

12.19 hrs.

Terrorists
205-303RE. ATROCITIES BY ULFA
TERRORISTS IN ASSAM

[Translation]

5-76
SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention towards a more serious situation than the one that was related by the hon. Member Shrimati Jayawanti Mehta in the House.

Atrocities, which were not even dreamt of during the British regime, are now being committed on our women and small businessmen for the last one month in Assam. The ULFA extremists have been keeping small businessmen belonging to Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra as their captives for the last 48 hours and extorted a sum of Rs. 7 crores from them at gun point within 48 hours. There are still some businessmen who have been given time upto 5th to make the payment. 5th is the last date given by the extremists. Some people entered the house of a small businessman in Uttaria Lakhmipur and demanded Rs. 5 lakhs from him. He expressed his helplessness to pay such a huge amount as he was a small trader. He was beaten up. Those people again asked the businessman as to how many daughters he had. He said he had 5 daughters. To this the extremists challenged him that he could report the matter to the police and report his case to any Minister. Their next question was as to how much money he would require to spend on one daughter's marriage. His reply was that about Rs. 1 lakh will be spent on one daughter's marriage. Then the extremists told him that he should remain prepared tomorrow. They would return with 5 bridegrooms at 7 O'clock next day and arrange marriage with 5 of his daughters and take dowry money of Rs. 5 lakhs. That man fled with bag and baggage. His whereabouts are not known till now. This is not a lone case. It has become a regular

feature in Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Panitola, Jorhat. A person named Khushiram Mittal was fired upon at Makkum in district Dibrugarh because he refused to pay a ransom of Rs. 2 lakhs but he survived and was admitted to the general ward of the Government Hospital at Dibrugarh. The extremists went to his hospital bed in broad day light and shot him dead in everybody's presence. (Interruptions) These days they are demanding daughters. How many more such incidents should I relate to you? This has been published in the 'India Today'. (Interruptions). I would like to make a fervent appeal to this august House to take cognizance of these incidents. Their parents are weeping in Gujarat, Maharashtra. When they called on me at my residence in Ahmedabad, they related these tragic incidents to me. I talked to Shri Subodh Kant Sahay over phone at Delhi and requested him to do some thing because people are being killed and the State Government is doing nothing. He assured that he would talk to the State Chief Minister who was present there. I also talked to the Chief Minister at Assam Bhavan. He gave me a hearing for 5 minutes and then advised me to speak to his Home Minister who was available in his room. His Home Minister is hand in glove with the ULFA, as such what one could expect of him. When I related the whole incident... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): The Minister of Home Affairs of Assam.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Home Minister of Assam, not of the centre... (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You addressed to me. I think.....

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, he told me on telephone: "I am not going to listen to your complaint on telephone. Tell your people that they should send message through the con-

cerned person in Assam. They should either contact me at Dibrugarh or they should contact me at Guwahati. They should lodge complaint there."

[*Translation*]

and he kept the receiver.

Sir, an extremist who was nabbed by one S.P. was released by the Government. On being released he killed the S.P. Through you, I would like to tell this august House that even after 40 years of independence, we have not been able to give protection to innocent people. I would like to make an earnest appeal to this august House to find a solution to this vexed problem. Thousands of people are deserting their houses. Now a days the extremists demand people's daughters and daughter-in-laws as their ransom instead of money and it has become the order of the day. Neither the Central Government nor the State Government is taking any step to curb these activities. I would like to urge upon the Government to intervene in the matter and depute a committee which should go to Assam and meet people and assess the situation. I strongly demand that stern action should be taken against the extremists and save women and petty traders from atrocities. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Mr. Saifuddin Choudhury also wants to say this very thing.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, Assam's situation is very serious. The terror created by ULFA has played havoc in Assam. It seems to me that no State Government is working there and their rule is not working there. It seems to me that ULFA is running the

Government. In this situation, I would like to know what is the plan of the Central Government to bring peace in Assam and curb the activities of ULFA. It is a very serious question. People are being killed everyday. They are extorting money. In such a situation, I want to know as to why we did not have any discussion in this House. I want to know from the Home Minister, what action they are going to take to check the activities of ULFA and save Assam. ২৭৪-৭৭

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Tripura West): This matter was raised in this House time and again. Recently, some senior Ministers of the present Government also visited Assam. They have got the latest information with them. I do not want to disclose them. When I talked to them, they told me that they know about the situation of Assam.

Sir, two months ago, ULFA used to run a parallel Government but now, they are running only one Government and there is no existence of Assam Government there. This is the real situation. A delegation from the Tea industry came and met me. I sent them to the Minister of State for Home. They have expressed their unhappiness about the inaction of the Assam Government. Now, telephone calls are coming from Dibrugarh and Dhaka. From Dibrugarh, instructions are being given to Calcutta Head Office that so much money you should pay on such and such date, at a Hotel in Dhaka. So, they are supposed to pay money. Some of them are paying it. Indian currency is being accepted in the Dhaka Hotel by ULFA activists and the Home Minister has not denied it when I raised this issue in the Consultative Committee Meeting of the Home Ministry. Apart from that I had raised this issue yesterday also. One of the senior Member of the present Cabinet Shri George Fernandes had also disclosed in a Seminar that ULFA had developed a link with the extremists in Punjab, Kashmir and Madras. So, this is a very serious situation.

[Sh. Sontosh Mohan Dev]

We had suggested that there should be an all-Party meeting which should be convened by the Prime Minister and let the country know what action they are going to take.

I shall appeal to you that you should ventilate the feelings of the House to the hon Prime Minister and the Home Minister. No time should be lost because AGP is a partner of this Government. It should not be taken on partisan basis. It is a national worry and from the national point of view, you should not allow Assam to go. It is because Assam is situated in a very strategic point which is surrounded by so many foreign countries and so you should not allow this thing to continue. This is my humble submission.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on such occasions you have to act as Speaker on behalf of us all. You have to take the initiative. You cannot sit quietly

DR. THAMBI DURAI (Karur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are also very much concerned about the situation in Assam and the manner in which ULFA is functioning there. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev has also said about the functioning of ULFA. They are having contacts with other States also.

Terrorism is a very dangerous thing. It is spreading in our country. We have to be very careful and try to eliminate it in the beginning itself.

He has also said that ULFA is having connections with Tamil Nadu people also, especially the LTTE. We have also read in the newspapers about this. Therefore, we are also very much concerned about this. This terrorism should not spread throughout the country. Apart from Punjab, Kashmir and Assam, now it is spreading in Tamil Nadu also. If it happens, then we will also be taking most of the time of the House to discuss this situation in Tamil Nadu as they are discussing about Punjab, Kashmir and Assam.

Therefore, I would request the concerned Minister to take necessary action in this regard.

[Translation] 340

SHRI J. P. AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large number of our businessmen belonging to Delhi who are running their business in Assam have made complaints in this regard. The businessmen of Vaish and Jain Communities while making similar complaints have stated that they are being constantly harassed in the State. Even if they want to leave the State and return to their native places, they cannot return. They could neither sell their houses nor could they carry money with them. If somebody leaves the State, the activists chase him. Recently one such case was filed and I had mentioned it to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. I had also given in writing that he should be brought to Delhi. But he was incarcerated in jail. He was harassed and tortured. They demanded a ransom of Rs. 40 lakhs from him. Today atrocities are being committed on the businessmen who have gone there for business purposes and the Central Government is playing a role of a mute spectator only. In a meeting of the Consultative Committee, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has assured that the Government would take firm steps and would not allow these things to take place in future. I am deeply pained for this and would like to know if the Government would remain blindfold and allow the people to suffer? Are they not citizens of this country? Are the people of one State not entitled to run their business in some other State or to live there? If the Government is unable to check such types of atrocities being committed on innocent people, the Prime Minister must resign.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI (New Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had gone to Ahmedabad in connection with the matter which has now been raised by Shri Harin Pathak who represents Ahmedabad Constituency. The

businessmen of the city met me and narrated the details of the incident to me.

Sir, this issue has repeatedly been raised in this august House and we have expressed our deep concern over it whether this situation is prevailing in Punjab, Kashmir, Tamil Nadu or Assam. But there is a basic difference between the situation prevalent in Kashmir, Punjab on the one hand and in Assam on the other. I would like to draw the attention of this august House towards this basic difference. As far as the situation in Kashmir and Punjab is concerned Government have been trying to combat the terrorism in these States. Though, we have not been much successful in checking the terrorism in these States, but our security forces and the State Administration have been making all out efforts to contain terrorism. But in Assam, I regret to say that even the efforts are lacking. In a way.

[English]

The Government has abdicated its responsibility totally.

[Translation]

It appears as if the ULFA itself is running the Administration in the State. In this connection, I would like to state that in the past we have enacted a number of laws to deal with this type of situation. An unlawful Activities Act has also been enacted under which action shall be taken against an organisation if it tries to put forth a secessionist demand and launches agitations against the country. The ULFA has not only been making certain demands and complaining of certain problems but also it has declared its programme of liberation and it is a matter of great regret that we continue giving recognition to such organisations as are having secessionist attitude and the Government is watching the developments as a mute spectator. This situation has been prevailing for the last one year. It does not behove to the Government as well as to this august House. That is why I would like to make a demand in this august House.

[English]

that ULFA be declared as an illegal organisation. It should be banned and consequential follow up action should be taken by the Assam Government and if need be by the Government of India and all the logical consequences should follow.

[Translation]

It is my demand. We have no reply to give when people belonging to various other States viz. Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra who are running their business in Assam come to us and express their helplessness. They complain that they are being forced to wind up their business and they cannot retaliate even. I would, therefore, like to point out to the Government that it is the responsibility of the Central Government. It will not be proper if the Government sidetracks the matter by saying that it is the responsibility of the Government of Assam.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is a very serious situation in Assam and the Government should take notice of it.

[Translation]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, several hon. Members from both sides have drawn the attention of this august House towards certain activities being carried on by the ULFA in Assam. We have also come to know about certain things in Assam. A pretty Senior Member of the House, Pro. N. G. Ranga has also made a request to the Hon'ble Speaker that he should also take some stand in the matter. Sir, we do not want to shift our responsibility on you because it is solely the responsibility of the Government. The hon. Speaker cannot shoulder this responsibility. Though the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and the hon. Prime Minister are not present here, entirely agreeing in the views expressed by Shri Ranga. I would, on behalf of the Government,

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

like to assure the House that I would place the sentiments of the House before the hon. Home Minister and the Hon. Prime Minister. At the same time I would like to assure this august House that we will stand by the oath we took in the name of the constitution at the time of assuming office and shall take action which will be deemed proper in conformity with the constitutional provisions. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol): Sir, twentyfour MPs from different political parties had submitted a memorandum to the Union Industry Minister demanding the removal of the Chairman of Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd. and to institute an inquiry by CBI for rampant corruption, nepotism and misappropriation of money by the Chairman, resulting in heavy losses almost in all the subsidiaries under Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd

I have got a reply from the Minister saving that these cases do not warrant the removal of the Chairman I am sorry to say that all the subsidiaries under this gentleman have become losing concerns. Again, the profitable concerns are also losing. How long can the industry and the workmen tolerate all these things? (*Interruptions*) I request the hon Minister to make a statement here in this regard.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr Speaker, Sir, D.A. instalment payable to Central Government employees has become due since last two months. But it is a matter of great regret that no announcement for making payment of DA has been made so far. There is great discontentment among the employees for this. Prices of each and every commodities are rising and the price index is going up. The Government is making delay in making payment of D.A

and also not paying the same at the appropriate ratio. It has caused discontentment among the employees. I would like that the hon. Minister of Finance should make D.A. announcement in the House at the earliest.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANBARASU ERA (Madras Central): I have repeatedly raised in this august House the question of the serious incident that had taken place in my constituency, viz. the brutal, cold-blooded murder of the EPRLF leader Mr. Padmanabha and 16 others. In fact, most of the Tamil Nadu MPs and other hon. Members have raised this issue, demanding a discussion under rule 193, regarding the terrorist activities, wherein LTTE people are involved.

In fact, Government ought to have made a *suo motu* statement regarding that serious incident. So far, Government has not opened its mouth. I have never seen an irresponsible Government like this. Our fishermen are being kidnapped; our Customs officials are kidnapped by LTTE people in Tamil Nadu, but there is no explanation, no statement from the Government of India.

I can narrate a series of incidents. Recently, there was a drug smuggling activity in Vedaranyam near Thanjavur and the LTTE smugglers were surrounded by 60 Police officials. When they were surrounded, LTTE came with an AK-47 rifle, and they threatened the former, and the Tamil Nadu police officials could not do anything, and they withdrew, and the LTTE people escaped. What funny actions are going on, and what terrible activities are going on in Tamil Nadu!

I thank the hon. Minister Mr. George Fernandes for his real comment; he has said that LTTE people have got a nexus with ULFA in Assam, with the terrorists of Punjab. It

is an open truth, whereas this Government is not taking any action against the terrorist activities.

The LTTE people are the adopted sons of*..... Therefore, with the connivance of DMK people, with the patronage of DMK (*Interruptions*) these things are happening in Tamil Nadu. (*Interruptions*) This is posing a real danger in Tamil Nadu. Therefore, this is a dangerous activity that is going on in Tamil Nadu.

The peace loving people are very much affected by the terrorist activities. Therefore, I urge either the hon. Home Minister or the External Affairs Minister or the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to allow discussion under rule 193 in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: You have taken the name of the Chief Minister. That will not go on record.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: A ghastly murder took place on June 19. What has the Government done in this regard? Unless they give an assurance that discussion will be allowed under rule 193, I will not go from here. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what is happening. Please go to your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I order you to go to your seat. You cannot stand here. This is not the place.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The other day, you repeated the same thing. Please go to your seat. This is not the way that a member should behave. Then I will not permit you henceforward.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): A serious situation is smouldering in the coastal District of Ganjam. The people of the two States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh involving Parlakhemundi, Gunupur, Tekkali and Naupada areas are badly affected for want of the basic transport facility. They have expressed strong resentment against the recent total cancellation of train services on the Naupada-Gunupur, narrow-gauge section.

It is a fortunate coincidence that our mercurial hon. Union Railway Minister is also present now in this august House. The Chief Operating Superintendent of S.E. Railway, Waltair Division has issued a Notification on 3rd August, 1990: "due to very poor patronage, the Railways have decided to cancel the train services between Naupada and Gunupur."

The regular commuters, whom I personally met in my constituency last week, largely depend on this mode of transport. They have stated that the question of "very poor patronage" does not arise, as this is the only train running in that area. In addition, they squarely blame the Railway staff for bringing things to this state. They also allege that the Railway staff have allowed people to travel by taking less money, simultaneously preventing them from buying tickets. Thus, the Railways were deprived of revenue not because of "very poor patronage" but due to corruption by its own staff.

I would urge the Ministry of Railways to ensure that strict action is taken against the alleged mal-practices of the RAILWAY staff forthwith, the old steam locomotives are replaced by the more efficient diesel engines, side by side restoring the original train services. Also to actively consider the conversion of this narrow gauge section to broad gauge, with linking to Rayagada expeditiously, for providing the basic travel-cum-transport facility to the poor tribals, harijans

[Sh. Gopi Nath Gajapathi]

and other citizens of this under-developed and totally neglected region.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Crores of people in the country worship Shri Rama, Shri Krishna and Shivji as Gods. Non-inclusion of Ram Navami, Krishna Janmastami and Shivratri in the list of national holidays hurts the sentiments of crores of people. Someone may call him pious and some other may call Him prophet. We call Him as prophet. I would like to urge upon the Government to declare national holiday on all these three occasions. Sir, it is a very simple logic that in a democratic set up sentiments of 85 per cent of the population should be honoured. This will help the Government receive people's support and strengthen cultural and emotional integration of the country. In view of this I would like to request the Hon. Prime Minister to make an announcement to this effect.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Yadu Nath Pandey.

PROF. YADU NATH PANDEY (Hazaribagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to say that in Ranchi city ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pandey, I shall call you later. Shri Advaniji.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (New Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I remember that in 1982, when Shri Venkataram happened to be the Union Home Minister for a short duration, this issue of declaring Ram Navami as a national holiday was raised both in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. In a sitting held in this connection the then Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi was also present. Later on, a discussion was held on this issue. I have got a copy of the reply that was given by Shri Venkataraman

in response to a question in this regard. In the reply Shri Venkataram had stated that as a matter of policy the Government has decided that, there will be 16 holidays in all to be observed in Government offices, out of which 3 will be national holidays. The three national holidays are the Republic Day, the Independence Day and Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday. Out of the remaining, 11 holidays will be compulsory which would include Idu'z Zuha, Muharram, Good Friday, Budha Jayanthi, Guru Nanak Birthday, Christmas, Mahavir Jayanti and Idu'l Fitr. With reference to Parliamentary proceedings I would like to point out that festivals like Mahashivratri, Holika Dahan, Raksha Bandhan, Ram Navami and Vaisakhi have not been included in the list of gazetted holidays for Government offices located in Delhi/New Delhi. When we were informed that this decision was taken as a matter of policy we accepted that. But from the point made by my hon. friend Shri Khurana it appears that there has been some change in the policy. If it is so, we would like to know that change. What is that change? I feel that holiday should be observed on Ram Navami. It was being observed as a holiday for the last several years. Similarly, holiday was being observed on Krishna Janmastami in Delhi/New Delhi, but it was not being observed in Maharashtra. If at all the policy is to be changed, I would like to suggest that the number of holidays in the country should be reduced. The practice being followed in most of the countries in the world is that holidays are not observed for all sections of people. But in our country holidays are being observed for some particular sections. My friend, Shri Khurana also does not want that some big announcement from a big place need be made for this purpose. What I feel is that a small notification issued in this connection would serve the purpose. In view of the above, if any need is felt to take a decision on holidays, it should be taken with

due deliberations and it should not be made suddenly. If any change is effected in the policy, the House should also be duly informed of that.

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): We are discussing the leaves for these three days. This issue is linked with the feelings of the crores of people of the country and is associated with our culture. If any changes have been made in this policy...

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, Mr. Pathak you may also take your seat. Advaniji has already spoken on this issue, Shri Pandeyji.

(Interruptions)

PROF. YADU NATH PANDEY (Hazaribagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Railway Minister that a City Booking Office of South Eastern Railway had been operating since 1960 in Ranchi which has been closed from 1st September. Seven Railway employees were working in this city Booking Office. They had been working there for the last 25 to 30 years. They were earning a revenue of about Rs. 20,000 per day for Railway Department. With the closure of the City Booking Office, the condition of all these seven employees has become pitiable. The families of these employees are facing a grave economic crisis. I would like to request the Hon'ble Railway Minister that he should provide some alternative jobs to these employees in Railway Department. Another booking office has recently been opened in Ranchi. I wish that those experienced employees should be posted there so that they may earn their livelihood.

[English]

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (Calcutta South): Sir, I am raising the issue regarding the dual citizenship of the Indians who are living abroad. For most of the Indians who are living abroad, Indian citizenship is a precious commodity. Although separated by space and time, almost all

of them feels that they are Indians, maintaining a close cultural and social relationship with the Indian community here. We have also seen during the Kuwait crisis that the Indians who are holding different passports are treated as Indians by the rest of the world. Not only this, as far as the NRIs are concerned, they contribute a substantial amount, from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000 crores to the Indian exchequer. Now, most of the Indians who are living abroad—I am not talking about the Indians living in the sub continent, but outside in Europe and other parts of Asia and Africa—are subject to some kinds of pressures. Their rights are being taken away. Many of them are being forced to adopt the citizenship of the countries of their domicile. This has been a matter of pain to them because they do not want to part with the Indian citizenship. They are very much concerned that this unbilical cord which binds them to their country of origin is now being cut because of the pressure coming from the other Governments of the countries where they domicile. They also do not like to be treated as foreigners when they come to India. Like Pakistan, Bangladesh and 70 other countries which offer dual citizenship to their citizens, the same rights should be given to the Indians who are living abroad. I request the External Affairs Ministry to examine this issue. I am not asking the Ministry to commit itself on this issue now. But I would request them to examine this issue with all its implications and then come to a conclusion regarding the dual citizenship of the Indians who are living abroad...(Interruptions)

DR. THAMBI DURAI (Karur): Sir, I want to raise an important matter. I do not know whether we are going to take up the discussion on Mandal Commission Report today. Generally we mention it in the Agenda. But sometimes we may not take it up.....(Interruptions). Sir, I want to make one submission to you. The

[Dr. Thambi Durai]

Ministers of the National Front Government are giving different statements on Mandal Commission Report. The hon. Prime Minister of India gave a *suo motu* statement on August 7th and 27th in this House.....(Interruptions). His aim is to extend reservations to them in jobs and education. ..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not waste the time of the house now.

(Interruptions)

DR. THAMBI DURAI: But, the Education Minister of our(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can very well discuss these things when we discuss the Mandal Commission Report.

DR. THAMBI DURAI: I do not know whether we will take up this discussion at 4 p.m. today(Interruptions)

12.54 hrs.

RE. REFUND OF EXCISE/CUSTOMS DUTIES RECOVERED IN EXCESS

SHRI M. J. AKBAR (Kishanganj): Sir, I am referring to the excise issue because during the mentions on this issue and during the Finance Minister's reply, I think, we are avoiding a very very critical and crucial element of this whole issue, which is accountability. You know that this debate starts with the decision of the court against this whole practice of "unjust enrichment". After that, this Government on 20th of March 1990 arbitrarily continued, arbitrarily decided that defence would be continued. The questions that we have to address ourselves are: At what level was this decision taken? Why was it not brought to the Cabinet despite the fact that hundreds and hundreds of

crores of rupees was the money involved? This Government has been saying over and over again that we are having financial problem and we need more money because the deficit is more. Who took this decision? Why was it not brought to the Cabinet? Which are the companies that have benefited during the last five months? To what extent they have benefited? We would like to know the details. The reason why we are asking for a Joint Parliamentary Committee on this subject is because we think that the Government and Prof. Madhu Dandavate are trying to avoid any sense of accountability by merely saying today that they have withdrawn the circular or withdrawn the order. That does not justify the crime that was committed which has been going on for five months. There is no way we can reach the bottom of this matter of accountability except the joint parliamentary committee. This people's money runs into hundreds and hundreds of crores. A leader of the Janata Dal has gone on record and said that Rs. 10,000 crores are involved. It is not a small sum. A very big sympathiser of the Government, Mr. Madhu Limaye, for whom we all have the deepest respect, has been taking this issue up, has written to the Government. The Government did not even respond to Madhuji's letter for weeks. Madhuji is writing a letter today because he is not satisfied with the answer and he thinks and rightly so, that this Government is getting away with evasion: government is protecting the people who took the decision. And this decision was taken at the highest level. Cabinet was by-passed. We need a joint parliamentary probe to find who are the guilty and who are the culprits in this matter.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): I am glad that Shri Madhu Dandavate is here. The other day in the House in reply to a question, hon. Finance Minister had said that he had issued certain instructions to stay the circular which was given by the