

pose has not been served even if that was in the public interest.

The second purpose, that the lure of gold would be reduced, has also been falsified by the fact that people are willing now to play nearly 70 per cent more for gold than they did in 1963.

MR. SPEAKER: You speak on the amendment.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU: I was asked by your predecessor to give the grounds.... (Interruption).

The third ground, that the financial resources of the Government and foreign exchange will be helped, is something so fantastic that it has been proved by my colleague that in spite of the financial position improving, in spite of the foreign exchange increasing, smuggling has increased and to that extent both those purposes have not been served.

Now I must ask the Finance Minister what is the interest of the public which has been served. This is a challenge to him. Has the interest of the public been served by making loans more secretive? Has the interest of the public been served by increasing the rate of interest? Has the interest of the public been served by these officials being able to exploit the ignorance and the helplessness of the people? Has the interest of the public been served by suicides which have been taking place? If it is not so, this exception does not arise.

The next provision is about the reasonable restriction.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK (South Delhi): Sir, it is a quarter past five o'clock.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU: I am only filling up the gap.

MR. SPEAKER: You may now sit down. You have done it successfully.

17.15 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with a heavy heart and with a profound sense of concern that I have to report to this House certain events which are currently taking place in Czechoslovakia.

We have always been deeply committed to the cause of freedom everywhere. We have stood for certain principles as guiding and informing our attitude to international events. The principle of non-interference by one country in the internal affairs of another constitutes the very basis of peaceful co-existence. We have always believed that international relations should be governed by respect for the sovereignty and independence of nations, big or small. We have always stood for the right of every country to develop its personality according to its own traditions, aptitudes and genius. India has always raised her voice whenever these principles have been violated.

SHRI J. B. KRIPALANI (Guna): Except in Hungary.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Sir, the House is aware of the reports which have come through the world Press and radio as to the nature of the developments which have taken place in Czechoslovakia. We have also made enquiries from the diplomatic missions of the countries concerned as well as others, and continue to be in close touch with them. The armed forces of the Soviet Union and four of its Warsaw Pact allies began crossing the Szechoslovak borders at about 03.30 hours IST. (Some Hon. Members: Shame, shame). They are now reported to be in Prague and other towns of Czechoslovakia.

In the early hours of this morning, the Soviet Government, through their

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]

Charge d' Affaires in New Delhi, informed us that the Governments of the Soviet Union and four of its Allied countries of the Warsaw Pact had decided to send their armed forces into Czechoslovakia. Hon'ble Members have presumably seen the statement which has since been put out by the Soviet news agency, Tass, stating the view point of the Soviet Government.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY (Kendrapara): Did they inform you anything about Kosygin's resignation?

MR. SPEAKER: No questions please.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Although it was only after our own independence that we were able to establish diplomatic relations with the Republic of Czechoslovakia, we have a long history of friendship towards Czechoslovakia and its valiant people. I recall, as I am sure many of my colleagues on both sides of the House will remember, the tragic and fateful events of 1938 and 1939. Even then our sympathies were with the people of Czechoslovakia in their travail and my father gave poignant expression to them. I am sure that the House will join me in conveying to the people of Czechoslovakia the profound concern at the turn which events have taken so soon after what appeared to be a peaceful resolution of problems and differences between Czechoslovakia and its allies.

Our relations with the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria are close, and many-sided. We value these friendships and wish to preserve and extend them. However, we cannot but give expression to our anguish at the events in Czechoslovakia. This House will no doubt wish to convey to them our view that they should carefully consider all aspects of the situation which has arisen as a result of the action by their armed forces and its possible consequences.

We are deeply aware of the fears which have gripped Europe, and the conflicts which have raged there leading to two world wars. These fears

still haunt the minds of the European people.

I am sure I reflect the opinion of the House when I express the hope that the forces which have entered Czechoslovakia will be withdrawn at the earliest possible moment and the Czech people will be able to determine their future according to their own wishes and interests, and that whatever mutual problems there may be between Czechoslovakia and its allies, will be settled peacefully. The right of nations to live peacefully and without outside interference should not be denied in the name of religion or ideology.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: *rose*—

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY: I only wanted to ask whether she has any latest information about the resignation of Mr. Kosygin? (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. Just now, the teleprinter message was there that Mr. Kosygin and the Deputy Prime Minister have resigned. I do not know if the Prime Minister can give information about it.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: There is no authoritative news. The P.T.I. has also mentioned something about the resignation of the Soviet Defence Minister.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam): Sir, it stands to the credit of those two gentlemen, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Soviet Union to have protested against this in stronger terms, in more eloquent terms, in more effective terms, than what our Prime Minister has done. (*Interruptions*) They have the moral courage to resign from their positions. Here is our Prime Minister who does not have the guts to deplore, to condemn, what is happening in Czechoslovakia. (*Interruptions*). I want to request you, on behalf of all our friends here, to give us an opportunity of having a full-fledged debate on this particular question and to express what we feel about this Government and its failure. (*Interruptions*).

श्री रवि राय (पुरी) : अभी तत्काल बहस होनी चाहिये ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (उज्जैन) : हम रात को 12 बजे तक बैठेंगे, अभी पूरी चर्चा होनी चाहिये ।

MR. SPEAKER: Will you kindly hear me? I did say in the morning that we must have a discussion. There are no two opinions about it. I thought the leaders of the parties who met the Prime Minister this morning would have agreed to some method of approach to this matter. But I do not know anything about it. Till this minute, nobody has informed me about it. I said in the morning that discussion will be allowed. Just now, as I was coming, there was the teleprinter news—how far it is true I do not know—that the Russian Prime Minister has resigned and the Defence Minister has also resigned. I do not know how far it is true. After all, at times, the information comes and later on it is contradicted. (*Interruptions*). Order, order. I have not yet finished. It is a serious matter. If upheaval is going on in Russia itself, it is a serious matter. I thought, instead of discussing here and now, if we get some more information, whether it is true.... (*Interruptions*.)

SHRI M. L. SONDHI (New Delhi) : People have been massacred.

MR. SPEAKER: I am still on my legs. I am not sitting. Please hear me. I thought, tomorrow any time that is convenient, we could fix up...

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDI: Yes, if it is immediately after the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: May I now request the Leader of the House on behalf of all of us to tell us when it is convenient tomorrow, whether immediately after the Question Hour would be convenient.....

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK (South Delhi) : When we met the Prime Minister this afternoon, we expected that she would make a gesture which

would show the unity of the nationalist and democratic forces in this country and we would be able to express.... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: This is going into the merits; this can be said tomorrow.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: We are very much disappointed by her statement. I wish she had behaved as the Prime Minister of a democratic country.... (*Interruptions*.)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. That is going into the merits. Mr. Nath Pai.

SHRI NATH PAI (Rajapur) : I think, we owe you an apology because you were kept in the dark about what will be happening here. May I submit that it was at your initiative that we agreed to meet the Prime Minister with a single objective in view that the Resolution to be moved in the House or the statement to be made by her would reflect the deep anguish, the sense of shock and an unequivocal condemnation of the act of naked aggression. We met her not to get tit-bits of information which are available to us from the All India Radio; we wanted to make a serious effort to evolve a national consensus on this view. We knew that there could not be unanimity because there are elements which think that Czechoslovakia has been liberated and not.... (*Interruptions*).

श्री भोगेंद्र झा (जयनगर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है—मुझे एतराज नहीं है आप बहस अभी शुरू कराइये या बाद में शुरू कराइये.....

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. Mr. Nath Pai may also please sit down. Order, order. I am on my legs. May I appeal to all of you to sit down before we begin? If at all any party wants to say anything, I would certainly like to hear that; I could call Mr. Dange or Mr. Mukerjee; I do not mind. They may also explain their view. But all of you should not get up and shout like this. This is not the way. I wanted to find out from the Prime Minister who is also the

[Mr. Speaker]

Leader of the House as to when it will be convenient to have a discussion and all that... (*Interruptions*). I am on my legs. I am not prepared to hear anybody now. Whatever you want to say you can say, I would allow you time to say that later on. This has to be regulated properly. Now I want to know when we shall discuss this. About fixing up the time, the Leader of the House will have to say....

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDI: Immediately after the Question Hour tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to hear the Leader also.

SHRI NATH PAI: You told me you would hear me. Then I was interrupted.

MR. SPEAKER: He has said what he wanted to say.

SHRI NATH PAI: This is putting a premium on interruption. I have not concluded.

MR. SPEAKER: You are going into the merits.

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI (Berhampore): We were all there. We never authorised Shri Nath Pai to report on our discussion (*Interruptions*). We are not going to be shouted down like this. Let us not lose our sense of proportion.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI: We will discuss Czechoslovakia. Nobody can prevent it (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Let Shri Nath Pai not go into the merits. The leader of his Party has suggested that the discussion should be after question hour tomorrow.

SHRI NATH PAI: You will recall that this morning when we called on you, it was agreed between you and the Leaders of the Opposition that you will give this House an opportunity to express itself on this tragedy that has befallen Czechoslovakia. When we met the Prime Minister, it was with a view to explore the possibility

of seeing whether an agreed Resolution could be moved. I want to make this submission, since you want me to limit myself to this limited point....

MR. SPEAKER: What happened between the Leaders and the Prime Minister need not be stated here.

SHRI NATH PAI: We cannot accept this procedure which is contrary to what we agreed. Since her view does not represent what we believe to be the nation's view, we want a debate today, here and now. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: May I request all hon. Members who are standing to sit down. What Shri Dwivedy, the leader of the PSP had suggested is different from what Shri Nath Pai has now suggested. I wanted to hear the Prime Minister first as to the time that would be convenient for a discussion.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: We leave it to you to fix a convenient time. We do not want to prevent a discussion. I would only say that it is because we were aware of the deep concern felt by hon. Members opposite, and also by hon. members amongst our own party, that I wanted to make a statement today. Otherwise, you will have noticed that nobody in authority has come out with a statement, yet with the exception of the Australian Prime Minister. Everywhere people are still considering the matter, gathering information..... (*Interruptions*).

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर) : आपके पिता जी ने भी पूछा था क्या ?

MR. SPEAKER: I have not called Shri Madhu Limaye. He cannot get up and make some remark like this.

SHRI HEM BARUA: When Egypt was invaded, was the Prime Minister then awaiting the reaction of any other nation? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI NATH PAI: The Italian Communist Party, the biggest communist party in Europe, has come out with a statement.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY: It is deplorable that the Prime Minister should have to wait for the reactions of others before making her statement here. (*Interruptions*).

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या जब ब्रेजनेव की चिट्ठी आयेगी तभी ये बोलेंगी ?

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): The Prime Minister's remark is deplorable that she cannot make a statement before other parties and other countries have decided what to say. Let their statements follow ours.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed Shri Piloo Mody or Shri Limaye or anyone else, except the Prime Minister, to speak. I wanted that the House should hear the Prime Minister first before others make their comment.

SHRI RANGA: What about the time for the discussion ?

MR. SPEAKER: We will fix it up. She has said that I can fix it up.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I was only saying that when a serious situation like this arises, Government should have full time to discuss it amongst themselves and to try to get authentic information from different sources. That was why I was referring to other countries. Our information is that they are still in the process of gathering information, of meeting in various councils like in the Cabinet or, for example, in the Security Committee. This is the news which we have from different countries.

As for discussion here, it is for you to fix any time you consider convenient. We do not want to come in the way.

श्री रवि राय : अभी बहस होनी चाहिये ।

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: It is up to you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Tomorrow, we shall discuss this. The time is to be fixed. It is left to me by the Leader

of the House. I appeal to the leaders of other parties also to leave it to me. I shall fix the time tomorrow at an early hour.

श्री रवि राय : उनकी राय से हम लोग सहमत नहीं हैं ।

MR. SPEAKER: All of us were anxious. I am sure that Mr. Dange and others would agree with me. We shall have to discuss it in a fair way, and not throw insults at each other. It is not fair. Everyone has a right to have his own opinion and not simply to begin abusing each other. That will not lead us anywhere.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे ऊपर अन्याय हो रहा है । इनकी राय लोगों के सामने जा रही है और हमारी राय नहीं जा रही है जबकि इनकी राय से हम सहमत नहीं हैं ।

MR. SPEAKER: When I am on my legs, every hon. Member should sit. We shall have to keep a little calm when there is excitement. If we ourselves get excited, how is the problem going to be solved by us ?

श्री रवि राय : स्वतन्त्रता की हत्या हुई है ।

MR. SPEAKER: You can say whatever you want to say, tomorrow.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY: I should like to know from you whether this discussion will be on a substantive motion moved by Members who had given notice or the statement of the Prime Minister ? You say that you will fix the time tomorrow at the earliest opportunity. I think notices have come to you; whichever notice you had received early, I think you must allow that motion to be moved.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (हापुड़) : श्रीमन, मैं आप से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि चर्चा आज हो या कल, इसमें कोई आपत्ति नहीं है । इसमें भी कोई आपत्ति नहीं है कि सरकार पूरे निर्णय के साथ संसद के सामने आये ।

[श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री]

मेरा कहना केवल मात्र यह है कि प्रधान मंत्री ने जो वक्तव्य दिया है, जोकि इस संसद और इस देश का प्रतिनिधि वक्तव्य होकर विश्व के अन्दर जायेगा, उसके अन्दर एक दुर्बलता रह गई है जिसको मैं चाहता हूँ इस वक्तव्य में जोड़ लिया जाए। यह तो प्रधान मंत्री भी स्वीकार करती हैं कि वारसा पैक्ट के चार राष्ट्रों ने मिल कर एक दुर्बल राष्ट्र पर आक्रमण किया है इसलिये अन्त में यह अवश्य जोड़ लिया जाए कि यह सभा उसकी भर्त्सना करती है।

MR. SPEAKER: You are going into the merits. This is not the time.... (Interruptions.) The habit has grown with some Members that when I am on my legs, they get up and shout, it must be given up. It is not as though I am going to fix the time, here and now. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh and the Leaders of the groups here will sit in my room the moment the House adjourns and discuss it. I appeal to the Leaders of Parties to come to the

Chamber; we shall sit there and then see if we can discuss it usefully.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI: Is there anything wrong in discussing it today?

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. Everytime you are doing this, when I am on my legs; you are shouting like this and you are making me helpless and do something which I am not at all wanting to do to you. Let us adjourn and sit there. In the room we can do anything, but not here. The whole world watches us and is laughing at this. The Prime Minister cannot come; she had to go and make a statement in the Rajya Sabha. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh or somebody else will come. I appeal to the Leaders of Groups also to come to my room. Shall we take up the other business, now or shall we adjourn? (Interruptions.) I adjourn the House to meet at 11 A.M. tomorrow.

17.40 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, August 22, 1968/Sarvana 31, 1890 (Saka).