

They have stated that since the episode had been earlier previewed by officials of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, they had paid close attention to the technical quality of the programme while also paying attention to the content of the content of the programme. The Minister of State of Information & Broadcasting has personally looked into the matter. On close examination he did not find any malafide motive of these officers. In any event all concerned officers have deeply regretted such reference. The Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting has already offered his apology to the nation in the Rajya Sabha.

After having seen the programme and having detailed discussions with officials of the Ministries of Information & Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs as also of Doordarshan, the Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting is of the view that the inclusion of these words is derogatory. However, taking into account the explanations given by the officials who dealt with the programme and those who previewed it, they have been warned to be more careful hereafter in relation to sensitive matters. It has been decided that the remaining episodes of this programme would be hereafter previewed by the Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Director General, Doordarshan. This being an educate programme which seeks to inform young minds about the greatest institution of democracy, namely Parliament, we believe, no purpose will be served by discontinuing the programme. The officers have been advised that this useful programme may go on but after taking extreme care to see that the factual position is correctly presented and no offensive remarks remain. Orders have also been issued that all such programmes already made must be previewed by the senior officials before these are telecast. I may also mention that as a tribute to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Doordarshan had telecast at prime-time on Sunday, 8th September, Films Division documentary bringing out the significant contribution made by him in our freedom struggle and towards the promotion of the highest values of human life.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roseria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue was taken up simultaneously in both the Houses on 6th. The hon. Minister made a statement in the Rajya Sabha on 7th and it is being made in this House, today, after 12 days. I feel that the prestige, decorum and importance of the lower House is being lowered deliberately. When the statement could be made in the other House, on the very next day, what difference it would have made, if he had done the same here also. I want your ruling in this regard. Such things should not recur and the lower House should not be treated as a lower house literally.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Mallikarjun to make a statement on behalf of Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now statement by Shri Mallikarjun on the measures proposed to ensure effective reach of the Public Distribution System.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, there is no supplementary list. (Interruptions) There is no mention of it.

What is this statement?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a policy statement.

(Interruptions)

(ii) **Measures proposed to ensure effective reach of the Public Distribution System**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : The House will kindly recall that Prime Minister had made a statement earlier in the House on the Public Distribution System and promised that a

[Sh. Mallikarjun]
comprehensive plan to strengthen the Public Distribution System would be placed before the House.

One of the top priorities of the Government is to revamp the Public Distribution System in such a manner that its benefits cover those sections of the people who need them most.

As a first step in this effort, Government plans to ensure that the Public Distribution System reaches out to the remotest corners of the country, especially areas where large numbers of the poorest of the poor live, namely, areas covered by the Drought Prone Areas Programme, the Integrated Tribal Development Projects, the Tribal Majority States, Desert Development Programme areas, designated hill areas and urban slums.

In doing this, Government's objectives are three-fold:

(a) to evolve a delivery system that provides the specified essential commodities to the fair price shops at their door step,

(b) to ensure that the essential commodities are available to the consumers at pre-determined, affordable prices, and

(c) progressively expand the coverage of commodities to include every day essentials that have relevance to the nutritional and social needs of the consumers.

These ideas were placed before a meeting of the Advisory Council on Public Distribution System on the 23rd and 24th August, 1991 in which the Chief Ministers of States and State Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies participated. Based on very detailed and in-depth discussions with the representatives of the State Governments and the Chief Ministers a concrete plan of action was chalked out on the steps to be taken in the next one month by the States. These are:

(a) Identification of Blocks and villages to be covered under this programme;

(b) Number of fair price shops required;

(c) Identification of additional commodities to be distributed through the PDS depending upon the specific needs of the area concerned;

(d) Identification and creation of infrastructural and other requirements necessary to support the PDS operations such as storage points, transport and credit facilities; and

(e) Identification of ways by which the people of the area themselves can be involved in managing the Public distribution system so as to eliminate leakages and malpractices.

In pursuance of this Plan of Action, the State Governments were requested to initiate immediate action and to report the progress made by them, by the middle of September, 1991. As on 16th September, 1991, we have received reports from 9 States and 4 Union Territories furnishing detailed information indicating that they have completed the task entrusted to them in the first phase. 16 States and 3 Union Territories are yet to submit the information called for and these States have been requested by us in the meeting of the Central Consumer Protection Council held on 16th September, 1991 to complete the action required and submit compliance without further delay.

Prime Minister has invited the representatives of the State Governments to meet at Delhi towards the end of September, 1991 so that we may review the progress made in the steps that we require to take in the first phase and also chalk out the next phase of action.

Prime Minister has particularly impressed upon the Chief Ministers and State Governments that the success of the PDS depends on the active involvement of the people in exercising vigilance over the system.

Allocation of foodgrains for the PDS

[Sh. Mallikarjun]

depends on the level of stocks available in the Central Pool. An optimum level of procurement of foodgrains is a sine qua non for a credible Public Distribution System. States have agreed that they would step up their efforts in this direction. For its part, the Central Government could, in the case of States that are magically surplus or deficit, allocate a portion of the food grains procured by them for the PDS in the same State. Also, Centre would initiate measures for the procurement of certain manufactured items, that can go into the Public Distribution System. These efforts would have to be accompanied by strain action against black marketeers and hoarders.

The States have agreed that they would usher in a credible PDS on the above lines, within a time-frame. The States and the Centre recognise this as a joint effort, in which the States have a leading operational role. We have agreed to fully cooperate with one another to make this programme successful so that based on the lesson we learn in this effort, we may move on to streamline the public distribution system in the other parts of the country as well. Meanwhile, joint inspection teams consisting of officials of the Central Government as well as State Governments would be constituted to monitor and inspect the functioning of the PDS at the cutting edge level in the identified areas.

The House will be kept informed of the progress of our efforts in operationalising this vital Scheme, from time to time.

Government is confident that it has full backing of this House in these efforts that we are making to give a new direction to the PDS.

MR. SPEAKER : Well, Nirmal Kantiji, I would like to set some light on this matter. This is a statement by the Minister under Rule 372 about some policy matter. Now, the policy matter is about the public distribution system. The hon. Minister of this Ministry is also expected to make the statement in the Rajya Sabha and in the Rajya Sabha,

supplementaries are asked on the statement. So, I permitted him to go there and allowed, in his place, his colleague to make a statement over here. This is all about this issue.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roserai): When there is no provision for seeking clarification in this House, the hon. Minister could have gone to Rajya Sabha, after making two minute statement here. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : In fact, he wanted time at 5.30 PM itself. I did not give him time at 5.30 p.m. I said I am not going to disrupt the business in the House and allowed him to make the statement at 6 p.m. That was the decision. He wanted to make it at 5.30 pm itself.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): But Sir, at least there should have been some supplementary mention.

MR. SPEAKER: You are otherwise also impressing us a lot.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : My grievance is that they have failed to do that.

MR. SPEAKER: Not for you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Well, the Government has sought permission to move the Resolution to continue the proclamation of President's Rule in Punjab. This was discussed in the Leaders Meeting. And as they are in agreement, permission is being given.

The Minister

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : Sir, I beg

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You had not agreed but I think, you had said that you were not in favour of these things. But as far as the Resolution is concerned, there was no disagreement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midapore) : He has the right to move it. We had agreed to that. But it does not mean that we support the contents of that Resolution.

MR. SPEAKER : Indrajit has put the position in a correct fashion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : Will there be a discussion on that or not?

MR. SPEAKER : Certainly.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to make clear this aspect. The two strenuously related matters are separate. One is objection to moving the Resolution itself and the other is whether we are in agreement with the contents of the Resolution or not. We are, of course, not in agreement with the contents of the Resolution. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Jaswant Singhji, what I have said is this. This matter was raised in the meeting of the Leaders and they were in agreement that this can be moved. I have not said that you have agreed to pass it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : If it is being moved now, there are certain other connected worries. If you permit me, I will mention them.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : There are certain other connected worries and I consider it only proper, Sir, to mention that to the

best of my recollection never in the history of Parliament have we had a situation wherein, in a Session, there has been no discussion on the international situation and Demands for Grants for the Ministry of External Affairs.

We have been waiting and the Leader of my party is waiting for the past two days to initiate the discussion on the international discussion.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : It has to be initiated by the Minister.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : The Motion was standing on his name. Secondly, Yesterday, we had discussed about Punjab. The Government itself could have brought what they are bringing today at this penultimate hour, penultimate day of this Session of Parliament.

AN HON. MEMBER : It is the ultimate day.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : On the last day, the ultimate day of the current Session of Parliament, the Government demonstrates its total callousness about Punjab and it demonstrates its inefficiency and incompetence *(Interruptions)* They bring forward the Resolution at this hour of the day, Sir. And they want a discussion on as important a subject as extension of President's Rule to start at quarter past six. Is this House being taken for granted? I think this is a very important aspect. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Sir, I am on a point of order. Was the advice given to you by the Business Advisory Committee? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Are you putting that question to me?

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : I would like to know, Sir, because you seem to have said ..

MR. SPEAKER : The point of order cannot be against the Speaker. You have to read out the procedure.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: It is a matter of procedure because only the Business Advisory Committee is authorised to do it. You cannot have an *ad hoc* meeting with some Leaders, whoever they may be and have their advise. How can the business of this House go on like this? Was it a properly convened meeting of the Business Advisory Committee? There is no such mention in the Rules of Procedure.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YEADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir are we going to discuss right now?

MR. SPEAKER: I will explain to you the position. This is a matter which was brought to my notice. We were informed that on the 11th November, the President's Rule comes to an end. If it becomes necessary to continue, then the Constitutional provision requires that a Resolution by both the Houses of Parliament should be passed. If this is the position, then what is to be done? So, this matter was brought to my notice. I said, we would discuss it with the Leaders in the House and if they agree to it, then we will do it. It is a fact that it was not a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. But generally, the Leaders who attend such meetings, they may sometimes be the Members of the Business Advisory Committee also. If Shri Somnath Chatterjee is there, if Shri Indrajit Gupta is there and if Shri Jaswant Singh is there, it forms the Quorum of the Business Advisory Committee. It is as good as the Business Advisory Committee plus the Leaders of the Parties. So, it was not a regular Business Advisory Committee meeting.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Please do not say all these things.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Please do not say all these things. You are making the matters worse. Please do not say that.

MR. SPEAKER: It was not Business

Advisory Committee meeting but the Members of the Business Advisory Committee were there. Because of the special conditions, I had said that this matter will be raised on the floor of the House and if the House agrees, it will be taken up. It is bigger than the Business Advisory Committee. So, we are being more cautious at the same time because at intricacies are not put before you, that is why, you are bound to have some doubts about the procedure being properly followed or not. That is why, I was explaining, otherwise, it was not necessary to explain it.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I explain another thing. After that Meeting, the Ministry of State for Parliamentary Affairs had two or three rounds of negotiations here in the House itself.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : I am sorry. Mr. Speaker, Sir, normally for getting their consensus ..

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : I am not saying that you have committed any crime. I am not making any allegation against you. I am saying that we all agreed because of the special situation. We said that we should agree and that the House should sit tomorrow. Shri Jaswant Singh went and consulted everybody. And we thought that this thing should not be taken up at the fag end of the Session and in a hush-hush way and in a hurry, if we pass this, it will not be good. So, it is very difficult to agree for extension of time. But a consultation was made that the 'International Situation' should also be discussed. The Resolution had already been moved. It is on the Agenda Paper of today.

Sir, after that, I went to my Office and cancelled my ticket. I was to go by 7.00 p.m. flight today. I am having a very important meeting at Azamgarh tomorrow. Because I

had moved a substitute Motion on the 'International Situation' I have to remain here. Therefore, I said that let us agree to sit tomorrow and discuss both issues that are there on the Agenda - the International Situation and the Punjab Situation. The international situation as well as Punjab situation. Now, at the fag-end of this evening, all of a sudden, if you want to push through, I think, the House should not be taken as a steam-roller like this.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM : I would like to clarify that it is a fact that during the discussion, there was a small understanding but it had not been arrived at actually that they would have it tomorrow. But, however, there were other senior leaders from other Parties also, especially Left Parties, who discussed about it. But we could not arrive at a conclusion about extending the House tomorrow. Therefore, it was suggested, let us have it today and not extend the House tomorrow; and that it why, this has come forward.

It is true that Mr. Chandra Jeet Yadav may have had an impression that a unanimity was arrived at; the unanimity did not really come in fully sense of the term. When other leaders came in, they differed and, therefore, it was decided not to extend the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in today's list of Business, Shri S.B. Chavan's Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure is at number 10, while the discussion on the international situation is at number 11. You may recollect that, at the meeting of the leaders, it was observed that the House was not taking up external affairs for discussion, giving credence to the impression that the Government doesn't have a foreign policy at all. Therefore, it was felt that this subject should be taken up for discussion. It was also agreed at the meeting that since a debate on the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of External Affairs is not possible at this stage, the House would consider the present international situation. At that time itself, I ex-

pressed my doubts that this matter may not be given due importance and I urged that the matter should be taken up during day time. But I was told that the subject would be given due importance. Now, suddenly the Government seeks permission to move the Resolution to continue the proclamation of President's Rule in Punjab. Now, the Punjab problem is such a serious issue that all the hon. Members have their opinion on it and would like to express them and our party too is going to oppose it tooth and nail. When the Punjab issue is to be taken up, it obviously means that the 'International situation' won't be taken up for discussion. Thus, the Government is not giving any importance to this subject. Therefore, I urge you to conduct the proceedings of the House as per the list of Business and the scheduled fixed by the Business Advisory Committee. When you are bringing in such extraneous matters, then why do you caution me.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the term 'Ghusedkar' used in Hindi by the Hon. Member is not proper.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : What I meant by that term was 'to add', 'to expand' etc. This should not happen.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a debate on the present international situation is there in the List of Business and to omit it now would mean that India doesn't have a policy of its own in consonance with changing world scenario. This would be detrimental to the country's interests and it is my humble submission that such a situation should not be created.

MR. SPEAKER : Look, I agree with the views expressed by the hon. Members. It is very important to have a debate on the international situation and as the Members of the Business Advisory Committee are aware, this subject was included in the list of Business upon the insistence of all the Members present. However, along with that, it was also suggested that the discussion on the international situation can be taken up after 6 p.m. say for 2 hours or 2.15 hrs. But, it was felt that the time was too inadequate

for such an important topic and in order to have a full-fledged discussion of 10-12 hours, on the topic, another suggestion came up that the matter can be taken up at the starting of the next session, say, in the first week itself.

Now, due to the difference of opinion, one is left with no option but to arrive at one's own decision. Now, if we accept the suggestion made by one side the other side will express its resentment and if we agree to the suggestions made by the other side, then their opponents would stall the proceedings of the House. Now, it was also felt that the Punjab issue too is a immense importance and should be treated as a special case and taken up for discussion. Therefore, this matter was brought in, after taking everyone into confidence. At that meeting, no one talked about voting in favour or voting against but they said that the Speaker, is free to take up any matter for discussion and the hon. Members will take their own decision in this regard. Now that this situation is before us, we will have to take a decision on it. It also won't be proper to take up this matter after 2 hours, i.e., after 6 p.m. Now, if we decide to take up this matter tomorrow, many Members would complain that the debate was taken up in their absence, as they had left the station because they were not aware that the session has been expanded. These are the difficulties. Therefore, I hope the Members will understand the delicacy of the situation and co-operate.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I recognise that we cannot permit a constitutional impasse to be created for the State of Punjab. The State of Punjab already suffers socio-logically and politically. We can understand the difficulties of the Government, difficulties arising out of their own incompetence.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Sheer incompetence!

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Their own incompetence.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : This is arising out of their incompetence and demonstrated incompetence. But you cannot punish the House for that and you cannot punish a discussion that has to take place, even about this incompetence, to start at 6.30 in the evening. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : I do not agree with Shri Jaswant Singh. Before the Bill for cancellation by both the House it could not be done. Only after the assent of the President is given, we are coming with it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I can understand that the Home Minister will stand up and say that "we are not incompetent". But he cannot say anything else. (Interruptions)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : This is most unfair.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaswant Singh, I can understand what you are saying and you are well within your right to think that probably something could have been done in a different fashion. That is correct. But there are some constitutional and legal difficulties also. If we start discussion those constitutional and legal difficulties lot of time will be consumed.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi) : They were aware of this yesterday also. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you may recollect yesterday a specific question was asked about the date, to which Shri Kumaramangalam responded. It may not be in the same words but the essence of what he said was that the Government was not bringing a constitution amendment, as it intends to hold elections in the State, at the earliest.

[English]

18.34 hrs

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM : I am sorry I never said that - And this is rather unfortunate.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : That is why I said, "May not be in the same words."

[Translation]

When they knew that six months period would be completed on November 11, why didn't they inform the House about it yesterday itself?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Khurana, I can understand. Shri Kumaramangalam, you please take your seat. I understand your anger and you have expressed it very forcefully. Now, let us go ahead with the business.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Tomorrow.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Tomorrow, Sir,

MR. SPEAKER : Now, this is not correct. I have said that if the Members agree we will sit tomorrow and work. But I was told that the Members want to work today only. And that is why I have not done that.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Nobody has said it.

MR. SPEAKER : It was I who suggested that if it is necessary we will work tomorrow. I was sticking to it.

At the same time, I was feeling that supposing we had decision to work only up to the 17th, and if the House is extended up to the 18th and the Members said that they were not informed, in advance, that would also be incorrect. And that is why, I was told that Members are ready to work today. We did that. Please cooperate now. Let us not argue like this.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE . CONTINUANCE OF PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF PUNJAB

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : I beg to move the Resolution :

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated the 11th May, 1987 in respect of Punjab, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 11th November, 1991."

As the House is aware, President's Rule was promulgated in the State of Punjab on 11th May, 1987 on the recommendation of the Governor. The Legislative Assembly of the State which was initially kept under suspended animation was dissolved on 6th March, 1988. The Proclamation issued by the President under article 356 (1) of the Constitution was approved by the Lok Sabha as well as the Rajya Sabha on 12th May, 1987.

As the law and order situation in the State continued to be disturbed, President's Rule in Punjab has been further extended from time to time with the approval of both Houses of Parliament. The present term of President's Rule is due to expire on 10th November, 1991.

The issue of holding elections in Punjab was considered in April 1991 and it was decided that elections to the Legislative Assembly of Punjab be held along with the Lok Sabha polls. Accordingly, the Election Commission of India was requested to hold elections in Punjab. Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Punjab were scheduled to be held on 22nd June 1991 along with Parliamentary elections. However, the Election Commission of India taking into account