

approval for the project for which all the papers are ready, we are not only going to lose foreign exchange worth hundreds of crores of rupees but also harming the growth of job opportunities; it will also hamper the ecological plan that the Government is making by way of our failure to replace timber and other materials by polymer products. It is a criminal neglect, I must say. I would like to know whether the Minister is prepared to tell us which agencies of the Government are responsible for this delay in giving approval to the petrochemical projects, including the Haldia Petrochemicals.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: That is a part of West Bengal Government...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: It has been pending with you for the last eleven years.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: More than once I have answered this question here. All the clearances were given by our Ministry.....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: What about clearance from IDBI? That has not been approved. (Interruptions)

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: They have to settle with the financial institutions. The project will cost Rs. 2,000 crores. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: It is a collective responsibility. Clearance from the Finance Ministry has not been issued so far. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing, Shri Acharia? Why are you interrupting?

[English]

Without my permission how do you go to him? Anything else. That is all.

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL - Not present

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK - Not present

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH - Not present

[Translation]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Have I called your name? All right.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: This is an insult to the House. He is going out of the House. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: This is not good for this august House.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is up to him. If he wants to leave, what can I do?

[English]

Tapping of Telephones

*198. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen recent press report regarding tapping of the telephonic talks held between political leaders;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether such talks are tapped by the Telephone Department and if so, under whose instructions; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to get this investigated through an independent agency as to why the talks were tapped and at whose instance?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen a report in

the Indian Express dated 10th July, 1988, regarding the tapping of a telephonic conversation between Shri Ajit Singh and Shri Deve Gowda.

(b) and (c). Telephone numbers 73835, 77611 and 77175 at Bangalore stood in the name of Shri Deve Gowda, then Minister in the Government of Karnataka. By an order dated 30th August, 1985, the DIG of Police, Intelligence, Government of Karnataka directed that telephone messages passing through telephone Nos. 73835 and 77611 should be intercepted. By order dated 30th June, 1986, the said DIG of Police directed that interception in respect of telephone No. 73835 may be cancelled. By order dated 6th January, 1988, the Special IG of Police Intelligence, Government of Karnataka, directed interception in respect of telephone No. 77175. By order dated 11th July, 1988, the said Special IG of Police directed that interception may be cancelled in respect of telephone No. 77611. By order dated 27th July, 1988, the said Special IG of Police, directed that interception in respect of telephone No. 77175 be cancelled.

Thus, from the information available it appears that messages passing through telephone Nos. 73835, 77611 and 77175 were subject to interception by the Government of Karnataka. The General Manager, Bangalore Telephones, has complied with these Statutory orders made under Section 5, Sub-Section (2) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. The General Manager, Bangalore Telephones, did not intercept any messages or conversations, but only extended the necessary technical facilities to the Government of Karnataka as required by the statutory orders.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer to parts (b) and (c) above.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat and let him put his question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rawat, what are you doing?

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Let them listen to my question and then make comments...(Interruptions)...Before I pose the supplementary, I wish to make it very clear that in seeking clear answer to the question I will not remain concerned whether my Government or some other government is there...(Interruptions)... I have given the House this opportunity to discuss the matter. Will they not want the House to discuss this? (Interruptions)... They don't realise that if I don't ask the question, there will be no answer. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not want the question hour, I will suspend it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him speak, please. I shall provide you an opportunity to ask a question.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Let the entire question hour be suspended. (Interruptions)

[English]

I have the right to ask the questions.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): They say that tapping should be stopped.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Who are you to stop it...(Interruptions)

[English]

Let them know that because I have put the question, the matter has come up here.

My first question is, today only in the Times of India, Delhi Edition, the order to which reference has been made in the

question is already published in full. Probably, in the reply that is given, that particular order is confirmed with also the cryptic remark at one stage:

"Thus from the information available it appears that messages passing through telephone Nos. 73835, 77611 and 77175 were subject to interception by the Government of Karnataka."

They say, 'it seems'. I had put the question sufficiently in advance and therefore, firstly, I would like to know if they have not confirmed all the details in the interest of the right to privacy by the citizens of India--no matter who tries to suppress them, whether it is the Government at the Centre or my own Government in Karnataka, I am not concerned about it -- the citizens' right to privacy cannot be challenged. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall give you an opportunity to put the supplementary question. You can also put the question. But before that let one question be over. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Why don't they allow me to ask the question, Sir?

My question is, in the interest of citizens' right to privacy, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he will be prepared to have a through judicial inquiry or inquiry by the Committee of the Parliament into this episode, so that all aspects connected with the implementation of the order can be actually found out.

[Translation]

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a reply to this question has been given after taking into account the various facts of the case including the orders to intercept. There is no need to make any further enquiry in this regard.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: My second question is that in the judicial inquiry I would like another aspect to be included. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Panika, what are you doing?

(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: My second supplementary is that if such a judicial inquiry or a parliamentary committee is to be set-up in addition to the documents that have been brought up here will also the statement of Chief Minister of Karnataka that his telephone has been tapped will be inquired into? I have carefully read the statement. He says that the entire order has been given in terms of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885. He has quoted which provision has been utilised by the Director General, Intelligence in Karnataka. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Since the hon. Minister has said that the Director General of Intelligence, Karnataka has followed certain provisions of Indian Telegraph Act, will the hon. Minister give us the assurance to go into the root of the problem and repeal those provisions in the Telegraph Act? *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SIR BIR BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, we do not tap telephones. So far as the hon. Member's demand of enquiring into the interception order under the Indian Telegraph Act is concerned.....

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: All our telephones are being tapped.

[Translation]

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: That is what I am saying. I gave the reference of only those telephone numbers which the Government of Karnataka intercepted and therefore there is no need to hold an enquiry. We did not tap the telephone of any Chief Minister. According to information available with us, I mentioned only those telephone numbers which the Government of Karnataka intercepted. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE: Sir, are you satisfied with the answer. Ask him to reply about the Telegraph Act.

[Translation]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: You did not give full reply. Please tell us whether you are going to repeal this act or not?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is a policy matter.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): Sir, the Telegraph Act allows certain tappings to be done on the telephone where certain specified types of criminal activities are concerned. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: All our telephones are being tapped, Mr. Prime Minister.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: You agree for an

inquiry. I will prove that my telephone has been tapped.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: The Act does not provide for tapping the telephone of political personalities.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Let me assure the hon. Member that no telephone of any politician has been tapped by us at the Centre. Let me assure the member. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: No. It is not right.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE: The Chief Minister of Karnataka has publicly issued a statement that his telephone has been tapped.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Let there be an inquiry.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Reddy, I have to accept his reply. No, nothing doing. If you have to give some other information, then you send it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: I am talking about the Central Government. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: The Central Government has not issued any orders to tap any politician's telephone. *(Interruptions)* That he has said absolutely categorically. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE: Are you prepared to enquire into whether the Chief Minister's telephone is tapped? Are you prepared for an inquiry? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Why don't you agree for an inquiry? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Unfortunately, it seems to be a prestige issue with the Opposition members to say that their phones are tapped. Let me assure them, we do not bother to tap the telephones. We have better things to do than to tap their telephones.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Veerendra Patil.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am making a categorical statement. *(Interruptions)* Chief Minister of Karnataka is prepared....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Veerendra Patil. Not allowed. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Let me finish what I am saying. What has happened in Karnataka, as far as I believe, is outside the purview of the Act, of the law. He could not have asked for the telephones of politicians to be tapped but he has asked for it to be done. Karnataka has violated the rules under that Act. We will definitely look into what has happened. *(Interruptions)*

Not only that, Sir, we will amend the rules, if required, to see that such violations cannot take place again. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Veerendra Patil.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Who is violating the rules?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Sir, it is the State Government that is violating the rules. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not allowed. Mr. Veerendra Patil is allowed.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have not heard him in proper form.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not allowed. I have allowed only Mr. Veerendra Patil.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Professor Sahib, I have heard his reply. I have heard also that. He has said categorically certain things.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard that. He has said it that only in criminal cases, not in politicians' case.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is what he has said that they will look into it and amend the rules, if required.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Veerendra Patil.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Sir, for the first time, in the history of this august House, a startling revelation has been made by the Minister that since 1985 the phones of the Ministers, the phones of the Parliament Members in Karnataka which is ruled on the basis of value-based politics...*(Interruptions)* It is being bugged regularly. Even today, it is being bugged.

Sir, I want to know whether it has come to the notice of the hon. Minister and the Government of India that one Hon. Member belonging to Rajya Sabha, belonging to that party to whom this inquiry has been entrusted by his party's boss, has come out with a statement saying that this is graver than the Watergate. *(Interruptions)*

He has promised that very soon he is going to identify the richard Nixon of India. whether it has come to the notice of the hon. Minister. What I want to know is whatever has appeared, the photostat copies, in the Times of India today whether it is genuine, whether it is authentic and if it is authentic, whether it is not fact that not only the Ministers' phones are being tapped but the phones of the hon. Member of this House are also being

tapped. The names and the telephone numbers are being mentioned here. Hence, I want to know how Government is going to safeguard the interest of the hon. Members of this House. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, I want to tell the hon. Member that a number of telephones, about 51 to be exact, were being tapped out of which some telephones belonged to Members of Parliament. I would like to read out some of these names. *(Interruptions)*

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: You read all. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please place it on the Table of the House.

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: These names are - Shri Veerappa Moily, Shri R. Gundu Rao, Shri K.N. Nanje Gowda, Shri H.T. Reedy, Shri C.M. Ibrahim, Shri K.H. Patil, Eitor, Lankesh Patrika. *(Interruptions)*

Shri Deve Gowda, Minister, Congress (I) Legislature Office. *(Interruptions)*

Shri Veerappa Moily, Shri B.L. Shankar, messrs G.R. Engineering Works Private Limited, Shri Raj Shekhar Shetty, Shrimati V. Anuradha, Shri P. Lankesh, Shri Hiralal Motilal, Shri S. A. Channe Gowda, Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy, M.P., Shri H.L. Nanje Gowda, Shri Bala Krishna Gowda, Shri R. Munne Gowda, Shri Raj Shekhar Shetty, Shri Raghupati, Minister, Shrimati Rashid Ajia Memon, R.S.S., Shrimati Anuradha, Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy, M.P., Shri A.K. Subbaya, Shri S.A.Chenna Gowda.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA: The Minister, in his written reply, has stated five letters. These five letters pertain to numbers of only single individual, that is, Deve Gowda. As Mr. Veerendra Patil was suggesting, it is not since 1985. As soon as

he came to office, Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde commenced with this. I know my number was also being tapped. Now, I think President Nixon would have enjoyed working with Hegde. A heinous crime is committed by the State Government of Karnataka, under the leadership of Mr. Hegde. Our fundamental right of privacy and confidentiality is violated. President Nixon had to go out of office for a lesser offence. Here it is a grave offence. I want to know whether the Government will consider dismissing this unfortunate Government to save the Indian democracy, democratic principles and norms in this country? I want an answer for this. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion, not a question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Without my permission, you cannot speak. I am speaking, you have to listen.

Look here, I have been listening about it and I am very much perturbed about this fact. At the earlier stage also sometime before 1985 I had also said the same thing and I am again saying that today. If my Members' telephones are tapped, I am really perturbed. My Members' privileges are infringed. That is against the constitutional provision. I do not like it at all. I would like the Minister to take immediate steps.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am speaking about this thing only. Please sit down. I am speaking.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have been in the Police force; you know the technique. I think, Shri Rehman has been there; he knows how to tap it.

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA: Is the Government going to amend the law?

MR. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister has already assured that every effort will be made in this regard.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, the case is very specific. It is nothing but an infringement of the privileges of the Members. You can now itself refer it to the Privileges Committee.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion only.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: What you have just now said means that there should be an inquiry at least either by the Privileges Committee or by some other body.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked the Minister to look into it.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: The Indian Telegraph Act, 1985, sub-section 2 of section 5 says:

"On occurrence of any public emergency or in the interest of public safety, the Central Government or the State Government or any officer specially authorised in this behalf by Central Government or State Government may, if satisfied that it is necessary or expedient so to do in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, security of State etc...."

May I ask what prompted the authorities concerned that any such measure was required in the interest of public safety? Was it the personal safety of the Chief Minister Hegde?....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Let there be an inquiry.

[Translation]

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act clearly states that telephones could be tapped under "public emergency or in the interest of public safety". But tapping the telephones for political or other purposes is not right.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, there should be a half-an-hour discussion on it.

[English]

Extension of time by A.I.R. and Doordarshan

*199. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI CURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for extension of broadcast and telecast time by All India Radio and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details of the said expansion and the time-frame by which it would be achieved; and

(c) the additional cost that would be involved;

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c). This is our long term objective which is sought to be achieved in stages. Doordarshan will increase its afternoon transmission by one hour with effect from October, 1988. This will involve an additional cost of Rs. 6.70 crores. Fifty three percent of the population of the country has 21.30 hours of radio broadcasting available to it, after the introduction of the national channel with effect from May 18, 1988. Our endeavour is to gradually increase this coverage.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a commendable effort on the part of the Government to increase the coverage of Doordarshan and the AIR. For this endeavour it certainly deserves congratulations. Sir, we are told that w.e.f. October, 1988 Doordarshan will increase its transmission by one hour. I would like to know from the Government whether at the time of increasing this coverage any endeavour will be made to see that an important Indian language Urdu receives a better deal from the Doordarshan and the AIR, especially because except Jammu & Kashmir there is no other State where Urdu is a State language. Therefore, while increasing the coverage, both of the