

that "The point is that this technical committee was appointed by the I. O. C. with the permission of the then Minister, Shri Ashoka Mehta." It has been brought to my notice that the need for a technical committee for ground study on the choice of actual mining and pipeline practices was felt in the Ministry at the Secretary's level. This was brought to the notice of I. O. C. who thereupon appointed the Investigation Committee. The constitution of the Committee had the approval of the Board of Directors of I.O.C. and the Ministry was made aware of it.

- (ii) Secondly, while answering another supplementary question from Shri Madhu Limaye, I stated that "then, when retired, he (Shri N. S. Rau) said that the Report was ready and it would be submitted within a week." And while answering to a supplementary question from Shri Nambiar I stated "after having completed the work, he said that he was writing the report, he required a few days to write the report." My attention has been drawn to a letter written by Shri N. S. Rau on 21/22.8 1968 which stated *inter alia* as follows: "I would like to say that a substantial part of the enquiry has been completed and I also think that the remaining part of the enquiry should not take a long time."

Shri Ashoka Mehta, then Minister of Petroleum & Chemicals, has confirmed in September 1969 that the extension to Shri N. S. Rau had his prior approval.

- (iii) To the extent indicated above, I crave the indulgence

of the House to correct the replies previously given.

13.34 hrs.

#### MATTER UNDER RULE 377

##### Reported decision of Internal Affairs Committee of Cabinet about mid term Poll in Gujarat

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH (Buxar) : Sir, this mornings papers carried a news item that a sub committee of the Cabinet has decided : I am quoting it--"The Centre, would not approve of a mid--term poll in Gujarat." This is something which amounts to terrorising the Governor, because the Cabinet has not got any right to approve or disapprove of a mid-term poll, or a decision on the mid-term poll. It is the right of the Governor there. Until the Governor receives any recommendation from the Chief Minister and unless and until the Government receives the report of the Governor, they should not try to terrorise him. They have every right to discuss anything in their Internal Affairs Committee, but it has never been the practice of the Internal Affairs Committee to give publicity to any such decision which goes against the State Government, because this amounts to creating defections there. The Home Minister himself was the Chairman of the Committee on Defections and a unanimous recommendation was made to stop defections. So, rather than getting the defections stopped, this Government is encouraging defections and using several types of methods to encourage defection. We are not at all worried about that, because if any Government tries. (*Interruption*)

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA (Gauhati) : You are the real defector ; you have come from that side to this side (*Interruption*)

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : That is wrong. You are the cause, because you are in the lap of this Government. You are bribed by this Government to be in their lap. It is they who have defected. The Prime Minister is the biggest defector. She

[ Shri Ram Subhag Singh ]

sent a nomination paper and she voted against the candidate. You are worshipping Kamakhya (*Interruption*)

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : I could not follow ; what has Kamakhya got to do with this ?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : As the people of Assam worship Kamakhya, they worship this Prime Minister as their deity. The hon. Member is from Assam. Those defections go on.

Now, Sir, on the floor of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly, the Government's strength was decided on the Appropriation Bill (*Interruption*) In the Assembly, the entire Opposition got 65 votes and the Government got 93 votes. (*Interruption*). I charge the Government, I charge the Prime Minister that they have wilfully allowed, in the face of all these things, the publication of this news item with a view to terrorising the Governor of Gujarat, so that he may surrender, because this has been tested in the case of Bihar. In Bihar, they terrorised the Governor and within one week, they gave an extension of one year to that Governor. The toppling operation which was started by the Prime Minister has now taken the form of operation terrorisation of Governors. I request you to see that they are guided by the recommendations made in the Defections Committee report and they should not terrorise the Governor. (*Interruption*).

SHRI D. R. PARMAR (Patan) : The Gujarat Assembly was adjourned before the scheduled time. The Assembly should be called and the majority should be tested on the floor of the House. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI HEM BARUA : Whether the Gujarat Government has a majority or not is immaterial. What is material is, this matter was discussed in the internal affairs committee of the Cabinet over the head of the Governor and the Governor was by-passed. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know what has gone wrong with the House. How long can I go on shouting at you and you at

me ? After all, I was very happy that the calling attention was over. I am not going to allow anything more on this. There is nothing before me in the form of any motion from any of you.

SHRI HEM RAJ (Kangra) : We have submitted a calling attention.

MR. SPEAKER : That will be seen when it comes. Today's calling attention is over. God help these people. Something has really gone wrong with this House.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : It is not a fact that the internal affairs committee met formally and took any decision. The report which has appeared in the press is completely unfounded. The internal affairs committee did not meet formally and has not taken any decision on this matter, because there was no occasion for the internal affairs committee to decide this matter. The matter of dissolution is a matter between the Governor and the Chief Minister. The Governor has not sent any report.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL (Dabhoi) : You are indicating to the Governor to take a certain line.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : On behalf of Government and on behalf of the Prime Minister I would like to say that we are not interested in toppling of any Government. (*Interruption*).

SHRI MORARJI DESAI (Surat) : If the Internal Affairs Committee discussed nothing about this matter, how did it appear in the press that they have said that this is their decision ? Is it going to be contradicted and is the Home Minister going to say that no opinion has been expressed by the Internal Affairs Committee ? If he says that, I can understand that it is something. The Governor is free to decide whatever he likes. I am not referring to the mid-term poll. Whether it happens or not is no concern of mine. But indirect pressure like this on the Governor has already taken place. What is being done to see that that pressure gets removed, that the Governor is free to exercise his own discretion and make his own decision ? This does not do it. That is the difficulty.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I would like to make this point clear. I did say that the Internal Affairs Committee did not meet formally to take a decision. Informally we met and we discussed all varieties of problems in the country because we have to make a review of position in the whole country. But we have not taken a decision on this matter because this was not a matter for decision. As I said, this matter is between the Governor and the Chief Minister of Gujarat. Therefore, there was no occasion for us to take a decision. If this is not contradiction, what else is contradiction ?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI : In the Internal Affairs Committee you can discuss what you like. You can discuss the whole world. Nobody can prevent you from doing that. But when it has been published, it would be a contradiction if you say that it was not the view of the Internal Affairs Committee of the Cabinet. But that is not what you have done.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY (Kendrapara) : If you take the stand that it was not a formal decision but it was an informal discussion then it would be worse.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : There is no question of any decision. When we meet we certainly discuss many things informally. What can we say about it here ?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA (Basti) : Sir, we want your protection. We want only a clarification and not any discussion. How does he counteract the impression that is prevailing in the entire country because of this newspaper report ? It is a deliberate leakage by one of the Cabinet Ministers that this matter was discussed by the Internal Affairs Committee. By this report very serious damage has been done and it has undermined the institution of Governor.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL : The Governor of Gujarat is no longer neutral. He is taking a particular line. He is taking sides and he is lining up with the Indicate. The Governor of Gujarat will be influenced by the informal decision and no assurance of the Home Minister will help that .  
(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : I would request all of you to resume your seats.

SHRI VIKRAM CHAND MAHAJAN : (Chamba) : Sir, I have given notice of a calling attention and short Notice question about Himachal Pradesh .

MR. SPEAKER : I had my hopes on this side; now they are proving worse.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL : We will definitely say that the Governor of Gujarat was guided by the informal decision if he takes a certain line.

MR. SPEAKER : I thought people from Gujarat are very mild and non-aggressive. They are proving much more aggressive than Punjabis... (Interruptions) Some of them are unmanageable by the chair ; they are unmanageable by their leaders. Only God could manage them.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL : Let the Government behave properly.

13.44 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 1970-71—contd.

Ministry of Defence—Contd.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul) : Sir, we have been professing stridently and vociferously that the question of defence is a matter of supreme national importance to all of us and, therefore, we should keep the matter above party affiliations and predilections. But as I heard the debate yesterday, especially speeches of certain opposition members, I found that one particular section of opposition came out with condemning the United States of America and the other section came out with condemning the Soviet Union.

13.45 hrs.

[MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Implied in their arguments was the plea that we must show larger dependence on one of the two super powers.