

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I want to know whether it is a true report as reflected in this report or whether it is a CIA report. We would like to know that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Let them say whether what has appeared in the Press, is correct or not.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Government has not contradicted it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : I would again like to further explain that hon. Members have not yet seen the report, which is just now laid on the Table of the House. Therefore, how you presume that there was a leakage ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO : Mr. Chairman, it appeared in the Press five days before, not today or yesterday. In the absence of any contradiction of the Government, we have to presume that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Regarding this issue, the Government has clearly stated that the Government has nothing to do with it and if you are still aggrieved, then give proper notice in the proper form for proper relief and we will look into that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : I am not on the point of leakage. If it is not by the Government, it has been leaked by the Commission. It is either the Government or the Commission. After all, there is no third source. But I am on a different point. The House is to be adjourned day after tomorrow. Before that we would like to get some copies of the report for the Members, at least for the parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already told you that there is no scope for any discussion on this and the Government will come out with the statement and if

you still feel that there is any infringement of any rule, you give notice and that can be looked into... *(Interruptions)*... Government will take care of what you have stated.

(Interruptions)

MR. B.K. GADHVI : If you are insisting for the copies of the report, then the same will be supplied to all the Members.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : By tomorrow.

17.15 hrs.

[English]

DISCUSSION RE. RECENT CASES OF ALLEGED VIOLATION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATION ACT BY CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Madhu Dandavate to raise a discussion on the recent cases of alleged violation of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act...

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : On a point of order...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Does your point of order relate to the discussion under Rule 193 ? And under what rule ?

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : My point of order is... *(Interruptions)***

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order; it does not go into the record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : I would like to know what is the time allotted for this discussion.

**Not recorded:

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE
(Rajapur) : Leave it to the chair and the conventions of the House.....

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted for this discussion is two hours.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : It cannot be allotted... (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : No interruptions, let the discussions go on.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to raise the discussion on the recent cases of alleged violation of the Foreign Exchange Act by certain individuals and companies and the action taken by the Government in the matter.

At the very outset, let me make it explicitly clear that if I raise the question of FERA violations, it is not merely from moral and legal considerations, the FERA violations are resulting in a serious impact on the economy of the country and that is the reason why in the interest of nation's economy, I wish to raise this question.

Sir, it is directly related to the resources of the country. The result of FERA violations is that large amounts are being deposited in the countries outside India. To give a simple illustration, the International Monetary Fund has already concluded that about Rs. 1332 crores have been deposited in the Swiss banks alone. The former Finance Minister has confirmed this. In one of the reports that was laid on the Table of the House by the Finance Minister on the black money accumulation by the Indian Institute of Public Finance and Policy, this House has been told officially that excluding smuggling, about Rs. 38000 crores have been generated as black money. That is the latest figure of black money amassed in this country. Since this deposit of money in the foreign countries violating FERA has actually taken away the funds that are required for our developmental activities and since the generation of black money is to such an extent which is partly due to FERA

violations, we find that there is an inflationary pressure on our economy, and therefore, the question of FERA violation is not only a moral and the legal question but it is the question that directly affect the economy of the country.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House, through you, to what happened on 31st March, 1987 when I initiated a discussion on Fairfax in anticipation of the report which was laid on the Table of the House today. When I initiated the discussion on 31st March, 1987 with the permission of the Speaker, I made certain observations and I gave certain quotations from certain journals. For instance, extensively a report from the Sunday of 29th March, 1987 was quoted. In that certain information was sought to be given through that despatch regarding FERA violations by Ajitabh Bachan. Certain names were mentioned; of course the entire report was quite a big one; not merely talked about the FERA violations, it also talked about the foreign assets of Ajitabh Bachan and on that occasion after I completed the speech, after some time with the permission of the Speaker, Shri Amitabh Bachan, who was then a Member of Parliament, gave personal explanation. Since what he said is a part and parcel of the proceedings of the House of 31st March, 1987. I am fully within rights to quote what was said by way of explanation, because that is related to the question of FERA violations and also the foreign assets. On that occasion, Shri Amitabh Bachan, a former Member of this House said and I am quoting from the proceedings of the 31st March, 1987 :

"These reports by the press are malicious. They have been intended to defame me and if I use some verbal jargon, they will use verbal Callisthenics with real garlic from every pore—stink."

Sir, in the course of discussions I will try to find out what stinks and will be able to find out and locate and identify the source of stinking also I only wanted to remind this House of the statement that was made in this House

[Prof, Madhu Dandavate]

Sir, when I made certain comments and observations, some commented that Prof. Madhu Dandavate *faux pas* on the basis of contradiction by one Member about the statement that I have made. Ultimately, it was the question of one Member's statement against another Member's statement. I have no disrespect for any member. But ultimately the fact emerged and it did emerge. Corroborative evidence is available; authentic documents are available. Those documents which were expected, they are available. I will not quote merely something that appear in the Press but something that is officially known, authentically known and I will also rely upon the statements made by certain spokesmen of the Government so that there will be no quarrel in the House as to whether it is reliable or not.

Sir, I have already sent to the Speaker, when I submitted a privilege notice against Mr. Amitabh Bachchan, a facsimile of a document of ownership of a 5-room apartment owned by Ajitabh Bachchan in a building at Rue Chemin des Vandres, 27 Mauntre ux, Switzerland. My pronunciation might be wrong because I do not know the Victorian English. But, of course, the substance is quite all right. This document was submitted and I deliberately avoided sending clippings from the newspapers. I tried to obtain the original copy and I have already sent the original copy of that particular document. Document with seal of the Registrar of Property Revenue Havy, Switzerland shows that the apartment is purchased on 3rd April, 1986. It is mentioned in the document which is already submitted to the Speaker. The document is in his possession. He might not have accepted my notice for the privilege motion but he has accepted the document. It is in his possession and on my enquiring about it, I found that the document is still with him. One good thing about our Lok Sabha Secretariat is that even the notices given some 14 years back, if you require for reference you can always get them. They are always available. That is the efficiency of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. I only hope that this efficiency of the Lok Sabha Secretariat should also percolate down to the Govern-

ment so that the Government may also become efficient.

Shri Ajitabh Bachchan was at that time resident of India for the purposes of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. In 1986 for the tax purposes the value of that apartment or the property was Rs. 48 lakhs. Later on it is estimated that the real evaluation went to the order of about Rs. 65 lakhs to Rs. 80 lakhs. Now, this is the question of the foreign exchange that is involved in this particular operation, i.e. owning of a 5-room apartment in Switzerland. Sir, I wish to point out to you again that those documents have come. They have been published also elsewhere in Switzerland. It has been published here also. It has not been contradicted. I submitted a copy of this document to the Speaker.

Now, on the context of this particular document, I tried to judge the personal explanation that was given by my friend, Mr. Amitabh Bachchan, in this House when he happened to be a Member of Parliament. Of course, for various embarrassments he found it not convenient to continue as a Member of this House and he resigned. Everybody has the freedom. According to the Constitution there is the freedom of mobility in the country. One can travel from one end to the other. That freedom is the fundamental right and of course he can go anywhere. But anyway I want to go on record that those people challenged the truthfulness of my statement given in this House and ridiculed me that Dandavate tried to make certain comments which proved to be wrong. It was considered wrong only on the basis of a statement by Ajitabh's brother. But Sir, untruth does not hide itself for a long time. Truth is so piercing. Similarly, untruth is equally piercing that it comes even out of iron curtains. It has come out. Sir, I want to go on record that the explanation that was offered of Ajitabh about his foreign assets has to be taken note of. The entire report that had appeared in the press and in the journal was contradicted. Their contradiction about the foreign assets also has to be taken note of.

Which are the violations that are so glaringly committed? The first one is Section 8 of FERA. He acquired foreign exchange when he is a resident of India. That was his first FERA violation. Second is the violation of Section 9 of FERA. Though a resident of India, he made payment to outsiders without the permission of the Reserve Bank of India. And the third one is the violation of one section 25 of FERA, whereby he acquired immovable property outside the country without the permission of the Reserve Bank of India.

He committed so many violations. Probably, he is pluralistic in concept. He does not want to commit only a single violation. He wants multidimension to his violations of FERA, and he committed all the violations of FERA that were available to him in acquiring the ownership of the five-room apartment. And I am sure since these documents have come out, Government, upto this stage has not come out with any statement pointing out to this House or taking the people into confidence as to what exactly has happened.

I would like to know whether certain steps that were inevitable, have been taken by the Government or not. Have the proceedings been initiated against Ajitabh under Section 50 of FERA, 1973? If he were to be punished under this section, he would be liable to pay a penalty of Rs. 2.5 crores.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Very shocking.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Very shocking. That was my reaction too. Rs. 2.5 crores! Prof. Rangaji, you and I count population only in crores and not money; Has Ajitabh been prosecuted under Section 56 of FERA 1973 and whether the Director of Enforcement has been asked to file a complaint before First Class Magistrate at Delhi under Section 61(ii) of FERA? Under this section, he would be liable to imprisonment for seven years. I am, of course, not saying that there is going to be imprisonment. I am not even sure whether prosecution will be launched. If prosecution were to be launched, this is going to be the punishment.

Has Ajitabh been asked to dispose of his apartment at market price-I as repeat at market price—and the proceeds remitted to the Indian Government?

Will the Government direct the Reserve Bank of India to have a resale or transfer of the assets of Ajitabh till the proceedings are concluded?

Sir, morally and legally and in terms of justice, I think, such a step is necessary. So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether such a step is taken.

I would like to mention one more thing. Whenever this type of violations take place and whenever any citizen is found to have indulged in certain anti-social activities which are likely to bring down the prestige and dignity of the nation, it has been an accepted norm in a democratic society that there is a cancellation of his passport. Sir, there are certain smugglers whose passports have been cancelled. There are certain criminals whose passports have been cancelled. There are certain persons who escaped from the jail and who got a background history of smuggling expertise, with repeated acts of smuggling. Their passports too are cancelled. I would like to know whether in this particular case, the passport of Mr. Ajitabh has actually been cancelled or not. I would like to point out to you and through you to the House another activity which has to be probed into, i.e. the Containers berthing at the Kandla Port in Gujarat are Pandora's boxes which if opened a lot of truth will come out. It may reveal that the Government of India has been playing the role of a petty broker providing Soviet Union with sophisticated equipment that it cannot procure on its own from Western countries. This is no aspersion on Soviet Russia at all, because they placed certain orders. Therefore, I would like to know whether this aspect has been examined—the activities of two industrial units IPCA laboratories and INDSU Pvt. Ltd. run by Ajitabh Bachchan in the *Kandla Free Trade Zone*. The need to be thoroughly inquired into. When you try to inquire into the activities of this particular Limited

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Company—INDSU Pvt. Ltd. run by Ajitabh Bachchan, you will find that lot of irregularities will be detected and lot of FERA violations also can be found out.

17.31 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER
in the Chair]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, nearly Rs. 40 crores were invested. Sir, is the Industry Minister giving something?

AN HON. MEMBER: He is more interested about the Half-an-Hour Discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever you are submitting, I will definitely pass on to him. Don't worry.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, he is a great veteran. I have great respect for him. I thought, on the spot, he is giving some thing.

Nearly Rs. 40 crores were invested in two companies in detergent manufacturing units in the Zone following request for large quantities of the product by Soviet Russia. The orders did not come and the buildings, plant and machines some of which were imported with hard currency remain completely idle. I would like the hon. Minister to inquire into all these aspects because they are capable of a great mischief and unfortunately our prestige with the friendly country like Soviet Russia may suffer. I do not want that to happen. So in the interest of friendly relationship and our prestige, that particular aspect has to be guarded.

Then Sir, throughout the episode, if you go through all the interviews, I would advice our friend Shri Amitabh Bachchan not to give interviews to various journals. He is a very fine artiste. I have a great respect for him. But, Sir, because of lack of adequate knowledge of legal niceties, sometimes he goes on making

statements and then starts thinking, after the statements are made and as a result of that, he comes into lot of legal complications. Very innocently on a number of occasions he has publicly said that, "I am a great supporter of the Prime Minister. Everything that I do, I do for his prestige and I am fully supporting him and I shall not do any thing that will bring my Prime Minister into jeopardy." He has been talking on that lines. But thereby also, he unnecessarily puts Prime Minister into trouble. Because people sometimes feel that since he has been so stoutly saying everything in the name of the Prime Minister and his association with the Prime Minister, unfortunately, sometimes publicly the whole thing gets itself transferred to the Prime Minister. So, he need not do such things because he is a clean Prime Minister. Therefore nobody expects. Therefore, I would advise him even when he has gone out of Lok Sabha to keep Prime Minister to himself; he can defend himself very well. But unfortunately sometimes the loose statement that he makes unnecessarily tries to get the Prime Minister involved in some of the affairs. For instance, there are a number of interviews. An impression was created that Ajitabh tried to escape FERA provisions by claiming that he is an NRI—Non Resident Indian. One does not know why such controversies are allowed to be created. Whenever such controversies come up at least official spokesman of the Government should clarify the position of the Government and that also prevents any trouble for Ajitabh or his brother.

Has the Finance Ministry examined this aspect? Then there is one more aspect, a very important one. Ajitabh Bachchan was refused residence-permit on 'moral grounds' in Geneva. It has already appeared in papers of that country and India also. The heading was: "Ajitabh refused residence—permit in Geneva on moral grounds." Ajitabh was refused residence—permit on moral grounds on account of involvement in various financial scandals.

Geneva Police Chief Bernard Ziegler has already announced in Geneva. It has appeared in the papers there and it has

been reproduced in Indian papers that this has been done. What is the present position?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When you are mentioning about Ajitabh regarding FERA violation, you have a right.....
(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : So far I have not done that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When you are speaking about Amitabh Bachchan, as far as possible, you try not to use his name.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Why I would strictly follow, not only as far as possible. Whenever I have to quote him, I will only quote what has not been challenged. So, whenever I quote him, I would only quote the authentic version.
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : I have got a point of order under rule 376. He may make as many allegations as he wants against Ajitabh Bachchan or Amitabh Bachchan I have no concern. The only thing I would like to know with respect to each of these allegations is whether a notice under rule 353 has been given to the Speaker. Unless a notice under 353 with respect to each allegation is given he cannot do it. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : This is an elementary thing. I have done everything before hand. I had sent a letter..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : What is your ruling ?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You give your ruling.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has already got his permission. He has written a letter, without writing letter he cannot do it. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have a letter with me. He can see me in my chamber..... (*Interruptions*)

Let us come to the authentic version, not hearsay. The former Finance Minister had already written a letter to the Prime Minister. He has also very fortuitously replied to his letter and official statement has also clarified the position. V.P. Singh wrote to the Prime Minister demanding a through probe into Ajitabh's assets. I would like to know that as reported in the Press. I do not rely on that; I would only like to know has the Prime Minister already informed that the probe has been initiated? Because at other place—I cannot say, Rajya Sabha, because Mr. Somnath Chatterjee will object—so, I said, at other place, the Minister has already said that an enquiry is going on. Seeing that authentic version, we would like to know, as a result of that enquiry to which a reference has been made by the spokesman of the government at other place, whether the work of the enquiry has been completed; and we are very much interested in knowing what exactly the findings of the enquiry are about which the government spokesman has officially said something.

Connected with that the question is with regard to various individuals and companies. The Speaker has obliged us by broad-basing the motion rather than restricting it only to one individual. He realised that there is a variety of people in the country and companies who are also involved in the FERA violation. Therefore, we, the opposition members, accepted the proposal that instead of making only Ajitabh Bachchan the base of the motion here we would like to take all individuals and companies who are connected with FERA violation. Therefore, one more individual I would like to mention to which I had referred in my letter to the Speaker. There are no defamatory remarks. For instance, as far as Win Chadha is concerned, he is the central figure in the FERA violation. Now since even the Government has accepted that he is wanted,—I am not defaming him—my information is from the Government, because the Government has told us publicly that they want Mr. Win Chadha, they want him to be sent from the United States of America to India, they want to prosecute him and they want to get information. He is a very resourceful man. In

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fact, if he had a Government of his own, he would have been the Minister of Human Resources. He had lot of resources.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no use, Professor, for human resources. Information is necessary.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is a part of it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Make him the Information and Broadcasting Minister.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : And, therefore, as far as Win Chadha is concerned, it is strange, it is a great reflection on our Government and our country as a whole, that the person who has played a pivotal role and against whom the Government has made allegations and the Government is demanding that he should be brought to the country, if he is not well he should be medically examined so that in a mentally fit form he can be imported to India. All that has been said. So, actually he is the culprit according to the version of the Government. But I am surprised that after so many FERA violations, how he has been able to go out.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Allowed to go out.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Because, on all the counts it is established that if anyone is the major beneficiary in this Bofors deal, it is Win Chadha. He is on the wanted list. Of course, I want to supplement; there might be others also.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He is a small fry.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Now, he firstly escapes, he goes to the Consul, he tries to get the document signed and he runs away from our Consul, from our Embassy and they are not able

to trace him. This is our efficiency. But as far as Win Chadha is concerned, my friend Mr. Jaipal Reddy has initiated a very interesting controversy about him. One does not know what is his status, whether he is Indian, whether he is a Non-Residential Indian, or whether he is a Red Indian; one does not know what is his status at all.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : But he seems to win with this Government.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is right. But one status is, that he is a great manipulator, and as a result of that he has been able to manipulate things inside the country and outside the country. He has been able to keep all the evidence out of the purview of the Government and also the purview of the various commissions that will investigate the matter.

Now, closely allied with this is another individual. His name is Lalit Thapar involved again in Bofors. And I think he is guilty of so many FERA violations and again, I am not defaming him, because he himself has made a public statement because he thought that he will get amnesty. And he already admitted 11 crimes which he has committed out of 15 of which he was alleged. He has made a public statement and he has made it before the Government. Who is L.M. Thapar? L.M. Thapar is the Chairman of Greeves Cotton whose house book I have in my possession.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : President of the Doon School Society.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is the cultural background.

L.M. Thapar is a concessionaire, distributor for 'Saab-Scania AB' which supplied tow trucks for the Bofors 155 mm FH-77B Howitzer according to an in-house booklet of the Greeves Group of companies. This is mentioned. So, there is no defamation. A photostat copy of

the book is already available. With me the original is available.

Saab-Scania has been sub-contracted by Bofors to manufacture the tow trucks. That is, the trucks on which the Howitzer guns are fixed, so it has to be of a particular dimension, measurement and all that. Perhaps Mr. Indrajit Gupta will be able to give more details.

Sir, Thapar through his company Greeves Cotton, is the biggest arms dealer. According to Company's official book Greeves Cotton represents 42 defence manufacturers as their distributors.

According to informed sources over the last four years Rs. 14000 crore worth defence equipment is bought and 75 per cent of deals involved were transacted through Thapar, who has been involving himself into so many FERA violations.

I will give you a concrete instance. Thapar has direct access to persons in high offices. I am not mentioning any names. I will leave it to your imagination. (*Interruptions*) CBI was tipped off by the Economic Intelligence Bureau and in raid on Thapar in March 1987 documents about Bofors deal were found. Thapar is the link through whom Befors pay-offs were paid in Swiss Bank accounts. Can they give us the details ?

The Tow trucks brought by Befors from *Saab Scania* was over-valued by more than Rs. 100 crores and the balance of the excess amount was siphoned off by Thapar outside India. It is a clear breach of FERA. Thapar was arrested and released on bail despite his pleading guilty to fifteen out of the eighteen charges—I am sorry not eleven out of fifteen, it is fifteen out of eighteen. Sir, this factual error might be permitted. I am correcting that—pleading guilty to fifteen out of the eighteen charges made by the Enforcement Directorate. The cases seem to be shelved now. We would like to know that has happened He has himself admitted fifteen out of the eighteen charges. We would like to know what has happened.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : They are closing the factories and closing the cases.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prof., how much time do you require ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I will take a few minutes.

I would like to know what action has been taken, for instance about Win Chadda. Then Vijaya Mallya, Chairman United Breweries—again officially it has been announced by the Government that they were found guilty. statements have come and the Government has admitted. I would like to know what steps have been taken. Government have admitted: So, no defamation. They have violated FERA. We would like to know what has happened ? Then, Sahu Jain Limited—there are documents, telex messages—I would like to know what has happened. Then, Reliance as well as Bombay dyeing-civil war in the capitalist world—I would like to know what has happened about both these partners of civil war in the capitalist world. What has been done ?

Sir, I do not want to refer, but unfortunately, our Railway Minister was subject to a question and answer here and Shri Brahma Dutt, famous about the Fairfax episode.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Notorious

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Not notorious. He gave a very well brief observation over here. For instance, he himself admitted while reply going to Mr. Jaipal Reddy that no doubt violation of FERA has taken place. But if I would have violated FERA, then they would have said Dandavate has violated FERA and we have taken action against him. But they said, 'yes; FERA is violated' But, he has taken a liberal view. That is the exact answer. He has taken a liberal view. I have nothing against him. These were the thing which have come out on the floor of the House and I would like to know what is going to happen about it. All these loopholes are there. In all these

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loopholes unfortunately, the image of the Government is getting tarnished and because of the stupid interviews of some of the people who are involved in this, they are also trying to drag the Prime Minister saying that 'we are the strong supporters of the Prime Minister'. I would like to use this floor to make an appeal to Amitabh Bachchan, wherever you want to go, you can go alone along with your brother, but when the sinking ship goes down, for God's sake don't take along with you others because it will be a proposition and a problem for them.

Now Sir, in the context of all these FERA violations like Companies and Individuals, to which I have made a concrete reference without making any defamatory remark—I would like to know from the hon. Minister for Finance and the Minister of State for Finance, will you consider this aspect in consultation with the Minister for Industries, because he knows what is happening in the industrial world, he will be able to give you the inner picture of the outer world and with the help of the Industries Ministry, Home Ministry, Finance Ministry, will you be able to prepare a new blue print of the FERA as it is, which is being violated.

There are certain loopholes and they are taking advantage of these loopholes and as a result of that a number of FERA violators are going scot-free. If it was only a moral crime, we would not have worried about it because each one has the right to go down the immoral path. But when that immorality affects the nation's economy and its resources are drained out, what is to be made available for the development of the economy of the country is lying somewhere else in the foreign banks. And when certain amount of black-money is generated by continuous violation of FERA there is an inflationary pressure on our economy and as a result of that there is price rise and the common man is affected. That is why, we are so much concerned about the FERA violations. Therefore, various questions which are posed to the Finance Minister, I hope, frankly he will come forward with his interpretation and explanation regarding this

FERA violation. I hope and trust that he will reveal more and conceal the least. Some thing he has to conceal—reveal more and conceal the least so that in the interest of the nation's economy we will know what is the picture. If they try to take firm action against FERA violators, like one man the entire House will stand behind the firm action that is taken against FERA violators, who have created heaven for smugglers, heaven for anti-social elements, heaven for holding of elections in this country and I think, the situation will be saved.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV (Varanasi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as the discussion raised by Dandavate Sahab is concerned, in my view, there are no two opinions that accumulation of black money or depositing money abroad need to be checked. From the statistics presented whether of I.M.F. or of the report tabled, it is not clear how much money is involved and what efforts have been made to bring it out. The Government has tried many times to bring such money out by giving incentives to the people and by issuing bonds, but all in vain. Out of the money being spent on the development of the country, some portion of it goes the other way. There is no doubt about it, but the Government is making efforts to check it. Today this is not the question whether Government is making efforts or not. The question is what are the ways which can be adopted and what are the people who can be pinpointed to blame the Government or to give it a bad name. The attention of Shri Madhu Dandavate has gone towards that side, but if Government takes any step against his own colleagues then the whole party stands up to support them. During the raid conducted against the owner of the biggest Indian newspaper, many incriminating documents were found, and when the Director started proceedings against him, many big people came forward in support of him but Madhuji did not ask what steps have been taken against him. He has not referred to that case even once. I think the Government will specify the incriminating documents found during the raid, the explanation given by him to the

Directorate of Enforcement, charge finally framed and the steps being taken against him. No reference has been made in this connection because Dandavateji is his supporter and a critic of the Government. In order to save that man they are ready to go to any extent at the cost of all morals and ideals.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : He may do a good thing.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : He was also there, he should have told what action is being taken against him.

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : Those who themselves live in glass houses, do not throw stones at the houses of others.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : He was called before the Directorate of Enforcement several times. They are ready to support and praise him saying that no one else is a bigger patriot and a bigger sympathiser of democracy than him. I want to say Prof. Dandavate has raised this debate out of a political motive to create an atmosphere against the Government. I think he will not succeed. The Government's line of action is quite clear and its integrity is beyond doubt.

There is another person who is a great Swami, a Jet Swami and friend of Mr. Khashog, a big businessman. During raid on his premises many documents were found. He was called by the Directorate of Enforcement, a colleague of Dandavateji, who is a Chief Minister of a State goes there to have his darshan on the day of eclipse. All the members of the opposition as well as of the Government are ever ready to seek his blessings. It requires an explanation as to why these people go there to seek blessings and are interested in having photograph with him for displaying in the newspapers, when he is being proceeded against both by the Government and the Directorate of Enforcement. I want to know the morality and the patriotism on the basis of which he is talking about violation of foreign exchange regulations. He must look into that side also.

Sir, the people sitting in our opposition have developed a habit of opposing Government on every matter. Whatever has been said here about Amitabh Bachchan and Ajitabh Bachchan has already appeared in the newspapers and has already been discussed in the House. Many statements have been made and the Government has announced in clear terms that the whole episode is being enquired into. It is but natural that it takes time to enquire into such matters. It is not so that such an inquiry can be made instantly. In his State of Karnataka when allegations of corruption were levelled against the Government, they went on setting up Commissions one after the other, as if it was a Government of Commissions. When allegations were levelled against the Chief Minister in the neighbouring State and in one suit of corruption the High Court passed strictures against him and the members of his family then he also set up a Commission to inquire into all the cases since 1947. While sitting in the Government these people are doing such things, about which we know that nothing will be achieved thereby and such a type of inquiry will never be completed. It is not known as to why he wants to raise such matters in this House when he fully knows that no purpose is going to be served by raising such issues.

All of you are aware that cases relating to accumulation of money in foreign countries cannot be investigated easily. Prof. Madhu Dandavate has a good knowledge of Switzerland's law. It is totally uncertain as to what type of help of information could be had from Switzerland in this regard. The laws of Switzerland are before us. Therefore, I do not think that the enquiry is being deliberately delayed, because it is but natural that such an enquiry will take time. There is not laxity on the part of the Government in it. Our Government is fully vigilant and efficient. Prof. Madhu Dandavate is an experienced person. He has the experience as to how much efficient was the Government during his time. I do not want to say anything about that. I can say this much that the case of Vin Chaddha is under consideration in the Delhi High Court. But

[Shri Shyam Lal Yadav]

Dandavateji did not refer to this. He is also aware that when a case is sub-judice it cannot be taken up in this House. Now it depends on the court of law as to what decision it gives. He has not asked to get Shri Vin Chaddha medically examined. Therefore, I am of the view that there is no laxity on the part of the Government in this case. I do not think any delay is being caused in the enquiry. The Government does every thing after considering all the aspects. When somebody is sitting in the U. S. A, it has to be thought how any action can be taken against him. He has also asked how was he able to go to U. S. A. I would like to ask him as to how Dr. Subramaniam Swamy was able to go abroad during emergency. Despite all the rules and regulations in our country the criminals are daily coming in and going out of this country. Though the Army and Police are there to check them yet they are able to take advantage. It is because there is democracy in our country and everybody enjoys its benefits. Some people take advantage of it and go abroad. Therefore, there is no question of levelling allegations against anybody. The system of our country is such that there is no scope for any doubt.

He is annoyed as to why any person makes a statement in support of the Prime Minister. Somehow or the other you people try to drag the name of the Prime Minister and level allegations against him. They do not bother to know about the arrest of the people who violate FERA. They simply want to take political advantage out of it and are trying to find out some pretext to blame the Government and the Prime Minister. Apart from this they have no other interest. He has himself stated that action is being taken against Shri Thapar. When this case is sub-judice how the Government can intervene in it. I have read in the newspapers that action is being taken against all those persons who have been referred to by him. The laws of our country are not such that if a person makes a confession he will be given punishment instantly. Even after a confession has been made the case is tried in a court of law and finally a judgement is given before any punishment

can be awarded. It takes 20 to 30 years to decide certain cases. It is only for this the Government is organising Lok Adalats. Therefore, efforts must be made how to expedite these cases in the courts. I am of the view that there is no laxity on the part of the Government. It is definite that there are some loopholes in the FERA. It is because of those loopholes that people indulge in unlawful activities. It is, therefore, essential that these laws should be amended with a view to removing these loopholes in the law.

He has made a mention of the hon. Minister of Railways. This issue has already been discussed in the House and a reply has already been given. It has also been made clear that he is in no way at fault on any count. He immediately tendered his resignation. The Government settled the case finally after taking the view whatever admissible under the law. A discussion on this issue has already taken place in the other House. Hence, there was no need of raising this issue in the House now. This was not at all a live case. He talks of these things only for a political gain.

Sir, I take this opportunity to say that the opposition parties are interested in taking action against people violating the FERA. The Government is all along taking action against such offenders. But it may not be proper to give a bad name to a person all of a sudden and create a poisonous atmosphere in which justice cannot be done to him. Amitabh Bachchan is a top class artist not only in India but also in the whole world. Crores of youngmen become anxious to have a sight of him. It will not be justified if any atmosphere is created against such a top class artist. Under these circumstances you people levelled wrong, meaningless and baseless allegations against him. He was totally disturbed by these allegations and resigned the membership of the House. It does not behove you people. Otherwise, there was no other reason for which he should have resigned. In order to prove his morality he resigned. He did not care for your allegation. In this way he displayed a high ideal which is praiseworthy. There was nothing to say against him. It

is only for political rivalry that you say these things against a top artist of his status. It is improper and indecent. Nobody in the country will support this issue. Today wherever he goes thousand of youths run after him. He is an attraction, a matinee idol. All the cinema stars in South India have joined Governments. All the tax cases and other monetary issues against them have been stalled. The Government is lenient towards them, because they are in power. They were cinema stars yesterday but today they have come to power. The fact remains that the Government is frightened. It is because they are non-congress men and belong to opposition. The Government has adopted a lenient view in taking action against them. The Government should clarify position in this regard. Enquiry should also be held against those cinema stars who are enjoying power and creating disturbances day in and day out. The Government should give an assurance that the flaws in the rules will be removed at the earliest so that in future no such atmosphere is created against people who are setting up industries according to rules. This will go against the country and create an ill-feeling against them. Unnecessarily we should not condemn those people who are not members of this House and who are unable to clarify their position. The action being taken against them in the does not bear court any fruit because they come out successful by presenting their stand in the court.

With these words I am of the view that there was no justification in the resolution brought forwarded by Prof. Madhu Dandavate and whatever he has said is unnecessary.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the importance of the subject of discussion raised by Prof. Dandavate cannot be disputed. The Foreign Exchange Regulation Act is a very important piece of legislation in our country and if we look at the Preamble of the Act, the latest Act of 1973, it shows that it had been framed primarily for the purpose of conservation of foreign exchange resources of the country and proper utilisation thereof in the interest

of the economic development of the country. Therefore, it has a direct relationship with our economic situation and economic development. Sir, there is no dispute either, I take it that it applies, because the law says so, to all citizens in India as well as abroad. Therefore, their activities abroad come very much within the purview of this legislation. Sir, there is also no dispute that there are largescale violations of this law in this country and it is now being stated by the Government that there are various lacunae and loopholes supposedly in this Act which require to be plugged and that the Government is supposedly thinking on that line. But the biggest lacuna and loophole that exists in this Act is that the power of enforcement is given to persons who are or whose cohorts are the greatest beneficiaries of this system and they utilise these loopholes for their own purposes, both personal and official.

Sir, there has been in this country a deceleration in most of the fields of human life and endeavour, but we have built up an imposing record of huge black money being generated year after year and this parallel economy has become more powerful than what the regular economy should be. And, Sir, we are rearing and propping up this economy, sustained by internal black money and external accumulation of funds and resources which should be available in this country for the development of this country and for welfare activities. And, Sir, the days have come, it seems, that holding a Swiss account, an account in a Swiss bank, is a status symbol to some of these people. (Interruptions) Sir, with the narrowminded and partisan attitude that they have, what is lacking is the sincere political and administrative will with personalised politics ruling in this country. Sir, it is the nexus with and the proximity to the person which decides whether administrative and statutory legal action should be taken against certain individuals who are sought to be guilty of violation of this law. That is why we have to raise this topic, this discussion, in this House to tell the Government to take actions against almost self-confessed violators of FERA, those who are tendering apology to the Government on the basis

[SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE]
of their admitted violations of this law.

Sir, Mr. Yadav referred to certain recent cases of alleged violation of this law. Nobody, I am sure, on this side will support any one in this country who is found to have violated the foreign exchange regulations, whoever it may be in this country. But the objections have been taken, very interesting proximity as to the attempt that was made to scuttle a particular organ and at the same time starting all sorts of prosecutions, Why didn't you do it earlier? Nobody will support anybody who is violating the law.

The hon. Member has also referred to one Swami. We have seen pictures of ** Today you have suddenly found fault with him. I am not holding any brief for this Swami. If he is guilty of violation of this law, then how is he out of the bars? why have you not taken action against him so long? And then, a very interesting proposition like Subramaniam Swamy who had found out way to go out of the country, similarly; Win Chadha has been able to go out of the country, has been made. A very significant similarity!

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Thank God, they do not refer to Subhash Bose going out of the country.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
I disagree with Madhuji when he says that Win Chadha is the biggest beneficiary. No. He was a small fry in the Bofors scandal. The real beneficiaries are going scot free, in the country. What we find today in this country is that there is black money galore. There is accumulation to the extent of as much as Rs. 12,000 crores of black money ever year, in our economy, And that we have numerous clandestine transaction in foreign exchange. And the situation has become this that we have to depend for raising our resources, on the common people and to tax the poor people for the purpose of raising resources for meeting expenses on account of drought, etc., when monies belonging to this country earned by the people of this country

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

are lying safely abroad in foreign banks and, for the recovery of which, this Government is not taking any action whatsoever. Sir, it seems to some people everything foreign seems to be coveted and their status depends upon foreign connection of every sort, both internal and external.

The hon. Member, Mr. Yadav has said, well there is supposed to be politics in it. Politics has to be there. How can you avoid it? Who are the beneficiaries of all these scandals in this country? The Government today is now synonymous with scandals, Bofors scandal, Submarines scandal. Now, up till today, we do not know, when there is a case of admitted bribe given it is admitted that commission was given in the case of Bofors deal, and the Government seems to be knowing it. There was a strange spectacle of admitted bribe given like Bofors confabulating with our Prime Minister who are alleged to be suspected to have something to do with this and the people of this country do not know, what has transpired them and even those people who have admittedly given bribe come all the way from Germany and are given VIP treatment security is provided to them. They do not meet the Press. And when they do meet our Committee, they do not tell, what this committee has been set up to find out and when this sort of spectacle is going on, would the people not ask any question? What else is this if not politics, Mr. Yadav?

Bofors and Submarines scandals both deal with FERA violations. If any Indian has taken money, necessarily he has committed violations of FERA. If an NRI has taken any money and has utilised it in connection with anybody in this country then there is violation of FERA. What steps are being taken? So far as several other dealings are concerned, they are coming out every day and so many have been named by Prof. Dandavate already. This country is kept in dark and this law is kept in cold storage and pretence of prosecutions and pretence of action is being taken, and the slowest speed is being shown and nothing comes.

out of it. The country is not taken into confidence; Parliament is not taken into confidence. That is why, we are firmly convinced that this law is being misutilised for the purpose of giving protection to their own people, people who have nexus with this ruling party in this country.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Ruling party is everywhere.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You admit your own, then we will look after ourselves.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Don't blame the ruling party. Everywhere there is ruling party.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is a global phenomenon.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : See your skeletons in the cupboard also. Don't talk about ruling party.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You can check my account with anybody.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Don't throw mud on everybody.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Try to be brief.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : There is no other speaker today. There are two very well-known cinema houses in this country, Metro Cinema House in Calcutta and Bombay—I have written to the hon. Finance Minister. This matter has come up in the House in the past. Assurances were given by the former Minister here. There are allegations and under-hand dealings in violation of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. No action is being taken. We are giving information. Openly transactions are taking place without permission of Reserve Bank of India. When Mr. Advani was the Information and Broadcasting Minister, he said he wrote to Prof. Hiren Mukherjee that there was a clear case of violation of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. and

steps are being taken. But he ceases to be a Minister and everything has been put under the carpet. Today the employees of the metro cinema houses in Calcutta and Bombay do not know their future. They are threatening to close the cinema Houses. These foreign exchange manipulators and operators want to build up multistorey after pulling down the cinema houses and when we write to the hon. Minister, the usual reply comes that "I am looking into it. I am having the matter examined". On August 24, 1987, Mr. Narayan Datt Tiwari who has significantly absented himself so that he does not have to answer this important discussion. This is a concrete instance I am giving.

Mr. Thapar's name has been mentioned already as an agent of STC. It was replied on the floor of the other House that there was no agency involved of Mr. Thapar in the matter of transaction of STC. There is a complaint lodged by the Foreign Exchange authorities. Enforcement Directorate started departmental proceedings against them. I would like to know what has happened to that, because months have passed. Nothing has come out in the newspapers.

This was issued by the Foreign Exchange Directorate against the Thapars, February, 1987 but till now we do not know what has come out of this prosecution.

So far as Mr. Ajitab Bachchan is concerned, I am not going into the facts which are given. But the point is that, where is he now ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He is in doldrums !

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If he is in Montreaux, from the reports that I find in the newspapers, there is action taken against him, prosecution against him. Is any attempt being made to bring him here ? Have you approached the swiss authorities for his extradition if he is avoiding the Indian laws and Indian courts? Nothing has happened. What about his

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

passport? I also repeat that question. What have you done to his passport? Have you impounded that passport, cancelled that passport? It was stated that the Prime Minister has directed inquiry to be started against Mr. Ajitabh Bachchan in July, 1987. We are in the middle of December now. We would like to know what has happened. Which court or authority is holding an inquiry? Under what charges? For violation of which law? Merely saying an inquiry has started against him is not sufficient. Inquiry under what Act, for which violation? Is it for acquiring property in Switzerland?

Sir, when an Indian is found to have acquired a property, immovable property, in a foreign country, nothing much is required to be done. Prosecution can be launched. He can be directed to sell that property and bring the money to India. But nothing is being done. This Government—we say it is Government inaction, when it acts, there is malfunctioning. This is a Government with a smallest 'g' possible, is today ruling over millions of people in this country. Sir, What about the Swiss accounts? All the money that is in the Swiss Banks must necessarily be deposited in violation of the foreign exchange laws. Nobody has said it. The Government has not said till today whether a single account has been opened in Switzerland by any Indian with the permission of the Reserve Bank of India. Have you approached the Swiss Bank? We read in the papers that a team has gone under great ceremony and publicity. The RBI team has gone there. It has come back. Now, what has happened? What have you told the people of this country? What did they go for? What is the result of that visit? Obviously, the ostensible purpose of this visit of this RBI team must have been to find out whether there have been violations of FERA; ostensibly it must have been to find out how the property was acquired there? But no action seems to be taken. No follow-up action is there. No report is forthcoming. The people are not taken into confidence. I know so far as this Directorate is concerned, they are a very competent people. If they are given a free hand, I am sure,

most of the culprits in this country will be found out and brought to book. But, they are pressurised and threatened... *(Interruptions)* One example is Mr. Bhure Lal and another is Mr. Pandey. If these officers and authorities were allowed a free hand without being pressurised or threatened. I am sure, all cases of violation of FERA would have been found out. We saw in the newspapers that there are allegations of violation of FERA against the TATA House, against the Thapar, against the Kirloskar and against the Birlas... *(Interruptions)* against the Bata's. What has happened to them? Nothing seems to be moving. so far as this Government is concerned. All the big people who are supposed to be in the net, who should be prosecuted, who should be found out and their guilt should be established everything comes out in the papers—no action is being taken against them. Therefore, it cannot but be that there is a close nexus with the slowness of the speed, if any, in the matter of investigation against these higher people and bigger fishes. Well, you go on trying to show that so much money has been realised out of customs, raids and so on and so forth. That is good. Carry on that process. Nobody is objecting. But what about the big fishes? How many of them have been made to pay for the crimes they have committed?

Today, our balance of payments position is in a very critical condition. The total trade gaps in the last two years is to the extent of Rs. 16259 crores. There is a stagnation in remittances for foreign countries. There is a drop in our foreign currency assets by Rs. 1283.5 crores between end of March and September 18 this year. In the six month time, the fall in SDR terms was Rs. 928.88 millions as on 4th September. The debt services ratio of foreign loans has reached dangerous level of 26 per cent. But when we have money outside, when there are people who are playing with the lives of the common people of this country, a handful of people there is supposed to be a Government in this country, although completely *Nikammi Sarkar...* *(Interruptions)*

Therefore, Sir, nothings is happening.

I charge that this Government is encouraging these people, is giving protection to the high-ups, the big fishes, in this country. *(Interruptions)* That is why, hon. Speaker said that it was necessary that this House should discuss this very important question. Why does nothing move in this country? Why is an important law like the FERA not implemented in this country? They may value their friendship, but the people will never accept this short of friendship which the ruling Party has with big fishes in this country and they shall give their verdict. Today there has been one of the massive rallies that Delhi has ever witnessed. The common people, the working people, have come to express their verdict against this inactive Government, against this anti-people Government. They have demanded fresh elections.

(Interruptions)

I find, very pertinently, the Minister for Industry is there. The Minister for Industry, I find, is always overruled. In all matters he is being overruled by the Cabinet. He is now specialising in closing Industries, and we have Ministers of Finance who are closing all inquiries against all these high-ups in the industry and so on and so forth

Therefore, Sir, we demand that this Government must either govern or get out, and the sooner they get out, the better is for the people of this country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Minister.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : That is all! Then you could have given me more time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You took about half an hour. Two hours are allotted for this.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have heard the Members from the Opposition with rapt attention...
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already called the Minister.

If you had given me the name, I would have called.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : I was particularly amused to listen to the speech...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I have something new to say.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Tomorrow you can say.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : I was particularly amused to listen to the speech by Mr. Somnath Chatterjee...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, I am given to understand that the House will adjourn at 6.30 p.m.,.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Not at 6.30. P.M.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : My Half-an-Hour Discussion is there.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : They belong to the largest Opposition Party the House. They should be allowed to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : They had not given their names at that time. What can I do? Now they are demanding.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : I have already started.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister may carry on.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : I was amused to listen to the speech of Mr. Somnath Chatterjee. He wishes that this Government should go...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order They had not given their names.

How can I call them now? The Minister is already on his legs.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : On a point of order.

SHRI B K. GADHVI : If wishes were horses, beggars would ride over them...
(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Jaipal Reddy, what is your point of order.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The House should have been extended.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why extension ? The House will go upto 7.00 p.m. Already the Business Advisory Committee has decided that. Mr. Minister, please carry on.

Dr. DATTA SAMANT : My Half-an-Hour Discussion is there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That will come at 6.30.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Please allow him to speak. He wants to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has not given the name. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is a pity that the representative of the largest Opposition Party in this House does not get opportunity to speak.

He got up and said, "want to speak"..
(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When I called Mr. Somnath Chatterjee belonging to a group smaller than the Telugu Desam, why did they not insist on their right at that time ? They never said anything at that time. Why did they not raise it at that time when I called Mr. Somnath Chatterjee ? Now, when the Minister is on his legs, they are saying, 'I want to speak'.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Whenever a speaker comes slightly late, he is allowed to speak in the next position.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : What about Half an Hour Discussion ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We are going to take it up.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister's reply is there.
(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Do not make a cursory reply. You require more time.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : I am prepared to reply right now.
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Half an Hour would come after I finish my reply.
(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You did not object when I called Somnath Chatterjee and also the Minister for reply. Now only you are raising. What can I do ?

DR. DATTA SAMANT : What about Half and Hour discussion ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Half and Hour is coming.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool) : Has Mr. Datta Samant's consent been taken for changing the time of Half an Hour ?
(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no. It is not yet 6.30 P.M. There is one minute more.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We have not fixed time as 6.30 in the agenda. Generally you would have seen in the agenda that if at all there is Half an Hour and if the House is adjourning at 6.00 P.M., we fix it at 5.30 P.M. In this today's agenda, we have not mentioned

any time. After the Minister's reply, we can take up Half an Hour Discussion. Time is not fixed as 6.30 P.M. Therefore, I cannot.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I think, it is injustice to you. You cannot make a cursory reply,

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you want, you can continue reply tomorrow. But consensus of the House will be taken.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : That is for the Chair to decide. I am prepared right now to reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can continue your reply tomorrow.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS (Tezpur) : Sir, since the Hon. Members have raised number of questions, we want to hear the Government today itself.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is for the House to decide.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS : Why should they get publicity tomorrow morning?... No, Sir, we want to have it today itself.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You cannot change your ruling.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not a ruling. I have not given any ruling. I gave only suggestion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR (Durg) : Why are you afraid of reply ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : It is up to the Chair to decide.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please order. I have given suggestion. Based on

some Member's suggestion, I passed on the suggestion to Minister to continue his reply tomorrow. If the House acceds. It is not a ruling.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS : Why no time has been given for Half an Hour ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I want to give one more suggestion. Half an Hour Discussion is always meant for half an hour before we adjourn for the same day. Therefore, in the last half-an-hour we used to take up the Half-an-Hour Discussion...*(Interruptions)*... That is not fixed, I accept, It is a customary thing that we follow. Within half-an-hour, we will finish the Half-an-Hour Discussion. If you want further to continue the Session after 7 O'clock, you can have it extended. I have no objection.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : So many times the reply is given the next day, after two days and three days.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is left to the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : The Minister is on his legs, he should continue.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order, please, Let the Parliamentary Affairs Minister say something.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : Since the Hon. Minister was on his legs already, I submitted that you can take the sense of the House and let him reply.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : There is a convention that these issues are not decided on the vote of the House. They are by consensus. So many times discussions are replied to on the second and the third days also.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You have already asked Dr. Datta Samant to speak. He is on his legs.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : We are not trying to avoid the Half-an-Hour Discussion. Since the Minister was on his legs, left him reply and we will take up the Half-an-Hour discussion afterwards. We can extend the House upto 7.30 p.m.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First of all I want to know whether you want to extend the House. First we have to decide whether or not to sit after 7 O' clock and whether you want to sit for half-an-hour more or one hour more, you have to decide something. If you extend it beyond 7.30 p.m. then the Minister can reply. If you move that it should be extended, then only I can extend. We can also take up the Half-an-Hour Discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes, extend it beyond 7.30 p.m.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : In the Business Advisory Committee we decided to sit upto 7 O'clock only and not beyond 7 O' clock.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : In the Business Advisory Committee it was decided that it should be extended as the situation demands:

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Let us take up the reply of the Minister after the Half-an-Hour discussion is over.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : You take the sense of the House after the Half-an-Hour discussion is over.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First I want to know whether the Parliamentary Affairs Minister wants to extend the House. If she is moving, let the House

decide and then I will continue. Before that, I cannot.

18.35 hrs.

**MOTION RE EXTENSION OF TIME
OF THE HOUSE**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIK-
SHIT) :** I want to move a motion. Since the Hon. Minister was on his legs.....
(Interruptions)...I beg to move :

“That the sitting of the House be extended upto 7.30 p.m. or even beyond till the Half-an-Hour discussion is over.”

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : At 6.30 p.m. Dr. Datta Samant was called.
(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : The Minister has already yielded to Dr. Datta Samant and got into his seat,

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I want to know whether it is the sense of the House to accept the suggestion made by the Minister. *(Interruptions)*...All right, I will put it to the House.

Let the lobbies be cleared...Now the lobbies have been cleared.

SHRI E AYYAPU REDDY : Sir, I rise on a point of order.

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

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Sir, the Business Advisory Committee has decided that the House will sit upto 7 p.m. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is no point of order. Already the lobbies have been cleared, I will now put it to the vote of the House. The question is ;