

and save this Company whose memory is associated with such great persons like....

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore): The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals is not interested to take over this Company. I have met the Minister of Petroleum for this.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: He is correct. Already the West Bengal Government has been approached by the management of the Company who are ready to hand over the management of the Company. The West Bengal Government then approached the Union Government, the Union Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals and Fertilizers, to take over this Company to save these 2,100 workers from starvation and also to see that there is no shortage of these basic life-saving drugs in the market and also to see that such a full-fledged research institute is not closed down.

Sir, I bring to the attention of the House with sorrow and dismay that the Union Ministry has refused up till now to take over this Company. Through this House I stress that this Company be taken over by the Union Government which has already done a good job by taking over the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceutical Works, and thus a very historical and very important pharmaceutical industry in Bengal saved from closing down altogether.

(iii) REPORTED SALE OF NIZAMS' JEWELLERY

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola):

Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the reported sale by auction of the fabulous jewellery belonging to the Nizam the Seventh. The report in the *Times of India* dated 9th March 1978 states that this jewellery, which consists of rare collection of matchless craftsmanship, has amongst it rare items such as a set of 22 pieces of emeralds of exquisite

beauty and purity, which weigh 114.5 carats. Its value is estimated to be more than Rs. 5 crores. The collection also includes two diamonds and emerald necklace as well as seven-line pearl necklace of great beauty. Apart from other items of rare beauty, this collection also has within it the world famous diamond called Jacob, which unique gem of renowned antiquity weighs 184.75 carat, which is a rare thing in itself. As is well-known, India has already been deprived in the period of our history of the famous Peacock Throne as well as the well-known Kohinoor.

These items of rare beauty are our national and cultural heritage. It is known that other countries, both in the western and the socialist world, have got these treasure jealously guarded and preserved. It is known that such treasures are kept in special museums, such as the one in Tower of London, in Kremlin, in Teheran, in Washington. They are a great attraction to the tourists.

The previous Government had taken a Cabinet decision to create a special museum where rare pieces of jewellery, which were mostly in the possession of the earlier princes, which had historical background and cultural heritage would be kept. These articles and treasures of art could not be, and must not be, measured in terms of monetary value, and the Government, owes it to the nation to take immediate steps, not only to stop this wanted sale or auction, but to assure the House that all this treasure will be taken over, or otherwise acquired, and kept in a national museum of jewellery.

Now that the Finance Minister is here, I hope he will also agree that this is a matter which is of national concern. It is not a party matter. When I read this news item in the *Times of India* that fabulous jewellery are on sale, I really felt shocked. I discussed it with some of my friends in the Janata side and they all felt concerned.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar): Today he is talking sense.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: At least today he is understanding it. I am thankful to him.

According to the newspaper reports, on the 9th they were to have got the bids. The report further says that buyers from several countries are in the city of Bombay, inspecting the items, which are worth several crores of rupees. The last date for the submission of offers for the present lot is 9th March. So, probably by now, they must have already made the offers. What is happening? Have you taken some measures to stop this auction? Or, are you acquiescing in this auction by the Trust? These are rare pieces and once they go away, the country will never get them back. Today there are billionaires in rich countries like USA and other countries, who will be only too glad to buy these things. They can afford to buy the entire antiques of this country if you allow them to buy. If you offer them the whole country tomorrow, they will be able to buy it. If we have no respect for our treasures of our cultural articles, what are we going to do?

The object of raising a matter under rule 377 is not just to draw the attention. Though the Finance Minister is here, there is no response. It is his primary duty to project these things. I want him to assure this House that this wanton sale will be stopped of this rich treasure. I hope he will kindly respond to this request of mine.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Vayalar Ravi.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is response to my request?

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Why don't you ask your Bombay jewellers to buy them.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Before the American multi-millionaires come and invest in these things, you ask them to stop the auctions.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Ask Indiraji to purchase them.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You give us the money; we will purchase it.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Indiraji has got enough money.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This is a serious matter. The zero hour is still on. When we bring certain serious matters to the notice of the Government, we expect an assurance from the Government. When we raise a matter under rule 377..

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Under rule 377, the Minister is not obliged to reply. Now I am calling on Shri Vayalar Ravi.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am not asking you to force them to answer.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If he wants to answer, he can.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: In 377 the object is to invite the attention.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have already invited the attention.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: If on such important matters the Government is not pleased to respond—of course, I do not say, Sir, you can force them—if the Government is not pleased to assure the House....

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur): Sir, is there any point in what he is stating?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I know how to regulate. If you start objecting to it, then it is difficult to run the House.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: With great difficulty, we could persuade the Speaker to accept at least one motion under rule 377.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not able to catch your point.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Now you are allowing 3, 4 or 5.

(iv) REPORTED ATTACK ON SHRI JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN AND SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM AT PATNA

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkal): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, under rule 377, I draw the attention of the House and the Government to the unfortunate incident of throwing stones and chappals on Shri J.P. and shouting slogans against the Defence Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram, indicating an undesirable development in certain parts of the country. The meeting was held to celebrate the 75th birthday anniversary and present him a purse of Rs. 90 lakhs.

First of all, the collection of a huge amount needs an explanation to the nation, as to how this amount was collected. Even though the organisation assured that not more than Rs. 1,000 was collected from any individual, this will not carry conviction with the people. It is necessary that the Government must....

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Sir, on a point of order, how can this come under rule 377?

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Sir, it is a serious matter. I do not want to challenge his statement or your judgment. It is a serious matter. Huge amounts are collected in this country for various purposes. Shall we ask for an enquiry in every case?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What has been admitted is not the collection.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Then you please stop him.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is a law and order matter.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Are we supposed to tell him from where the money came, who donated what?

What is this? This is a very bad precedent. This is highly objectionable.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You confine yourself to the point.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: On the floor of the House, when Mr. C. B. Gupta was the Chief Minister....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, no. (Interruptions)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: You people on the floor of the House demanded an enquiry against Mr. C. B. Gupta and his collection. Here Jayaprakash Narain is supposed to be a leader and Rs. 90 lakhs has been collected. How has it been collected? (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You confine yourself to the incident there.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: The point is different.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: That part should be expunged. I want an assurance that the reference to the collection of funds would be expunged since you have not allowed it. Otherwise it will go into the debates.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are certain rules concerning expunction. So, by raising this question, you are not helping me. You please do not dilate on that matter any more. Let him confine himself to law and order.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: The meeting addressed by Jayaprakash Narain was disturbed by slogan-shouting people under the banner of Forward League. The Forward League is a newly formed organisation by certain influential people. Of course, the names are those of the ruling party. The Forward League, with a view to oppose any kind of reservation for backward class communities disturbed the meeting. Their shouting slogans was only to create communal disharmony and hatred among the communities. They openly expressed their anger against the reservation for the