

as a warning and as a point of caution for all of us. It seems to us that the working of this constitutional authority, the Election Commission of India, and the laws that are administered by it, need to be reviewed; as stated by the hon. Leader of the Opposition; and the lacunae should be identified. Otherwise, the entire democratic institution is receiving a bad name and is losing its prestige in the eyes of the people. I would say that it will not be good for the future of the democracy in this country, that the Election Commissioner instead of holding elections should start canceling the elections. He may come to a point when perhaps it may be difficult to constitute the House - that general election is announced and for a majority of the seats the elections cannot be held; and that will be the logical end print of this process.

Therefore, before we reach that point, Mr. Speaker, I pray that the Government should give us all the facts, and should also apply its mind and find out what needs to be done in order to set a regular procedure which must be followed by the Election Commissioner before he comes to a decision on this point that whether the election can be held or cannot be held or cannot be held and must be canceled.

It appears that the decisions are being taken without the grounds being generally acceptable or being strong enough to carry the conviction of the people.**

13.03 hrs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY
MINISTER IN RESPONSE TO CERTAIN
REMARKS MADE ABOUT HIM RE: THE
RELEASE OF SOME ARRESTED TER-
RORISTS IN DODA IN THE STATE OF
JAMMU AND KASHMIR

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND
TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Mr.

Speaker, I rise to give a personal explanation... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: At 2 O'clock, we have to assemble here again for some important business.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIGHULAM NABI AZAD: During zero-hour on Friday Rajmata ji had mentioned about the women in Jammu-Kashmir, particularly the women of Doda district. I wanted to raise this issue in her presence. Maybe she is not here... (Interruptions) She is here. Rajmata ji had said that she was agreeing with whatever shrimati Mahajan had said. (Interruptions) What Rajmata ji said had gone on record, as such, I would like to repeat it that the terrorists, who were caught in the murder case in district Doda, were not convicted but they were behind bars and were released after a telephone call from Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad was given. I am very sorry to say that such things were said, which we can never imagine. I think Rajmata ji will also regret this and she is also aware of the incidents happening to our women folk and relatives in Jammu-Kashmir. You may remember that two years ago, my brother-in-law was abducted by terrorists. I had then said in this House and in the Press Conference that even if they kill him, no request will be made by the Government or by myself for release of any abducted person... (Interruptions) I stuck to my words for five months, after which the terrorists understood that there would be no use in keeping that person abducted. You may recall the second case also. Just four months ago, an additional collector, who is real cousin of my wife, was shot at. He was discharged after four months from the hospital the day before yesterday. Rajmata ji may be well aware of such cases but what do the terrorists do to us is felt by us daily. Since this matter has come in record in

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

which it has been stated that I have got the terrorists released, I would request the hon. Speaker, that the Government should not carry out any investigation in this regard. Rather, I would request Shri Advani, Shri Atal, Shri Jaswant, Shri Khurana and Shri Pramod Mahajan to find out who was the man, who was behind bars and to whom I have made the phone call to get him released. I do not want to include other parties in this. Only the B.J.P President and the party officials should conduct this inquiry. I will provide them all facilities such as airplane etc. They should tell the House as to who was the man, whom I have got released and who was the official whom I have made the phone call. I would like to request that until this report comes, it should be expunged from the record.

SHRIMATI VIJAYARAJE SCINDIA (Guna): What I had mentioned that day was based on the things said by the people who came to meet me. May be it is not true. An inquiry should be conducted to find out whether it is true or not. I had only mentioned the information given by them. If it is not true, I apologise.....

SHRIGHULAM NABI AZAD: It is all right.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is more than enough.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI VIJAYARAJE SCINDIA: In fact, we have been demanding an inquiry into the incident of atrocities on women which took place on 5th February. But no inquiry is being conducted in this regard. What Shri Azad has said, I am really happy at his attitude but had he adopted the same attitude towards that issue, we would have had some trust. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue was left to you but no action has been taken on that.

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it after the session is over because you are also aware that

there is a lot of work now

SHRIMATI VIJAYARAJE SCINDIA: This issue will become very old by then.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will inquire into it. I am saying it on the floor of the House.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI VIJAYARAJE SCINDIA: I regret, I had added that it may not be true, but I never said that it is true. If it is not true, I apologise.

13.09.92

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review on the Working of the Indian Airline's 1991-92 and reasons for delay in laying these papers.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRIGHULAM NABI AZAD): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Airlines of the year 1991-92, along with Audited Accounts, under sub-section (2) of section 37 and sub-section (4) of section 15 of the Air Corporation Act, 1953.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Indian Airlines for the Year 1991-92.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4028/93]