

I am laying a Statement on the Table of the House explaining, in detail, the Government decisions on the major recommendations of the Inquiry Committee.

In the end, I would like to express both on behalf of the Government of India and on my own, our deep sense of gratitude to Dr. P. P. Gajendragadkar and his colleagues on the Inquiry Committee for completing the work of the Committee within the specified time and for giving us a very comprehensive Report.

SHRI S. M. BENERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, copies of the statement should be circulated so that we can have a discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes; it will be done.

13.12 hrs.

RE. CERTAIN ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS IN CENTRAL HALL OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: (Begusarai): Sir, I have, with a measure of reluctance, to refer to a widespread impression that the Central Hall of Parliament has been recently bugged. The basis for this apprehension or suspicion has been provided by the very complicated system of mechanical contrivances that have been set up in the Central Hall. The obvious reason that is being given is that it is for the convenience of interpretation. But the minds of the Members to be disabused of the apprehensions. The allegation is that the opportunity has been taken by the Government to bug the entire Central Hall. You would recall that sometime back that there was an allegation that there was a network of spies in the Central Hall. That was confirmed by some of the allegations that were made against the hon. Member, Shri Dinesh Singh, which were based on some cock-and-bull stories in the Central Hall of Parliament or whatever they

are. We all know that the highest executive in the United States is now under a cloud and he is not being trusted by the Congress or the public there. He is being prosecuted in three forums, the press, the Grand Jury and also the Congressional Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: You raise this issue to that level?

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: If it comes to that. Because the Central Hall is your direct responsibility and comes under your care, you should appoint a Committee of Members of Parliament to assure the Members that no such bugging has been done. That can be done only in this way.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार इस बारे में आश्वासन दे दे, इस से बात नहीं बनेगी। (अध्यक्षान) यह बात समाचार-पत्रों में छपी है—जिम्मेदार पत्रकारों न इस बात को लिखा है कि सेंट्रल हाल में एक मिनी-टेप रिकार्डर काम में लाया गया, मेम्बर जो बात करते हैं, उसको टेप किया गया और उसे किसी पार्टी के एक फोरम में पेश किया गया।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जो बात हाउस में चल रही है, आप उसी पर रहिये।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अभी तक इस बात का खंडन नहीं किया गया है। अगर आप हमें इजाजत देंगे, तो हम वह टेप-रिकार्डर लेकर आप के पास आयेंगे।

मेरा निवेदन है कि यह मामला इतना सरल नहीं है। यह बड़ा गम्भीर प्रश्न है। इस तरह के निश्चित आरोप लगाये गये हैं कि मेम्बर आपस में जो बातचीत करते हैं, उसको रिकार्ड किया जाता है। अगर यह चीज चलेगी, तब तो समझ लेना चाहिये कि लोकतंत्र खत्म हो गया। इस प्रकार तो हम कहीं भी स्वतंत्रता से बात नहीं कर सकते। इसलिये मैं इस मांग को सपोर्ट करता हूँ कि आप एक कमेटी

[श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी]

बनायें और उसके सामने यह सारा मामला जाना चाहिए। इस तरह की सभी सम्भावनाओं को हमें समाप्त करना पड़ेगा।

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta—North-East): Because I found you, Mr. Speaker, calling upon the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs to say something or the other, I want to be clear of one thing. Whatever has been done in the Central Hall, has been done under your direction or your Secretariat's direction, not by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs or any other member of the Treasury Benches. If you assure the House that all those allegations in the Press or elsewhere, are not correct according to your own personal information, then of course it is all right. But why are you looking to the Minister? What has the Minister to do with this?

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM (Srinagar): This mischief was done when you were away.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing has been done in my absence.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: Tape-recorders have been used; you must have read papers in your foreign tour. This is a period for economy. What was the necessity for this, then? After all, we have carried on all these years in the Central Hall. What was the emergency to start all this at this particular juncture. Even your telephone is being bugged. Do you know?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): Prof. Mukerjee said that it has been done under your direction. There is no doubt about it. But who are the engineers who did it? It has been done by the employees of the Central Government. If some doubts arise that there has been some collusion with some conspirators, the doubts have to be cleared for future use of the Central Hall. Otherwise, the Central Hall will be a de-Central Hall

MR. SPEAKER: Bugging has something to do with the United States. It should not be here. In our country, the bugs are at different places in the form of insects.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Here the Prime Minister uses the buggy and there President Nixon is accused of bugging.

MR. SPEAKER: Bugs normally come through other sources.

Now that this question has been raised. I may tell you that this wiring is in connection with the provision of instruments for simultaneous interpretation. If this is for something else, I would advise Shri Mishra to choose any mechanical expert or acoustic expert and get it examined.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Why not appoint a committee?

MR. SPEAKER: There is no need for a committee. I give you the choice to get it examined by some experts from outside, if necessary, to remove the doubts. Otherwise, how will you know the intricate mechanism unless you get the opinion of some expert?

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: It would be much beyond my resources.

MR. SPEAKER: The good name of this Parliament and this House should not be brought into such things. I leave it to the opposition to satisfy themselves on this point. We had been planning it because many meetings are held in the Central Hall, and just as we have simultaneous interpretation in this House, we want to have it there also. That is too big a place for bugging.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्या किसी मेम्बर को यह टेप रिकार्डर लाने की इजाजत है ? क्या वह अन्य मेम्बरों की जानकारी के बिना उनकी बातचीत को टेप रिकार्ड कर सकता है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपने तो साइमलटे-
'नियस इंटरप्रिटेसन के लिए जो कार्रवाई लग
रही है उसके ऊपर बात की। अगर कोई टेप
रेकार्ड लावा तो उसके लिए अनुमति
बताए।

We can have an investigation into that. But I assure you that this is just a mechanism for simultaneous interpretation. If you do not want it, we can stop it.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:
No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: It has been going on for many years here, and there was a demand that it should be installed in the Central Hall.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : साइमलटे-
नियस ट्रांसलेशन का कौन विरोध कर रहा है ?

श्री श्यामनन्दन मिश्र : हम उस का
विरोध नहीं कर रहे हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर उसके लिए कोई
बग आप को कहीं मिल जाये तो निकालिए।
वह जरूर निकालगे।

Tape-recording is a different thing. You have raised this question of the installation of new instruments. You are welcome to go into that.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:
I want to make it quite clear that we are not against this facility for interpretation. But the suspicion is this opportunity has been utilized by the Government for setting up a mechanism for bugging.

MR. SPEAKER: If you have any information on that point, you are welcome to go into that with the help of any expert of your choice. In this House we have full opportunity of speaking on any subject. So, there is no question of installing anything of that kind.
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SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:
Our suspicion is that the Government have taken this opportunity to install this.

MR. SPEAKER: If something is bugging you all the time, what can we do? We will adjourn now for lunch and meet again at 2.30 p.m. when we will take up the Adjournment Motion.

13.23 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch till thirty minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT—
Contd.

**RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL
COMMODITIES—CONTD.**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri
S. M. Banerjee.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the House do now adjourn."

The purpose of my adjournment motion is known to the House. It was read out by the hon. Speaker. My previous adjournment motion in the House which was moved by me was only on the failure of the Government to check rise in prices of essential commodities. But this time, I have added something more, that the Government themselves have enhanced the prices of not only of wheat, rice and other essential commodities but also of petrol and other petroleum products. So, the Government is solely responsible for the rise in prices. They cannot attribute this either to drought or