter to whatever you like. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

We will not allow this House to function unless the papers are laid on the Table. (*Interruptions*)

You cannot cow me down. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

You cannot escape, you have got to listen to us or we would not leave this place.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I would request all the hon. Members to take their seats. I appeal once again to the House and to the hon. Colleagues that if you want to transact the business, then you have to co-operate with the Chair...

SHRI VASANT SATHE: They don't want to co-operate. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Unless the Minister apologises or withdraws his statement... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow all these things. Please allow me to conduct the business. Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody can say or ask the other hon. Members to go out. Please listen to me. The House belongs to everyone. Nobody can say like that. Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No hon. Member can ask anyone to go out. If anybody has said like that, then I would say it is wrong.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Paswan, I have never allowed you. Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, please take your seat.

12.00 hrs.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ram Dhan, please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vasant Sathe, please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. VASANT SATHE: We must have

an apology from the hon. Minister. Can the Minister say that either we must vote in support, or get out? We are not here at their mercy. (*Interruptions*) This House is not their property.

SHRI B.SHANKARANAND (Chikkodi): Let the Minister not be so arrogant. (*Interruptions*) We will not allow it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats; take your seats please.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Twice or thrice he repeated it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Does the Prime Minister approve of this? I would like to know. Sir, please ask the Prime Minister. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Take your seats first, please; all of you take your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kamal Chaudhry, please take your seat. Order please...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I once again appeal to all the hon. Members: please try to cooperate with the Chair. We have to transact of a lot of business. No Member has the right to

ask any other Member to go out, because everyone has the right to be here. In the noise, I could not listen to what had happened. I do not know, because of lot of noise; whoever has said it, it is wrong. That is what I can say. I did not listen, because of the noise. I could not hear. That is all. I cannot compel anyone. I can only say that whoever has said it, it is wrong. Therefore, I once again appeal to all of you to try to cooperate with the Chair, to transact the whole business.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): He has asked us to go out. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why there is this demand. It is a wrong thing, if it has happened.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a wrong thing. They have no right.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I did not notice, because of a lot of noise. So, I do not know.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I think you should react to it. Let it be the Minister, or anybody else... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I never called him to speak. Therefore, whatever he said, I did not hear.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I never called him to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

Now please listen to the Minister, Mr. Yadav. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry to say that the hon. Members of Opposition are not taking the comments of Shri Ram Vilas in right perspective. We do not want to hurt their feelings in anyway or show any disrespect to them. (*Interruptions*) I would like to say a little about him. He simply said that it will be very good if you support the bill and if you do not want to support it, then it. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY (Hoshiarpur): He said: if you do not want to support it, you get out. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit and our Prime Minister also pleaded with folded hands yesterday in the House that we should not make it an issue. Even today..... (*Interruptions*) Mr. Sathe, Please listen you have been speaking for a fairly long time..... (*Interruptions*) Mr. Sathe, I am addressing you and I would like to say that we would be extremely happy if Congress extended us spport in this regard. Therefore, I would like to say.....

SHRI VASANT SATHE: No one other that Prime Minister can speak on behalf of Government. Who are you to speak? Who has authorised to speak? On whose behalf, you are speaking?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I am speaking on behalf of the Government.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The Prime Minister is sitting. He can speak on behalf of the Government. In the presence of a Cabinet Minister, the other Minister has no right to speak. What do you want to say. Please sit down. Let the Prime Minister or Deputy Prime

Minister speak. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

He said: if you do not want to support it, you get out. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): We can fold out hands as well as fight for the poor. If folding hands does not work, we will fight for their cause.. (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI VASANT SATHE: It will be better if you first take your fight within the Government and with Tau to a logical conclusion.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: It seems he is not interested in reply. So I take my seat.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We have seen your all the three fights the Fatehpur, the Sweden and the one relating to Tau. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): Please listen to him, Shri Sathe, there is no harm in listening. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Let Satheji cooldown before I speak (*Interruptions*) Sir, Satheji raised the issue of fight and accounted many of them but he ignored the foremost one the cosequences of which are before the House... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Prime Minister is on his legs. Listen to him. What is this?

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: I am commenting on the points raised by hon.

Satheji. It is he who raised the issue of fights, not me. He would have been silenced had he received the answer to his point of fight... (Interruptions) ...

SHRIM. J. AKBAR (Kishanganj): It were you who used the word fight... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): First you ask your Minister to apologise.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Secondly, Sir, if the hon. Members sitting in the opposition are under the illusion that we have requested for some thing personal, then they are grossly mistaken... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Please keep quiet so that may speak... (Interruptions) ...

Sir, they do not seem to be interested in listening to my view point and if this is what they want, I better sit down. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

12.17 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRIVASANT SATHE: Place the Bofors papers. Only then the House will proceed... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I quite appreciate that they are a little upset because Ram Vilasji has made certain observations. I do not know whether they have got the clearance from their leader to take part in voting or not... (Interruptions) But before they ask Ram Vilasji to apologise, will they apologise to the House to the people of this country, specially to the poor people, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for their conduct yesterday? (Interruptions)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): We have never appeared that Bill.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What has appeared in one of the newspapers today is wrongly attributing to me a statement that I had said that they should be kicked out. I did not say that. I said, 'the people have already kicked them out.' Therefore, they should apologise to the people of this country and to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The people are waiting for the land reforms legislation to be passed by this House. Therefore, I request them at least, if they have not got the clearance from their leader, let them find out before disturbing like this. There should be an end of juvenile delinquency.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, the papers relating to Bofors were never made an issue when they were in the possession of the member at his house. Again these papers were not made to stand in the way, when the Budget and the Finance Bill of the present Government were brought before the House. Now that when it is the question of Indian poor an attempt is being made to put obstacle in its way. (Interruptions) Tell me, tell me, did the oppositions put any obstacle by way of consideration of this

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Budget, the Bills and the Finance Bills were brought in the House. Same was the case when other Government business was taken up. But when there came the issue of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or that of the Land Reforms, they are trying to evade these on the pretext of Bofors Gun Deal. If they think that this Bofors paper Gun Trick of theirs can befool the country's poor, they are sadly mistaken. The poor people have already thrown them out of power and even today they are strong enough to give them a befitting reply. It is, therefore, advisable that they should allow the Bill to be passed in a peaceful manner. (*Interruptions*)

I would like to add one thing more here that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan remarks never meant to hurt the feelings of hon. members. At the same time it is true that the poor people have voted us to power and they have voted for you too. If we do not uphold the cause of the poor in this House, we have no right to be here anymore. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to urge upon all the hon. Members that they can, by all means, express themselves here if they so desire, but the proceedings are likely to be gravely impeded if they continue to resort to mud-slinging on one another. I would, therefore, urge upon all of you not to indulge in such thing. Secondly, so far as I understand may be other differ with me, both the sides intend to pass this Bill. So, in view of this, no objectionable remarks should be made from either side that may create an air of uncertainty about the passage of the Bill, due to conjectures and guesses in this regard. There are regalities and excitements too over here and it becomes very difficult at times to run the House smoothly in view of all these obstructions. I would like to request all the hon. Members that it would be better if they proceed with the business keeping this thing in mind. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Shri Dinesh Singh to speak first listen to what he

wants to say and then make your observations, if any. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will be in good taste if you keep your cool for some time.

[*English*]

SHRIDINESH SINGH: I would like once again to repeat that it is not a fact that we are opposing this Bill. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I am saying that it is not that we are opposing this Bill. We are in support of this Bill that has been brought by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

Sir, we are, as I said, in full support of the Ram Dhan Bill. But, he will have to wait till 2.30 P.M. to get what he wants... (*Interruptions*). Sir, the Government have sufficient strength to pass these Bills. If it was our intention to oppose the Bills, we would have voted against it. But the very fact that we are not voting against it is an indication that if the Government has a majority, it can pass these Bills. Our whole point was that if the Government is looking for our cooperation to pass these Bills as they do not have sufficient number of members present in the House, then it is a question of seeking cooperation, we have also been wanting cooperation from the Government to place the Bofors papers on the Table of the House.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: The Constitution Amendment Bills that are on the Agenda, are for giving statutory status to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission and to put Land Reforms in the 9th Schedule. That is the Agenda. What you are saying in a separate issue. On that you can fix the time and we can discuss it. but, let us not take the time of the House on this at this moment... (*Interruptions*).

SHRIDINESH SINGH: Sir, we would be

very happy if you allot the time to discuss it...
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH:
Why are you insisting on it at this time? Why
are you bringing it here now?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: What the Prime
Minister has raised, exactly what I am trying
to explain that we would be very happy to
have a debate, provided we have access to
the papers that the Prime Minister is holding
close to his chest. And at the end of the last
Session, the Prime Minister read out a min-
ute from what the then Prime Minister had
recorded. We had requested him to place
that paper on the Table of the House along
with the file. The Prime Minister promised
that, but it has not yet been placed. There-
fore, Sir, I have an extract from the rest of the
file which will establish that the then Prime
Minister did not take any unilateral decision.
There was full basis for it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM DHAN (Lalganj): Kindly tell
him not to take my name. I will disclose all his
secrets if he does so.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are going
at a tangent.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH SINGH: The cancella-
tion at that time would have meant a loss of
300 crores plus whatever we may have had
to give to the Bofors. So, it is not that we are
talking in the air, Sir. If they place the papers
on the Table of the House, then we can have
a meaningful debate. We cannot have a
debate when the papers are not available to
us. That is what I am saying. Sir, if you give
me permission, I will be happy to place these
papers on the Table of the House.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: He should be
allowed to lay it on the Table.... (*Interrup-
tions*)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF.
MADHU DANAVATE): I am on a point of
order Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, please...

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: Mr.
Deputy Speaker, Sir, if any Member wants to
lay any document or a paper on the Table of
the House, firstly, he has to give a notice,
secondly, he has to authenticate it and then
you have to permit him. I want to know
whether you have permitted him to lay the
document on the Table of the House. We will
be too happy if the documents come.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Papers can
be laid on the Table of the House only by
following the rules prescribed for it. Mr Saifud-
din Choudhury.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY
(Katwa): Sir, what the Prime Minister has
said is very significant that if we fail to pass
these two bills for the poor, .. (*Interruptions*),
then there will be no meaning of our being in
the House. So, this kind of stalemate will not
only be harming the Congress(I) but people
will lose faith on our being here. By bringing
extraneous matters here, they are really
trying to create a deadlock... (*Interruptions*).
Sir, we have some other Bill that will be
coming tomorrow. I do not understand why...
(Interruptions).

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI AJIT PANJA (Calcutta North-East)
Have you seen the papers?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH:
Just hold on. You will see much more than
the papers. Sir, now much do has been
done. May I ask hon. Panaji—he is making
lot of noise—that when the Members oppo-
site were here on this side, why did they not
produce the papers then. They have no
moral right to go on making such a noise
about it? That is number one. Number two,

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about it? That is number one. Number two, on those very papers, Shankaranandji, you had a look. You did not have a full look at it, you could not have a full look at it. On these very papers, this present Government could go the Swiss authorities and get the bank accounts frozen. So, they owe an answer to the nation why on the same documents they could not, for three years, go and get the bank accounts frozen. What was the reason? Why did they not do it? Thirdly, Sir, it was constantly the pursuit of the present Government due to which we could get the secret part of the Swedish Audit Report also.

This very fact exposes the previous Government as to what was possible, they did not do, they did not want to do, they did not try to do. We have proven this. They are totally naked and exposed in the fact that we could, with the same documents, get the bank accounts frozen and that is why they owe an explanation to the country why with those papers they could not take action. And they are not the people who are ignorant of the papers. Yesterday I have said that the Swedish Government had categorically said that if those papers which have got the information that they have sent, are disclosed they will not be able to give further information. And we have asked them questions. It is in the telex which I have read in the House and it has expressly said... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They want to stop further information from coming. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: We, on the 26th May, sent a telegram to the Swedish Government that we want to lay the papers on the Table of the house which they have sent, that is, the secret report. The reply we got from the Swedish Government was... (*Interruptions*)

They replied that if the Government of India goes a head and discloses the papers, then the Swedish Government will not be

able to give us further information regarding the several questions we have sent to the Swedish Government about the Bofors payment, the commission payment and whatever payments have been made, of whatever natural. They have categorically said "if you disclose it, will not give further information." This is what they wanted, namely, to dry up our source of information. This is precisely their game. This is precisely what they want. (*Interruptions*) We were able to get accounts frozen. Why did not they do it? They wanted to cancel..... (*Interruptions*) Then, Sir, may I say about one thing? When the C & A.G. asked the previous Government constantly for papers and the files, they did not send them. They opposed it. The present Government came and we have sent all the files of the Bofors to the C & A.G. Why did they not send them to the C. & A.G.? Why did they refuse to do so? They owe an answer to the House. When the C. & A.G. was asking for the files, why did not they send the Bofors papers and all the files? When we have come, we have sent all the papers. There is no concealment. We have sent all the files to the C. & A.G. Now, their sole aim is to dry to up our sources of information and to create doubts in the minds of the Swedish Government and thereby go on with the game of putting a curtain on the truth, which they were playing when they were on this side. They are playing the same game when they are sitting on that side (*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (New Delhi): Yesterday, I had an occasion to express my unhappiness with what the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had said and I had observed that it seemed to me not easily understandable as to why we should share some papers with this House only if the Swedish Government permitted. This was my observation yesterday and it was an observation as a lay person who had fought the elections on the basis of the demand that we should know fully about the scandal. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I hold that the people of this country want to know the full truth about Bofors and if they want to know it, it is not as a matter of ideal curiosity or only

order to see that those who have been guilty in this matter should be punished for that. (*Interruptions*)

It is only when I heard the Prime Minister last evening, I am very happy that he shared with the House this whole matter which had been addressed to the Government of India by the Swedish Government and which made it very clear that there are certain inquiries made by the Government of India about the facts which they would be willing to share with us only if they treat this Audit Report secret and confidential. If they do not do it, then it would be deemed a breach of trust by the Government of India. Now, in a situation of this kind only a person who is keen see that there is no further information forthcoming... (*Interruptions*).

Sir, I would still appeal to Mr. Sathe because I am sure that Mr. Sathe has nothing to do with the scandal. (*Interruptions*). Therefore, I would appeal to Mr. Sathe: Please don't relate Bofors to a question which pertains to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. (*Interruptions*). Please I tell you that it is not merely for the sake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes that I say this, but I am saying it in your interest also. (*Interruptions*). Yes, because I want the Congress Party, even though it has been ousted from power, to function as a responsible Opposition Party and if they commit this suicidal act which started yesterday and which they seem bent upon pursuing today, there will be a big vacuum in the Opposition. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, I would plead with you that so far as the guardian of this House is concerned, all Members of the House have been informed that voting will take place at 2.30 p.m. and the debate was started already, Mr. Guman Mal Lodha was called upon to speak in this debate. Let the debate continue and if the debate is not allowed to be held by the Opposition, then I plead with you that at 2.30 p.m. precisely both the Bills should be put to vote. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it looks strange that the Congress is opposing the Bill for the last two day and has chosen to act against the poor though it is these people who have sent them here... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: The CBI has filed FIR. There are many who are caused in it. They have to be interrogated and perhaps Mr Win Chadha is to be interrogated. Now it is known that if everything is made public, it goes to the benefit of the accused person to find out and chalk out his way. And this advantage will prevent it from coming or arriving at the truth. I think this advantage we should not give to those people against whom an FIR has been lodged. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga): Sir, I wish to respond to the Prime Minister for what he has said about this report. Sir, I distinctly remember that the Prime Minister, Shri V.P. Singh, when he was in this chair here, specifically alleged that Mr Rajiv Gandhi had an Account in Switzerland,; he gave the Account number. It is a speech he had made outside the Parliament. It was widely reported in the newspapers. (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

SHRI POOL CHAND VERMA (Shajapur): Let Shri Rajiv Gandhi testify to it. He is unnecessarily defending his leader. He should come here and defend himself. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Varmaji, will you take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, challenged Mr. V.P. Singh to authenticate or

[Sh. P. Chidambaram]

stand by his statement and make the allegation in Parliament. He retreated and left Parliament and never returned to Parliament except now, when he returned after the election. For three years, Mr. V.P. Singh and his party carried on a campaign on a single issue, Bofors, the SNAB report on which we are discussing now. Let us get the records straight. The SNAB report on which we are discussing now. Let us get the records straight. The SNAB report, an excised version—a version in which some parts were withheld—were sent to the Government. That SNAB report is available with the Government now. The then Opposition, the present Ruling Party demanded day in and day out and paralysed Parliament for several days that we must move to get the entire SNAB report and disclose the entire report: Meanwhile...

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Could you get the Bank accounts frozen on those papers? Could you get the Bank accounts impounded? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have to complete my statement. I am not yielding. (*Interruptions*) Sir, please ask them to sit down. What are they agitating about? I am not going to waste my throat. (*Interruptions*) The Prime Minister has to hear me; the Deputy Prime Minister has to hear me; the Finance Minister has to hear me. How can they heckle me like this? (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Chidambaram, we are not discussing that issue here right now. (*Interruptions*) Please do not get up like this. Prof. Rangaji, let me complete. Why are you jumping at conclusions before a sentence is completed? I am trying to facilitate your speaking and you are jumping at conclusions. Now supposing an issue has been raised, if somebody has said something and if you are replying to it, you should reply it briefly. I am allowing other Members also to say something. But you are jumping at conclusions and you are disturbing your own self.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): Sir, you should give him an opportunity. You have allowed the Prime Minister three times.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you jumping at conclusions?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, Mr. N. Ram and Ms. Chitra Subramaniam published, in October 1989 what according to them were, the excised portions of the SNAB report and then in Parliament, there was a demand that we should get the entire report from Sweden. It was the previous Government which wrote to Sweden saying, now that 'The Hindu' has... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTINAVINCHANDRA MEHTA (Bombay North East): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order regarding the Bill which was brought for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and tribes, and which is to be followed by an important Bill pertaining to the National Women Commission but ironically for the last two hours Bofors seems to be the centre of the discussion. It does not figure anywhere in today's agenda and it seems as though they are unwilling to allow a discussion on Scheduled Castes and tribes or welfare of women. All women members are keen to express their views on the floor of the House regarding women Commission Bill but superfluous issues are being raised here in order to prevent discussion on it. Therefore I request you to disallow any discussion relating to Bofors so that other important Bills can be discussed. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is true that as you said discussion on two Bills is underway but another subject has emerged here on which some members have expressed their views and the third is a point of order. We are trying our level best to come back to the first one and quit the second and third. Therefore, please do not raise too many points of order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you ask Shri Chidambaram to sit down. We do not want to listen to Chidmabaramji. (Interruptions)

SHRI P.R KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Why won't you allow Chidambaramji to speak. After all we have also been elected. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have to completed my sentence. I want to complete. Please ask him to sit down. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am hearing you. You complete it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It was the previous Government which asked Sweden to give the full SNAB report. (Interruptions) The Prime Minister cannot control his Members!

Day before yesterday, Mr. Ram sent an article in *the Hindu* saying what the Government has received is an exact copy of what he published in October, 1989 and Sweden has confirmed that what appeared in *the Hindu* authored by Ram and Chitra Subramaniam is the same. Now, Sir....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, what is happening? Are we to hear the entire story of Bofors? (Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: He has got the SNAB report with him. (Interruptions) SNAB report will exonerate ever single person in the Congress Party and that is why he is afraid. Why is he not placing the report? *The Hindu* has got the report. *The Indian Express* has got the report. The Prime Minister has got the report. If they have wanted the report and have got the report, place the report on the Table of the House.

On 31st of December, he promised to place..... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM DHAN: On a point of order. (Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am yielding only to the point of order. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIRAM DHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am on a point of order. You first listen to my point of order. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Ram Dhanji, what is your point of order?

(Interruptions)

SHRIRAMDHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when hon. Shri Thambi Durai was in the Chair he started the proceedings as per the agenda and asked hon. Guman Mal Lodha to make a statement on the Bill relating to the amendment of land reform in the Ninth Schedule. He had started his speech and thereafter the Congress people started raising hue and cry so that the Constitution Amendment Bill is prevented from being passed. They are repeating what they did yesterday. They are behaving as if they are enemies of Scheduled Castes and tribes. They are doing it in order stop the Bill from being passed. They tried their best to stall the proceedings of the House. I request you to conduct the proceedings of the House as per the agenda. (Interruptions)

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE (Beed): Many new members have come to this House for the first time. All that we heard about Shri Sathe was that he was a senior leader, and a seasoned parliamentarian but here we found Shri Sathe to be interrupting the proceedings frequently. The proceeding of this House should run according to rules. We have been in the opposition benches throughout our lives and he have no regrets about it but Satheji is getting impatient although he has been out only recently (Interruptions) I am developing my point so as to make him understand. Some rules and traditions have to be followed in the House. When the leader

bers are supposed to be seated and when the Prime Minister stands to speak all the members whosoever he may should be in their seat. But since the last two days we are observing that all our colleague stand up to speak in between. (*Interruptions*) Please accept my point of order because we rarely get a chance. The person who gets up has a chance to speak whether he is in power or not. Let us request Satheji, he is a member of this House and he knows the rules. The Bofors issue can be brought in a different manner. The proceedings of the House should go on.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have understood your point. Shri Babanrao Dhakane: Mr. Deputy Speaker, rules should be followed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Do not ask for a ruling. by ruling will not go in your favour. (*Interruptions*) It you give everything as per procedure then only you can raise a point of order.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Shri Guman Mal Lodha made a request and you allowed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please take your seat.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Why are you not carrying out this discussion further?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You discuss with him, why are you discussing with me?

(*Interruptions*)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: You first take you seat. I will take all the points of order simultaneously.

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Is his point of order over? Let me complete.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMADAN LAL KHURANA: My point of order is this that when a decision has been given in this House by the Speaker, why is this issue regarding Bofors being repeated today where it has already been raised yesterday? When the Speaker has already given a decision, then how can they raise it again?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, I have followed your point of order.

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Has he finished his point of order?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): I am asking you to allow me.

13.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Basuji, you please sit down for a minute. The points of order that are being raised here....

[*English*]

I think, have a substance in them.

[*Translation*]

I would ask Chidambaramji, to finish in one or two minutes. Thereafter I shall call Indrajit Gupta and Lodhaji.

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The SNAB Report... (*Interruptions*) What is this? I have been allowed to speak. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar): He is on a point of order.

SHRICHITTA BASU (Barasat): Rule 74 relates to the consideration of the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Which portion of Rule 74?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Rule 74 says:

"When a Bill is introduced or on some subsequent occasion, the member in charge may make one of the following motions in regard to his Bill, namely:—

- (i) that is be taken into consideration"

Now the Constitution (Sixty-eighth Amendment) Bill is under consideration. This motion is before the House. Unless this motion is disposed of, why are the other extraneous issues being brought? I want your ruling.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given a ruling already. Probably, you have not heard it, that the matter has to be relevant. Only then, it can be discussed.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am going a ruling.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Constitution (Sixty-eighth Amendment) Bill is under consideration. Unless this motion is disposed of, no other business can be taken it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): How do you say that what Mr. Chidambaram has said is all relevant? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: How do you say that whatever the Prime Minister has said is relevant? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Kumaramangalam, I am on my legs. Please do not raise points of order every now and then. In substance, I have given a decision before that the discussion has to be relevant.

But suppose one Member in the House raises some issue which is not really connected to the subject and if the other Member is replying to it, I cannot just say 'no' to him. Why do you want a decision on those points?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You do not have to quarrel with the presiding officer. You please allow him to conduct. I can understand the feelings of the Members. I am trying to regulate it. That is why, I said Mr. Chidambaram will speak, then Mr. Indrajit Gupta will speak and after that Mr. Lodha will speak. What more you want.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Discussion between the Members will finish or not. Why are you delaying it?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The unexercised SNAB Report is available to this an *Indian Express*, available to the *Hindu*. We have got it now. The Prime Minister is not placing it on the Table of the House because the SNAB Report will completely exonerate every single person against whom they made allegations. Now, Sir, on the PMO file on 21st December, the Prime Minister promised to place all the papers. Every single newspaper in the country carried it. Why is he not placing that. The Swedish Government can place an embargo upon the SNAB Report. I did not know the Swedish Government can place an embargo even on the Prime Minister's Office files. Thus, he placed two papers. The answer to those two papers placed was a separate issue. If the PMO file comes here, it will show that the two documents placed by the Prime Minister were distorted, taken out of context and only to carry on his campaign of insinuation. This campaign must stop. Now this campaign of insinuation must stop. He must place PMO papers. He must place the SNAB Report. His campaign must stop here and now. His campaign of insinuation must stop here and now. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, as you have allowed Shri Chidambaram, you please allow Shri Somnath Chatterjee to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Indrajit Gupta to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is extremely difficult to maintain one's patience at what is going on here. You will excuse my saying so. There is such a thing as 'List of Business', before the House. And you said that, 'I have to determine whether what is being said here is relevant or not relevant to the item before us.' But, you will excuse my saying so, there is a competition going on here in irrelevancy as far as the List of Business is concerned. Mr. Chidambaram and his friends are guilty of it; the Prime Minister is also guilty of it. *(Interruptions)* Sir, you will not mind my saying so—you are permitting this irrelevancy to go on.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is also irrelevant. It is not for the Member to say this.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Please do not take it amiss.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am taking it in the proper spirit. I am not taking it amiss.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The only question here, which has been raised and which is relevant, I say, is the question of the confidentiality. *(Interruptions)* It has been disposed of yesterday. The message of the Swedish Government—the telex message—has been read out here, in the House. *(Interruptions)* Now, it is upto them to challenge that. If they want to, they can challenge it and say, 'we do not bother about all these confidentialities; we do not bother, whether we get any more information or not; we must be committed to go on obstructing this discussion.' *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already given my ruling.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, last week, when a big discussion was going on, in which I also had an occasion to participate—in the BAC, in the Minister's room etc where we discussed about whether the House should be extended or not, at that time, these hon. friends from the Opposition were very vocal in saying—in the beginning, they were opposing the four days' extension—that these two Constitution Amendment Bills which have absolutely non-controversial...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not discuss what happened there.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: But, now, another item has been injected here, into the Agenda in order to obstruct what they had agreed to last week. *(Interruptions)* That is what is happening. I want to know from you, as the Presiding Officer, as to what are we discussing now? Are we discussing items 10 and 11 of the Order Paper or have we set it aside and started discussion whatever the Opposition wanted to inject? if they want to have a discussion it can be held. But it cannot be held now. Therefore, I say that—though my friend Shri Dinesh Singh goes on saying, 'we are supporting, we are supporting',—actually they are obstructing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: And it is your duty, if I may humbly say so,

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Don't go on saying this.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Why? You are in the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already said that after your speech, Mr. Lodha will speak.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: If they do not allow the items to be carried on, then it is for you to bring them to order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is for you also to control yourself.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Kindly do not allow such things. Already an hour has gone. *(Interruptions)* People in this country will not rest until the truth about Bofors comes out. *(Interruptions)* Whoever has a share in the booty will ultimately be unmasked and punished. *(Interruptions)* You must not obstruct the investigation. You must not try to prevent or obstruct now. *(Interruptions)* What your Government failed to do, this Government is doing. Sir, I beg of you, please rule out this irrelevancy and allow the discussion to proceed, on this two Constitution Amendment Bills which they had promised to support and which they are obstructing now. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I want to speak for a minute.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Please.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I Must tell you frankly that unless Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan withdraws his remarks which he has made and the Government lays the papers on the Table of the House, we are not going to cooperate and listen to the Members. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Do they want to Blackmail the House?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: There is no question of blackmailing the House. We want the papers to be laid on the Table. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, let them be candid as to what is their real intention so far as these two Constitution (Amendment) Bills are concerned. Let us know their real intention.... *(Interruptions)* You are holding the House to ransom. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The whole country knows what you are doing... *(Interruptions)* ... We do not want to listen to anything. First, let the papers be laid. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No please. Not like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rules are violated.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, he is threatening to obstruct the proceedings of the House.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I am not threatening. *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the wake of 66th Amendment which has been placed before the House, yesterday I was narrating the plight of crores of poor people, the downtrodden, the oppressed people, the landless farmers, poor labourers and the farm labourers who have not so far been given land. Our country is primarily an agricultural country. While welcoming the move of the present Government to bring forward this amendment relating to welfare of the farmers and to Land Reforms, I would like to submit that those who are trying to obstruct in anyway, are betraying the cause of 80 crore people of the country. It is a betrayal on their part with the downtrodden and the oppressed people. These poor people have not been allotted land for the last 42 years. In the name of Land Reforms only a drama was being played before them during the the last 42 years. I would like to tell them that when the Supreme Court repealed the Land Reforms Act in 1951, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru came to the House and he had said at that time that... My hon. friends, please listen to me....

[Sh. Guman Mal Lodha]

[*English*]

Every day of delay in passing these Bills will bring dangers to the people.

"If there is one thing to which we as a party have been committed in the past generation or so it is the agrarian reform and the abolition of the zamindari system.

Now, apart from our commitment, a survey of the world today, a survey of Asia today will lead any intelligent person to see that the basic and the primary problem is the land problem today in Asia, as in India. And every day of delay adds to the difficulties and dangers apart from being an injustice in itself."

[*Translation*]

I would like to appeal to you to listen to me. I want to say that—

[*English*]

Every day of delay adds to the difficulties and dangers to the teeming millions of our people, apart from being an injustice in itself.

"We have brought it forward now after that care, in the best form that we could give it, because we thought that the amendments mentioned in this Bill are not only necessary, but desirable, and because we thought that if these changes are not made, perhaps not only would great difficulties arise as they have arisen in the past few months, but perhaps some of the main purposes of the very Constitution may be defeated or destroyed."

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that since 1951, it is not the first

occasion, but once a number of occasions amendments to Ninth Schedule of the Constitution have been made. These amendments became necessary in view of the fact that even after enacting the Land Reforms Act and the Zamindari Abolition Act, the farmers were forced to go the courts of law. As a result of this they were not able to avail of the benefits of the above acts. Now I would like to explain to you as to how the farmers remained deprived of the benefits of the Land Reforms Acts. Dr. Biplab Dasgupta, Professor of Economics, Calcutta University had said in the Kisan Sabha that out of 78 lakh acres of surplus land, only 45 lakh acres of land had been distributed. This matter concerns the farmers. This issue relates to farm labourers. He said that...

[*English*]

"...All India Kishan Sabha took a serious view that so far only 78 lakh acres had been declared surplus and of this 45 lakh acres had been actually distributed. This accounted for just 2.14 per cent of the total cultivated land in the country being declared surplus and only 1.25 per cent being actually distributed." (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

I would like to tell my hon. friends that they have been playing with the interests of the farmers till today. Amendments so far made in the Ninth Schedule by our hon. friends did not include Land Reforms whereas in the first amendment carried out in 1951 it was specifically mentioned that Land Reforms would be included in the Ninth Schedule. But it was replaced by MISA by our hon. friends (*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that we sit through the lunch hour?

MANY HON. MEMBERS: Yes, yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We would skip the lunch hour.

[*Translation*]

SHRIGUMANMAL LODHA: I would like to submit that the Supreme Court has said that—

[*English*]

"Article 39 of the Constitution directs by Clauses (b) and (c) that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good; that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment."

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while making and amendments his the constitution it is all the more necessary he see that the law is implemented. It should be implemented effectively.

[*English*]

The Report of the Working Group on Land Reforms 1978 (Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Department of Agriculture) says that it was widely recognised that the imposition of ceiling on agricultural holdings and tenancy reforms constitutes the substance of the agrarian reform movement and that, concentration of land in the hands of a small group inhibits production, encourages concealed or irregular tenancies and results in unequal accesses to facilities of production in the rural sector.

[*Translation*]

He has put this thing in writing.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

AN HON. MEMBER: On a point of order.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Lodhaji, he is raising a point of order.

[*English*]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I am on a point of order. If you are to do away with the Lunch Hour, it should be the decision of the House. No decision has been taken in the House. I would like to know who has decided it. Where is the consensus of the House? Did the Minister move the motion?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Yes. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, he should move a motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On these small points let us not try to ask for this. If you insist, I shall have to do it but these are the points on which we have not been doing it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, I propose that the Lunch hour be skipped.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the desire of the House that the Lunch Hour is skipped?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want a deviation on this?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, we are going for lunch and then we will come back. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill relates to Land Reforms and Concerns the welfare of farmers. The entire economic condition of the country is totally dependent. On the farmers. In order to supplement. My views started above, I would like to quote national poet, Shri Sohanlal Dwivedi who has made a vivid description of this situation in the following words—

*"Ye nabh chumbi Prasad bhawan,
Jinme mandit mohak kanchan,
ye chitrakala kaushal darshan,
ye singh-pour, toran, vandan,
Grih takavate virman,
grih jinka sab atank man,
Sir jhuka samajhate dhanya Pran,
Ye aan-wan, ye sabhi shan,
wah teri daulat par kisan!
Wah teri mehnal par kisan!
Ye Indraprasth ke rajya sadan,
Pataliputra ke bharya bhawan,
ye Magadha, Ayodhya, Rishipattan,
Ujjain, Awanti ke prangan,
Vaishali ka Vaibhav mahan,
Kashi-Prayag ke kirti gan,
Lakhanwi nawawon ke vitan,
Mathura ki sukh-sampati mahan,
Wah teri daulat par kisan!
Wah teri mehnal par kisan!*

*Ye bade bade samrajya raj,
Yug-yug se ate chale aaj,
Ye singhasan, ye takth taj,
Ye kile durg, garh shastra laj,
In rajyon ki int mahan,
In rajyon ki neewen mahan,
Inki diwaron ki uthan,
Inki prachiron ke udan,
Wah teri haddi par kisan
Wah teri pasali par Kisan!
Wah teri anton par kisan!
Wah teri tanto par Kisan!
Yadi hil uth too o. Sheshnag!
ho dhwashtha palak may rajya bhag,
Samrat niharren, neend tyag,
hai kahin mukul, to kahin pag!
Samant bhag rahe bacha jan,
Santari bhayakul, lupta jnan,
Senayen hain dhendhati tran,
Uda gaya hawa me dhowaj nishan!
Maa ne tajh par asha bandhi,
too de aapne bal ki Kandhi,
O, malaya pawan ban ja aandi,
tujhase he gandhi hai Gandhi,
Tujhse Subhash hai bhashman,
Tujhse Moti ka bacha maan;*

*Too jyoti Jawahar ki mahan,
 udata nabha par apana nishan,
 Wah teri takat par Kisan,
 Wah teri Kuvvat par kisan!
 Wah teri juraal par Kisan,
 wah teri himmal par kisan,
 Too madwalan se bhag-bhag,
 soye kisan, uth! jag jag!
 Nishthura shasan me lage agg,
 ga mahakranti ka abhaya rag!*

MR. DEPUTYSPEAKER: Sir, I get some inspiration from this poetry in contrast to what happened yesterday. In this, connection I would like to present the following lines:—

*"Janata ki hai yeh jan-sattaa,
 Jai ka prakash shyama ke tatvagyan
 Atal, Lal, Lohia mahan,
 Devi, Pratap, Madhu, Paswan,
 Rajiv Congress ka kafan bana,
 Janmabhoomi ka yeh apaman,
 Jah jag utha ajagen kisan,'
 Keel lagegi tere kafan me,
 Girijan, Harijan ka naya jna,
 harijan ayog sanshodham ka,
 Tumne jo kiya ghrinit apaman,
 Bhumi sudhar sanshodha birodha se,
 Viplaba lawega yeh kisan,*

*Dhul dhusari, ho jawegi,
 Mitti me tab mil jawegi,
 Yeh katil chal wa aan ban"*

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: If they are hell-bent on this point and insult us, I alone would be enough to face the challenge.

[English]

If you are challenging us, we are ready to face your challenge also. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rawatji, what are you doing?

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are our custodian. We will follow as per our interests. That is not fair. We are not going to be directed by them. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

Please refrain from this type of talks. The manner in which you are talking, does not entitle you to remain in the ruling party (*Interruptions*). One of the ministers says "you get out! Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are not saying anything in this regard. How far is it justifiable? It is absolutely illogical. If any of our hon. Members gets up and starts moving out of the House, hon. Members from the treasury benches pass remarks and thus they are doing a wrong thing. It is against the dignity of the House. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, their behaviours should be deplored, otherwise, it is not a good thing. (*Interruptions*).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Rawat, I have already said that.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, you have not said that. They are not going to comply with your orders.

not hearing me. I have already told that.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: They are not respecting your observation.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): We want that all of you remain present in the House. The Government also wants that you should be present in the House. We would like to make an appeal that all of you should participate in the process of passing the Bill and have the Resolution passed unanimously. It is our request to you.

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR (Quilon): We have made it repeatedly clear that we are supporting the Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: All the Ministers are not that sensible like you. Besides, more than half of your members have lost their wisdom. They think as if they are fighting on the road. It is the Parliament. They should behave like a Parliamentarian. The behaviour you are showing is not at all proper. (*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have made your point now. What is the point in saying all these again? Do you want a remark from the Chair against you are what? I do not know what you want.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Government for the abrogation of Articles 31-A and 31-C. The most progressive work that the Janata Government did in 1977-88 is to incorporate "right to property" in the Constitution. Now the Government scrapped article 31 for good for which I

would like to congratulate it. Even after blowing the trumpets of progression they were not able to abrogate this Article during the last 40 years. But the Janata Government. Scrapped it with one stroke of pen. Instead of commending the Government for taking such a dynamic, pragmatic and revolutionary measure, they are staging a walk out, raising technical questions and point of order. The people of not only the country but also the world over are watching their action.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Government as to what are the obstacles before the Government to acquire land under the existing land reform laws and allot the same to farmers. I would like to give the figures. A large number of poor people are in dire need of land. In Andhra Pradesh there are one lakh hundred eighty one large stretches of land which cannot be distributed to landless farmers because the matter is sub-judice. Similarly there are 961092 stretches of land in Assam and 1,10,771 in Bihar which are lying undistributed. In this state, not only once but twice the farmers..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay South): The hon. Member has come to this side leaving his seat even their Lodhaji's speech is not audible.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If he wants to speak, he can do so from his seat. He can sit there. But there should be no disturbance in his sitting there.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of serious concern there in a country like India the economy is dependent on agriculture and progress is dependent on economy. There are large number of landless farmers in this country who are eagerly looking forward for a piece of Land for their livelihood. On the other hand the Land Reforms Act has not been brought to the notice of the courts. As such Land cannot be allotted to farmers on account of the stay order issued by the courts. Large number of such cases are pending in the law courts. Large stretches of

land numbering about 1,23,09986 in the entire country remain undistributed because court cases are pending finalisation in regard thereto. Crores of people living alongside these land crores cannot get two leaves of bread a day. I would like to tell you that there are poor farmers in the country who live on trees, eat leaves of trees pass their days in the juggis. There are some families in which both the daughter in law and her mother in law cannot come one at a time for want of two sarees for their individual use. One has in want for the other till she returns from her work. The Land Reforms Act cannot be implemented in our country. Had the Government come up with a resolve to have the Bill on Land Reforms passed, it would have already been passed by the House. The Bofors case could have been taken up later on.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please speak on the Bill.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: I would like to say that in connection with the Minerva Mills case the supreme court had expressed this view and quoted Pt. Jawahar Lal as under:

[English]

It is there in Supreme Court A.I.R. 1980 (Vol.67)—Minerva Mills Ltd. vs Union of India—SC-1789—Page No. 1830, para 97. It says:

"The 9th Schedule of Article 31B was not intended to include laws other than those covered by Art. 31A. That becomes clear from speeches of the Law Minister and the Prime Minister during the discussion on the Constitutions (First Amendment) Act, 1951. Dr. Ambedkar admitted of the 9th Schedule that prime facie 'it is an unusual procedure' but he went on to say that laws that fall under Art. 31A—Jawaharlal Nehru also told Parliament.

"It is not with any great satisfaction or pleasure that we have produced this long Schedule. We do not wish to add to it, for two

reasons. One is that the Schedule consists of a particular type of legislation, generally speaking, and *another type should not come in*... It was double-barrelled protection which was intended to be provided to this category of legislation, since it was designed to carry out agrarian reform which was so essential for bringing about a revolution in the socio-economic structure of the country."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that in Vaman Rao case they had clearly stated this and the hon. judges had again quoted Jawahar Lal Nehru as under:

"We have brought it forward now after that care, in the best form that we could give it, because we thought that the amendments mentioned in this Bill are not only necessary, but desirable, and because we thought that if these changes are not made, perhaps not only would great difficulties arise, as they have arisen in the past few months..."

".....but perhaps some of the main purposes of the very Constitution may be defeated or delayed.

The Directive Principles of State Policy represent a dynamic move towards a certain objective. The Fundamental Rights represent something static, to preserve certain rights which exist."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir Jagirdars these Zamindars and Jagirdars have been exploiting the farmers for centuries for their selfish ends. I have already expressed my view point. I gave the instances of Vamanrao's case, Bhim Singh's case and Minerva Mills case. In pursuance of the above principle, I would like to say that miraculous changes could be brought in the liking conditions of the farmers through Land Reforms and impediments coming in the way of land reforms could be removed, if the Land Re-

[Sh. Guman Mal Lodha]

forms Act is included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. If one goes through this Act, one will come across that in Land Reform Act is being implemented in States like Rajasthan, Bihar, Assam and other places. It will be seen that in these States efforts have been made to provide Land to the farmers under the Tenancy Act. For example let us take the Colonisation Act which is in operation in Ganganagar district. One bigha of Land in this district can produce crops worth lakhs of rupees. But the poor and landless farmers have no land to till. As such, if we really have a little compassion and good will for the downtrodden and oppressed people who are being exploited for centuries that they should get two square miles a day, we must pass this Bill. Today's social system bears the brunt of past dualism when the Britishers enforced imperialism in the country which was followed by the oppression by the Kings, Zamindars and Jagaridars. They exploited the farmers to a great extent. I would like to cite an example of their sufferings. Nathu Ramji is not here. Devlalji is present. He knows how the Dabra incident took place. How the people were shot dead who were demanding their rights? When the question of providing them protection in the country comes up, it becomes a matter of sorrow and anguish for us. I would, therefore, like to request that other speakers should be given fullest opportunity. The Bill should receive support from all sections of the House, because it is a progressive step. It will help include the Landless people, farmers, agriculture labours who do not get minimum wages, in the Ninth Schedule and provide them protection under article 13 (1) (b). I have to say this much only.

[*English*]

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Two Constitution (Amendment) Bills were placed before the House for voting. An impression was created that we were trying to obstruct the passage of the Bills. (*Interruptions*) That is why I am not obstructing it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Again you have started creating a noise.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: They are blaming us saying that we are not interested in it. So, I have to answer to that also.

Yesterday, they could not muster even a simple majority to get it passed. Yesterday, without our cooperation, they could have passed the Scheduled Castes (Amendment) Bill, if they had brought all their members to the House. So, a government which could not bring all the members to the House to pass their Bill, how can they blame us. It is not our responsibility. (*Interruptions*) We wanted you to pass the Bill. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRES (SHRI P. UPENDRA): But you wanted to divide the House. That is what we said. Today, you will see it. We will pass it whether you are here or not.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Yesterday, it was announced that the Bill would be passed at 2.30 P. M. But at 4 O'Clock they could not pass it because they did not have the requisite majority.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: No. That is not correct. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: We walked out. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: We wanted to give you time.....(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: You listen to me and then you can say whatever you want to say. I am taking only my party's time. Please listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your statement is rebutted by the Minister. That is all right. You come to the point.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: I agree to that. But we walked out leaving the floor to them

to pass the Bill. We did not obstruct. That is the question. That is the point I want to make. We walked out leaving it to them to pass the Bill.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (Calcutta South): You must be grateful to us for it.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: I do not yield. Why do you to control them? They can reply to me, when their time comes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can reply to those points when you speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You come to the point, Mr. Kurien.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: I am on the subject. Again, in so many words, it was expressed that we are bringing extraneous considerations before this Bill. It is not that. Mr. Upendra knows very well that last week we had a meeting on the passage of this Bill. *(Interruptions)* I am on the subject. Please listen to me. Mr. Upendra knows very well that we had a meeting on this very question of passing of this Bill and he wanted our cooperation. We had offered the cooperation subject to that you know their placing those papers on the Table of the House. *(Interruptions)* It is my party's time I am taking. It is not your time. Has our party got no time?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): It is also the time of the House.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: It is my party's time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you do not agree to what he is saying, you can reply to him later on. Now he has taken the time to speak on this Bill. He is making the points. Within his time he may say certain things. You note those points and you rebut them when you reply. Please do not interject.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): Right of irrelevancy

is always guaranteed.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Mr. Upendra knows very well that we had a meeting on this Bill about the passage of this very Bill. He had requested for our cooperation. We offered the cooperation subject to their placing certain papers on the Table of the House. We heard the Prime Minister today.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: conditional cooperation!

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Yes, yes. You call it like that. We heard the Prime Minister here saying, today, that the NAB Report could not be disclosed because of the Swedish Government's objection. But we have not asked for those papers only. We also wanted the PMO files which the Prime Minister had assured in this House, to be placed on the Table of the House, on December 31st itself. There is no Swedish government's objection or anybody's objection in placing those papers on the Table of the House. The House is well aware of that.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): I am on a point of order. Parties are allotted time to discuss particular bills and members from those parties are supposed to speak on those bills. One cannot say, "I have got forty minutes. For forty minutes I will recite poems and tell stories." To you allow him to speak? But it is irrelevant to the subject under discussion. How do you allow it? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Probably he is trying to explain the stand their Party has taken.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All of you can use your wisdom. You can use your intelligence to rebut the point which he is making.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, you have yourself said that it must be relevant to the business. Still you are allowing him to say everything..(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is trying to explain why their Party has taken this stand.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will have more time to rebut his point if you do not interject.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, I believe, as a Member, I have every right to explain why I support or do not support a Bill. I am talking on the Bill. I am only doing that..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You have not said a word about the Bill.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: I believe I have every right to explain why I support or do not support a Bill.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you showing your intelligence in interjecting? Why do you not show your intelligence while replying?

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: At least the House has now cooled down. We are not objecting to it. Why do you now object us so that you want us to object again? (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You go ahead. Otherwise you will take more time.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: You advise your Members.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Kurien, please come to the point.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Come to the point, he said.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: That point I am making. It is not that extraneous considerations have been brought here. There was an assurance in the Leaders Meeting... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would you like to repeat all those points which have already been made?

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: I want to make one point every clear to help them only....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is discussed in the Committee Meeting, we do not quote here.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: I am referring to what the Prime Minister has said. He said that on the NAB Report, there is some restriction from the Swedish Government. But we had also asked for the PMO file which he had promised...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RAMGANESH KAPSE (Thane): Sir, I am on a point of order..(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am hearing his point of order.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Listen, in spite of my repeated request you are trying to control the House from your seat. You can see that whenever you try to speak from your seat, House remains disturbed. Then it became difficult for the chair to control the House. Let the chair control the House. You will also be given time.

[*English*]

If you are interrupting all the time, you are also disturbing the House. Mind it.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RAMGANESH KAPSE: The

Prime Minister has appealed to the Opposition that let us finish the matters on the Agenda and whatever we want to discuss about Bofors, we will decide..(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What procedure has been violated?

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: If he wants to refer about Bofors, the Prime Minister had already appealed to the Opposition ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

PROF. RAMGANESH KAPSE: My point of order is that no matters about Bofors should be raised over here by Mr. Kurien and he should speak on the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have understood. Now your point of order I am overruling. If he is explaining as to why he is going to vote or not going to vote or going to abstain from voting, he is well within his right and I am allowing him. If you have any other point, you can refer it in your speech. I request Mr. Kurien to be very brief.

PROF P. J. KURIEN: The Government has asked our cooperation in passing this Bill. We have offered our cooperation with the request that these papers, not only NAB report but also the PMO's files which the Prime Minister has assured will be placed on the Table, should be placed on the Table. But unfortunately, for those files even though there is no Swedish Government restriction, the Government is walking out of the promise, the Prime Minister is walking out of the promise made to this House. This is our complaint that this Government wants to hide these files and continues with its image tarnishing operation. That we strongly object.

Coming to this Bill, everybody including the Prime Minister were saying that the SC & ST Bill is very much for the poor and that it is going to be a Magna Carta for the poor. What is that Bill? It is only to accommodate Mr.

Ram Dhan that this Bill has been brought. Because he could not accommodate Mr. Ram Dhan in the Council of Ministers, he wants to give him some higher status. There is nothing which will help the Harijans and the poor. If there is anything, you are free to explain that. Please go through the Bill. This is only Mr. Ram Dhan's Bill. And commenting that this is for the poor and the Harijans, they are only shedding crocodile tears. I would again request the Government that if it wants to ensure our cooperation, please give us some cooperation also. We are asking for the file which the Government can easily put on the Table. Please give us cooperation. Secondly, they say that we are objecting the passage of this Bill. We are not against the passage of this Bill. We are only not giving our cooperation because you are not giving us cooperation. Even now there is time for the Government to come forward with that cooperation before the voting takes place.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: I only want to know whether your support on these two Bills—one regarding the Land Reforms and the second about SC & ST is conditional so that we can tell the country that even your support to the SC & ST Bill is conditional.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: It is not a question of SC & ST Bill or any other Bill. What we have said is that our cooperation to the Government is subject to these conditions. We are neither against SC & ST Bill nor land Reforms Bill. But if the Government wants our cooperation, they should do this. But we are not opposed to these Bills.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: Is your voting on SC & ST Bill conditional or will you vote for this Bill unconditionally?

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: When you have requisite majority you do not want our cooperation. You can easily pass these Bills. You remember, we did not vote against these bills yesterday. We only walked out. You could have passed it. Sir, we are prepared to cooperate with the Government but, they should also cooperate by placing the papers on the Table of the House especially the

[Prof. P. J. Kurlen]

Bofors file, the A-320 file and also the terms of reference with regard to the appointment of a Judge in the Meham case.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I only want to tell my hon. friend that when we were sitting in the Opposition and we were carrying on a fierce fight against Bofors issue, even at that time when the Bills on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and such other Bills came, we always gave an unconditional support because we stood for these elements throughout the country.

[Translation]

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR (Bikaner): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir on behalf of the CPI (M) I welcome the sixty sixth constitutional (Amendment) Bill which is meant for inclusion of the land reform laws in the Ninth Schedule. Some time back a seminar was organised in which the condition of the poor in the country was discussed. I would like to readout 2-3 lines from there. "According to the 1951 census the number of agricultural labourers in the country was 275 lakhs and according to 1981 census this number increased to 644 lakhs. In 1951 the percentage of landless, small, marginal and poor farmers was 28.3 which per cent increased to 38.5 percent in 1981." It means that during 42 years of Congress rule the poor, whether they are in rural area or urban area, have become poorer. The number of poor has as also that of the rich has increased. It is clear from the statistics which were given by the Congress Government and not by the present Government. I remember my childhood days when I was studying in a school in 1946. Our Deputy Prime Minister, Shri Devi Lal belongs to Choutala Village, About sixty years ago a slogan "Zamin uski jo jote" (land belongs to tiller) was given in the Congress session. The slogan which created feelings of anger against the British spread like a wild fire all over the country. This slogan gave new hopes to share croppers who used to cultivate the land of Rajas and big Zimindars,

that after independence they would become land owners. After drawing inspiration from this slogan thousands of young sons of the poor laid down their lives. I remember that day when I came to know that Ch. Devi Lal and Aruna Asif Ali were coming to our village. The share croppers and landless labourers had strong desire that Britishers should leave their country and monarchy and feudal system should be abolished. These were their desires.

14.00 hrs.

At that time I had seen 50,000 poor people of Punjab and Rajasthan there. Today I would like to know from those people who are opposing the Amendment Bill as to what they want. Why the Congress Party members, who are not present in the House are not joining us in passing the Bill? It is not a question of Bofors but the question is that the Government did not implement the land reforms honestly. They had made only tall promises only as a result of which the big land lords managed to protect their land from acquisition. Even before the announcement of these measures they leaked the information to the landlords about the possible fall out and asked them to save their land from acquisition and join the congress. Now they do not have abstinence from anything. Today Shri Birla is the member of their party. Now they do not feel shy of anything. Earlier Shri Birla was not given the party ticket but this time has been elected to Rajya Sabha on congress party ticket. At that time they had some hesitation about it. The Congress party under the leadership of Nehruji and Indiraji fought for socialism but now under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi it hates socialism and loves Birla Saheb. They are all land grabbers. Today they have not run away because of Bofors but they have some other motive behind it. The big landlords have transferred their land in fictitious names to maintain their possession....." ..*..... is my neighbour and my relative also. He is my father in law...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, he has said objectionable things-firstly he has mentioned

the name and secondly he used the word chor. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
.....*.....name will not go on record.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: I am talking about my father in law.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Makkasar, you will not be given any chance to defame even your father in law.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: If you take it ill, I will not mention the name. I know congress leaders who have one thousand bighas of land Today they talk about the poor. They have their farms not at one place but at different places in Punjab, U.P. and Rajasthan. The persons who had earlier no land in their possession have now acquired huge properties. The absence of the Congress men shows that they want more land. They apprehend that their land may not go out of their hand. I would also like to say to the Janata Dal leaders to implement it effectively. Only then the poor section of the society will be with them. The people have elected them for five years and during this period they should serve the people. They should implement it honestly. The Congress party has distributed only 45 lakh acres of land among the poor during the last 42 years whereas six crore acres of surplus land should have been distributed. The land distributed among the poor was waste land which was left by the landlords. Leave aside the questions of land ceiling and land reforms implementation the Government have dispossessed all the poor share croppers who used to cultivate the land and earned their livelihood. I know because I also belong to a Zaminder family. In my childhood, I have seen in 1945-46 that there was hunger in the houses of big land lords who did not cultivate their own land. There was poverty among them. I have seen poverty in my own house. Today their poor camels and bullocks have been replaced by tractors. The big land lords

have made mechanized forms and now no one can acquire their land. They have also made the God as minor. Thousands of acres of land is there in the name of every 'Devasthan'. Nathdwara temple has lakhs of acres of land. Similarly other temples have also lakhs of acres of land. The poor cultivators who used to cultivate it have been dispossessed. The God of Nathdwara will remain minor for ever and that is why no body could acquire that land. The God may be of thousand years old but for their own hunger of land they have shown the God as minor. Their Gods will remain minor for ever. I remember that is 1970 when Rajasthan canal was constructed in my area the Government had lakhs of acres of land in its possession. At that time Indiraji was in power in the Centre and had parted ways with synoptically. In Delhi a resolution for socialism was passed and there was talk about land reforms. At that time late Shri Sukhadia was the Chief Minister of Rajasthan and he work the decision to auction government land. All the opposition parties opposed this more and said that we would not allow the auction of land and the land should be given to farmers because land is the mother of farmers. During that agitation 15 persons were killed in firing and 20,000 farmers, our sisters and daughter went to jails. We came to Delhi and met Indiraji. At that time our camarade Gopalan and Comarade Ramamurti were members of the Parliament. Our party leader Camarade Surjit in tervened and besides other leaders Late Shri Charan Singh also took interest in the matter and said that the agitation should end and the Government should distribute the land among the poor and landless farmers. Martial law was declared in Ganganagar district. At last, Shri Sukhadia admitted his mistake and apologized in the State Assembly and declared that the Government of Rajasthan would not auction the land in future . The land was distributed among the farmers. 16 lakh acres of land having irrigation facilities was distributed among one lakh landless farmers at the rate of Rs. 17,000 for 25 bighas and the amount was realised in 20

[Sh. Shopat Singh Makkasar]

instalments.....(*Interruptions*) I am not saying such. Today there is coalition Government of Janata Dal and BJP in Rajasthan. Today land is being auctioned there in the name of special allotment which should be stopped. If the Government is serious about this Bill, it should take decision not to auction the government land and it should be distributed among the poor. Today there are lakhs of landless farmers in Rajasthan whereas lakhs of acres of land is lying unused in Jaisalmer and Barmer districts of Rajasthan. Now Canal has reached there and water is available for the farmers but cultivators are not there is that area. The Congress Government wanted to auction the land through allotment. Therefore, through you. I would like to say that the Government should direct the State Government today itself to distribute this land among the land less Scheduled Castes, down bodder and poor and it should be implemented strictly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the condition is Rajasthan is very condition is very peculiar. I would like to tell as to what is happening there. I would like to tell the Government as to what the Congress Government had done. Patwaris do not enter the names of the cultivators in the revenue record and write only the name of the land owner. Two three years back it was decided in the Revenue Ministers conference that names of the cultivators should be entered in revenue records only then they can be saved. Girdavi is done in the names of land owners and the poor cultivators and agricultural labourers work like bonded labourers in their fields. They work at the mercy of the owners. They may keep them or may remove them from work. Their names are not entered in revenue record and only the owners, name is entered there. You should take it seriously and take some decision in this regard. The Congress Government have not implemented land reforms during the last forty years, so the present Government should do it because now it is their responsibility. They are shying away from it and we can understand that most of them are land grabbers

and they apprehend that as soon as this Bill is passed, their surplus land will be acquired. Therefore, this government should do it. It should not only be passed but should also be implemented. I would like to say that this law would strengthen the hands of the landless and the poor cultivators and at the same time strengthen the Government also.

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI (Rewa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir it is a revolutionary Bill which has been introduced in the House. During pre-independence days a promise was made to the landless and poor people during the Congress Session at Krachi in 1930 that after independence they would be given land. The land would be taken away from those big landlords who did not plough their own land and that would be given to the cultivators who actually toil in the fields. This promise was made in 1930-31. This gave new inspirations to the poor, landless and downtrodden people and they sacrificed their everything for the freedom struggle and at last country became independent. After that constitutions was framed but right to property was included in the Fundamental Rights. There were two great socialist leaders in the Constituent Assembly namely Seth Damodar Sawaroop and Shri Saramdhar Dass who refused to sign the. Copy of the Constitution because it included the Right to property in the fundamental rights. They were of the view that so long as right to property is there as Fundamental Right Government would not be able to bring about any economic reforms in the country. The Government would not be able to acquire surplus land and distribute that among the landless workers. This would not allow the Government to acquire this surplus land.

It was proved that they did to sign it. After the abolition of Zamindari system the socialists started a movement in this country to get the promises made fulfilled. They demanded that surplus land should be distributed and that a ceiling on the agricultural land should be fixed. Earlier, Congress leaders made a fun of it and said that.....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not narrate other things; confine your speech to the provisions of the Bill. Voting is to take place at 2.30 PM. Besides you, other members also have to speak.

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI: I shall finish soon. The law enacted in 1960 provided for ceilings but it remained on papers only and the lands of big people and big zamindars were not acquired. The situation continues to be the same. Once, as a Chairman or convenor of a committee of Planning Commission, Shri P.S. Appu had said that if any big fraud had been committed in the country it was in connection with land ceiling laws. The land ceiling laws were made for namesake. They are absolutely meaningless. There was no will or political will to enforce them and land could not be distributed to the poor under them. Thousands of acres of land is still owned by the big people. Once, in the case of Golak Nath, Supreme Court had passed a judgement that no law can be enacted to curtail the fundamental rights. Right to property is a fundamental right. You cannot curtail it. Later our leader late Shri Nath Pai brought a Constitution Amendment Bill to empower Parliament to amend fundamental rights. That Bill was passed. Later in 1977 Janata Party Government came to power and the right to property was deleted from fundamental rights and we had been able to implement Land Reform Laws retrospectively. But that Government fell and the old practice continued, big land holders continued to hold the lands in fictitious names. On papers they possessed land according to the land ceiling law but in reality, They are owners of thousands of acres of land. The Raja of the district to which I belong, holds thousands of acres of land. It is known to all. But in lease papers and Government papers it has been registered in different names. Such conspiracy and big fraud take place in the country and no action is taken in the matter.

There are crores of people in this country who are deprived of land and social justice and are living below the poverty line. Today, there are 8 crore agricultural labour-

ers. They do not have land even for constructing their houses.

Land Ceiling Laws have been made from time to time but our Government has taken an historical decision and amended the Constitution to include Land Reform Laws in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

The question is not of only land ceilings, the question is also of giving ownership of land to the tillers. Bengal has really done an historical work in this regard. This has not been done anywhere except in Bengal. Therefore, all the Land Reform Laws and the laws relating to social justice should be included in the Ninth Schedule so that they may be out of the jurisdiction of courts; no body may challenge them in courts and nobody may deprive the poor of social justice. Keeping this in view, a provision has been made to include these laws in the Ninth Schedule. Even today, the situation in the country is that 70 per cent of land is held by only 15 per cent landlords. Only 30 per cent of land is held by 85 per cent landless labourers and marginal farmers of the country. That is the reason why production of foodgrains is not increasing in the country. Production and productivity of foodgrains can be increased by proper distribution of the land. The production and productivity increase where the land is less. Japan has very little land but productivity is 7200 Kg. per hectare. In India, even in States like Punjab, productivity is 2200 Kg. per hectare. The people of this country can not prosper till the landless and poor are given the ownership right of land. I support the Bill which has been brought to give a such right to the poor and hope that all hon. Members will support this Bill and pass it unanimously. This will bring a new hope for crores of landless poor people of the country.

[English]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I am on a point of procedure. (*Interruptions*) Only one Member has spoken from our Party. As per our strength in the House, half of the time

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

consumed by this House on this Bill should be given to us.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If time is there, I will allow. I have called Mr. Kurien. I have called one member each from CPM, Janata Dal and now CPI. I will call you also, if there is time.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: It is as per your wish.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If everybody stands up and challenges, what will the chair do? If the time is there, I will call you.

Shri Bhogendra Jha.

[*Translation*]

SHRIBHOGENDRAJHA: (Madhubani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the 66th Constitution Amendment Bill and I also support the amendment which stands in the name of hon. Minister Shri Upendra Nath Verma, because it is also very important.

Sir, before expressing my views I would like to say that we should not be penalised for the time which has been demanded by Shri Rawatji, which has been wasted. I want that I should be given time to speak on it because I want to express my views on it. We should pass it unanimously. I would not like to repeat what others have said about the land reforms. For the persons like me the question of land reforms has remained linked with struggle for independence since 1937-38. I would not go into the background of this. We know very well that land reforms are not going to be implemented by only enacting the laws. Until a mass movement is built up and strengthened the law will have little effect. Since our administrative structure and our politics are controlled by influential landlords, though they are very few in number, they create obstructions in enacting and implementing such laws and when the people stand to implement them the Governments which have come in power in the Centre or in

the States so far, excepting two-three States like Kerala, Bengal, Tripura, have always favoured the law breaker landlords against the law abiding poor. This is the history till date. Even then, I would like to draw your attention towards one thing. A conference of Revenue Ministers of the country was called in Delhi in 1985. The Government of India took some decisions in it. Those decisions were ratified in November, 1986 and again in 1987. I would like that my friends who will take part in discussion, would also speak on the decision which was taken unanimously as to whether even one percent effort was made to implement that decisions. That decision is still with me. If you like I will read it out because I doubt that the press of the country have not covered it. It has not pervaded political atmosphere of the country. It is essential that the people at large know about it. But I shall come to it later.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am reading out a small portion of the written reply given by our Agriculture Minister Chaudhary Devi Lal ji in this House in his reply to a written question on 12th April last.

"The consensus arrived at in the Conference of Revenue Ministers held in 1985 and 1986 were sent to State Governments for their consideration and necessary action. Some of these recommendations alongwith other proposals for effective implementation of Land Reforms are proposed to be discussed with the Chief Ministers of State Governments/U.Ts. shortly."

This reply was given on 12th April and now it is the end of May. The conference of Chief Ministers has concluded and it was not discussed therein. I understand that the conference of Chief Ministers is going to take place again on 11th and 12th and there is also the same doubt that it may not be discussed there also. I have my deep apprehension that landlords of both sides, on ruling and opposition sides what that it should not be implemented

Therefore, the unanimous decision of the Revenue Ministers of the country has not

been implemented at all. I would like that an assurance should be given in this House today about the steps being taken to implement it. I would like to give some examples about implementation. In Kerala 4,000 and in West Bengal 1,000 cultivators still have more than 25 acres of agricultural land despite the present ceiling of 25 acres under the existing laws. Among the other States Andhra Pradesh is on the top. Our friends should keep it in mind as to how it should be implemented. In Andhra Pradesh alone 1,96,000 landlords have 24,94,000 acres of land in their possession. In Bihar 52,000 landlords have 8,25,000 acres of land in their possession I am talking about encroachment of land which is above the law. Gujarat is a small State, but there are 1,42,000 landlords who have more than 25 acres of land holdings. They have 20,59,000 acres of land in their possession. Haryana is also a very small State, but there are 60,000 landlords who have more than 9,02,000 acres of land in their possession which is more than that of Bihar. This is the case of illegal possession of land.

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI (Shimla): Please tell about Himachal Pradesh also.

SHRIBHOGENDRAJHA: I will tell about it later on. Punjab is under the Central rule. there are 74,000 such landlords who have 97,90,000 acres of land in their possession. I feel if steps are taken to implement land reforms laws in Punjab even at this stage, the terrorists and secessionists will get a set back and people of lower class and other people will get united in factor of it and thus they will help in strengthening the unity of the country. In Rajasthan 5,000 land lords have 97,90,000 acres of land which is in their illegal possession. I have given examples of States ruled by ruling party, opposition party and by the leftist parties, so that we may think over it and we make take steps to implement it. I would like to urge the Government that keeping in view the unanimous view of the house, the Government should make an announcement today itself that it would take steps to implement it. The speakers who express their views should ask their respec-

tive State Governments to implement the law. Somebody has referred to the issue of minors also. There is a provision in land reforms law which had been passed in 1978 that those who were minor at that time will not get any share in the land when they become adult. The Ministers of Revenue had made a unanimous suggestion in this regard in 1985. Booth capturing is also indulged in by these very persons who had land under their illegal possession. They are people of so called higher castes who commit social atrocities, but now even the people of lower castes are also committing atrocities. One can go through the cases right from Belachhi to recent happenings, they would be found involved in such crimes. These people are indulging in centralisation of land, illegal possession of land, usury, cornering of loans from banks, committing atrocities on caste basis, booth capturing and rigging of elections. It is affecting production of the country adversely. I am saying on the basis of my personal knowledge about the country that number of absentee landlords is increasing. Even though we have no connection with cultivation, but we claim our share in the land whether we are in the foreign country, embassies, Parliament, politics or in Government service. We will not give any share to our brother from our provident fund and pension, but we must have our share in the land. The entire educated class in indulging in cheating and still this class believes they are not doing so. As a result, agricultural production of our country is decreasing. Those who are actually tilling the land are not the owner of the land and those who are owners of the land on papers, never cultivate their land and their sons or grandsons also will not do it. This problem is increasing, particularly for middle class. The laws regarding crop sharing have caused blood shed in Bihar and the Government of Bihar dropped its implementation. I would like to convey my thanks that the Government has accepted the suggestion of the Government of Bihar and supported it. The big landlords are also not ready to accept it. Therefore, I would like to urge that the government should make an announcement that its implementation will be announced in the conference of

[Sh. Bhogendra Jha]

the Ministers of Revenue. With a view to avoid litigation, it would be appropriate to keep such land laws in the Ninth Schedule. But problem will not be over merely by keeping the land laws in the Ninth Schedule. They can file writs under fundamental rights and the Government can not prohibit them from this. I am not talking about prohibiting them. I would like to say that if political will is there and administrative steps are taken alongwith it, we will get the land reform laws implemented through mass movement. I would like to urge my friends in all the parties that they should not take assistance of police and remain neutral, where their party is in power. The poor people will themselves implement the laws, land reform laws and we will implement crop sharing laws, because the police and leaders have caused blood shed there. I would like to say this much only about violators of laws. I do not want to give several examples. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we will pass this Bill unanimously in the Parliament. Our hon. Deputy Prime Minister has come. I had urged him also and want to mention that here, I would like to hear from him the reply which he had been given to me in the conference of Food Ministers. he claims himself as 'Tau' of the poor and he had said that he would get the land reform laws implemented. He had said that he would pursue the State governments to implement the decision taken unanimously in the Conference of the Food Ministers. It can be started from Haryana, Punjab or other States. I would like to say that it should be passed in the House unanimously. I do not want to take much time of the House. Therefore with these words, I conclude. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was decided that the voting would take place at 2.30 p.m. I have been told that one of the Members from the opposition Party wants to make a helpful statement. And I have a long list of other members also who want to speak. Now I would like to know whether the

House agrees to allow two or three more Members to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHOGENDR JHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lot of our time has been wasted, now it should not be wasted anymore.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if they want to give their support, it is a welcome feature.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir in my opinion both these bills are very important. One is related to harijan and tribals and other is related to landless and small farmers. If one or two members express their views about these bills and both of these bills are passed unanimously, we should accept their request and I would like to request the leaders of the opposition not to divide this House at least on these issues. All parties should pass it unanimously. Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir we leave it to you to give as much time as you desire. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: They have wasted full days. We do not want their co-operation. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Makkasar, you please take your seat. I agree with the views of the hon. Member Shri Chandra Shekhar and I would like to say that the Government is also agreeable. I would like to tell all the hon. Members that perhaps all of you have unanimous views in this regard. With such an expression only tension will increase. We should not hurt the feelings of one another. If we want to pass this Bill unanimously, we should not have any problem to provide some more time. I am giving some more time by using my discretion. Please take your seat and do not talk with each other. I hope that all parties will

extend their co-operation for smooth functioning of the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kapse has stated very Correctly that time limit should be fixed. I am not giving much time. All of you may please continue to sit here. Speeches and voting will be over very shortly. You need not go outside.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to appeal to the entire House, that when any Member is speaking here, you may please not express your views by sitting in your seat and do not use such language which may prolong this discussion. Shri Vasant Sathe, Please speak without using ifs and buts.

SHRI VASANT SATHE(Wardha): Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, we have been expressing our feelings about this issue for the last two days. We had said.....*(Interruptions)* We have stated very categorically that we are not against these bills, We want that these bill should be passes. *(Interruptions)* We regret also that those important documents must have been placed before the House.....*(Interruptions)*

We will certainly urge to lay those documents on the table of the House. We have the same feeling with regard to that issue and it is very clear also. We do not want to create any doubt in the mind of the poor, the farmers and the members of the Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes that we are in any way opposed to their interests.*(Interruptions)* That is why we held a meeting with our leader today and we have come to this conclusion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not proper to interrupt in between. Please take your seat.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We have had a meeting with our leader and we have decided to extend our cooperation in passing of

these Constitution (Amendment) Bills. I want to clarify it that we will support those bills, which have been introduced in the House for the welfare of the poor as appealed by Shri Chandra Shekhar and others, but nobody should remain under this impression that we do want to assert our rights. I want to say it very clearly and I hope that those Parties which are seeking support on this issue, should also support us in getting the papers laid in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Krishan Yadav.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, rest of the House should congratulate them *(Interruptions)* It is better late than never. *(Interruptions)* cowardice has overtaken them for agreeing to vote in favour of the Bill *(Interruptions)*

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: We never said, we will not vote. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRISHAN YADAV (Azamgarh): Hon. Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, personally and on behalf of my party I welcome and support the constitution (Amendment) Bill regarding land reforms. All the parties in the country had raised the slogan of land to the tiller' but this slogan could not be implemented because of the influence of the capitalist class. Today capitalists and political leaders have thousands of acres of land. They have no intention of letting this land slip into the hands of the poor, landless labour who have till now tilled this land. It is felt that once the labourers get the land they will stop working. The landlords will not let go of their land which is tilled by Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people. The landlords themselves never work on their land and the Government does not intend to let this land go into the hands of people belonging to the poor and backward classes. The Government's laws are also such that they impede the distribution of land among the poor. I would like to say that the intention of this Bill is not very good. The Bill says that

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some Acts should be included in the Ninth Schedule. It means that only some of the land reforms are being included in the Ninth Schedule. In this way the Government has not fulfilled its promise. There are Rajas and capitalists in the Janata Dal and the Congress (I) (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI RAM KRISHAN YADAV: I repeat that there are rajas both in the ruling party and in the opposition. That is why the voice of those who favour the poor and backward class is not heard. Merely passing this Bill is not enough and the Government must introduce a law that provides for the acquisition of land from capitalists and political leaders so as to distribute it among the poor people who till the land (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nobody should leave the House now please.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KRISHAN YADAV: If the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes stop working in the agricultural sector, not a single grain will be produced in this country. I demand the introduction of a law which provides for the acquisition of all uncultivated land for distribution among the Harijans and the poor. But even this much is not clear in the Bill. People with money power and muscle power can afford to follow a case upto the level of the Supreme court and such cases are not disposed off for years. This Bill may improve the situation to a small extent but widespread change will come about only when the entire land area in the country is declared as national property. Until this happens we cannot expect a significant change in the present situation. So this Bill

can at best be called reformatory, not revolutionary. This Bill will certainly not lead to a revolution in the field of land reforms. With these words I end my speech (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND (Chikkodi): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we have made it abundantly clear that we are in support of these two Constitution (Amendment) Bills. The Members who have spoken yesterday in this debate from outside have also said that we are in support of these two Bills. None of us has said the we are opposing these two Bills. I do not think that any party can say that what the Congress has done—right from Gandhiji up to Rajiv Gandhi—for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has also been done by them. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the good atmosphere.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: MR. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, to be honest, I do not find any difference regarding the constitutional authority for protecting the interests of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The existing constitutional authority is an officer under Article 338. In place of one officer, the amending Bill says that there would be Chairman, Deputy Chairman or Vice-Chairman, and three Members. It is going to be a multi-member authority. Except that I do not think there is anything in the Bill which gives more powers to this authority. In any case, we are supporting this Bill. Let not Shri Paswan take credit.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please help the House.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I must say that the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes of this country must be grateful to the Congress Party and its leadership. No other Government has done so much for these people. History speaks for itself. (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM DHAN (Lalganj) A portrait could not be hung in the Central Hall. There are three portraits of the Nehru family.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will please not interfere and help the House.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I still assert that this Bill does not provide anything more for the community. It is my challenge. If anybody wants to say that the Commission has got more authority to protect the interests of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, I am not going to accept it. Let the Prime Minister say that. But still we are going to support it. Even though the Bill has no substance, we are going to support it because let them not play the mischief in conveying a message to the people that we are against this Bill.

Regarding the land reforms, it is for the first time that this Government is bringing these Bills in the 9th Schedule. Sir, from the very Bill itself you can see that it starts with 203 and ends at 257 which means that already there have been 202 land reforms Acts in the Ninth Schedule right from 1951 till now. This Government should not take credit. We say that all these land reforms were already there. It is not something new which the Government is doing. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You address the Chair.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, these land reforms were already there in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution and their number is 202. This Bill starts with 203 and ends at 257. We are not saying that you are doing something wrong but our grievance is that you are not giving enough power to this National Commission which my friend, Mr. Ramdhan would have enjoyed in the rank of

a Cabinet Minister. I am sorry if he has not found any berth in the Cabinet at least, he should have been sufficient power as a Chairman of the Commission. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM DHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, as hon. Shri Shankaranand has said some thing about me, I would like to say that when I was General Secretary of his party, I did not accept the offer in protect against refusal of ticket to SC/ST in the Rajya Sabha. Hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi is present and he knows about this. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): Sir, I am pleased to say that we started an agitation against the speaker in 1936. In those days there were tenancy laws which the landlords flouted at will. The landlord used to remove the tenants as he fancied.....**.....is my relative. We made the Government acquire his land because he used to remove the tenants and employ absentees in their place.

[*English*]

SHRISONTOSH MOHANDEV (Tripura West): Sir,.....as not a member of the House. His name should not form part of the record.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, it will not form part of the Record.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVI LAL: I am happy that this Bill is being introduced in the presence of the Speaker. About 25 days back there was a meeting of the National Front in which our leader said that ours is a minority Government relying on the support of Left and Right parties. I had told him then that ours was a majority government, not a minority one. Today's decision, I am happy to say, proves

[Sh. Devi Lal]

my point. At that time I had also said that in a House of 442 members, 318 were from rural areas and in the Congress out of 193 members there are only 80 members from rural areas. By their revolt they have shown that they are not in favour of the poor. They would not have protested if they had the welfare of the backward classes at heart. The Opposition raised the issue of Bofors. Our hon. Prime Minister said that they could raise this issue later and there was no point in harming the interests of the poor under the cover of the Bofors issue.

I don't consider it appropriate to say much on this subject. According to the facts and figures given by hon. Shri Guman Mal Lodha, there are 1,23,99,000 tillers in our country against whom there is a stay order. Apart from this he cited the example of Andhra Pradesh where there are 1.32 lakh such persons. Responsible persons help them on the basis of money power. The poor person is not able to reach the level of courts.

I don't see anything lacking in the Bill presented by hon. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan I have also listened to the objections raised by the other side. All their objections are aimed at denying this help to the poor. For two days they stalled the proceedings of the House on account of the Chautala affair. It was our weakness that we let such a thing happen. We can prove ourselves even by resigning. But the leader of the Opposition will not resign from Amethi and so they are raising the same issue again. The Opposition is not boycotting the proceedings because they are under pressure from some of their members who are from rural areas. The Congress (I) had staged a walk-out. I am happy to say that Bofors was not the lone issue in the previous general elections. If Bofors had been the only issue then the Congress would not have won in Andhra Pradesh or Karnataka. They have won in those States as they took up the problems being faced by farmers. We had formulated a scheme in Haryana under which loans upto Rs. 10,000 were waived, a pension of

Rs. 100 was granted to aged persons and concessional travel facility was provided to senior citizens. All this led to an awakening among the rural population in North India. We have the strength to overcome the obstacles being put in our way.

I don't think there is need for any more discussion on this subject. The decision was taken at 2.30 p.m. and they have had ample opportunities to express their views. I think opinions should be sought so as to know how sympathetic they are (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAJAN LAL (Faridabad): Sir, people were killed in Mehan, democracy was murdered.....(*Interruptions*) As far as the Bill is concerned, we have always voted in favour of mass welfare Hon. Shri Devi Lal says that loans have been waived in Haryana. I would like to state in this House that Haryana is close to Delhi and it would be better if we go to Haryana and see the actual situation for ourselves.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down, Shri Bhajan Lal.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: These things were said by Shri Devi Lal. Earlier he had said in the House that the Bofors documents would be laid on the Table of the House. The Session is going to end tomorrow but we have yet to see the documents.

15.00 hrs.

[English]

CONSTITUTION (SIXTY-EIGHTH AMENDMENT) BILL—*CONTD.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Members will take their seats. The House will first take up the Constitution (Sixty-Eighth) Amendment Bill, 1990 for vote. Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava has moved an amendment to the motion for consideration of the Bill. I will put the same to the vote of the House, unless he wants to withdraw the same.