

12.00 hrs..

**RE. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
ATTITUDE OF U.S.A. TOWARDS INDIA**

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE
(Dumdum): There is nothing else but US
pressure on India. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call upon Shri
Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee to speak. All others
may take their seats. The first person to
speak is Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee.

(Interruptions)

12.01 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
Only three kinds of reports dominate the
newspapers today. One is the Pentagon
report which is referred to in the House by
Shri Saifuddin Choudhury and which is
supported by us. It now gets the support of
President Bush.

There is a second report that on Super,
301, Ms. Carla Hills stated that either com-
promise or face action.

There is a third news that our Foreign
Secretary has taken an about turn in his
discussions with United States regarding
regional nuclear conference.

All these news taken together, notwith-
standing what the Prime Minister said about
nuclear non-proliferation, pose a large threat
to India.

Combined with this, kindly note that we
are going into a joint naval exercise with the
United States.

On the one hand, it has been stated by
the US Political and economic bosses that
either we surrender or benefits will be denied
to us. We are surrendering. We are not able

to say "Damn with the joint naval exercises.
Unless and until you withdraw this threat, we
will not be a party."

Whenever such things appeared in the
news, we demanded that the Government
suo motu should come and issue statement
and clarify the matter whether or not we are
going to surrender and whether or not we are
going to withdraw from the joint naval exer-
cises and in any case how are they respond-
ing.

The Government has not yet learnt a
lesson that unless they take Parliament into
confidence, and unless all sides of the House
Unitedly put up a fight against imperialists,
India will go down the drain.

On this question, I demand that the
Government makes an immediate report or
in the course of the day come out with a
report. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Everybody
cannot speak on one particular subject.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
This is such an important issue that every-
body should participate. All sections of the
House should participate.

SHRI ROOPCHAND PAL (Hooghly):
Not only Ms. Carla Hills, but the drugs and
pharmaceuticals industries of America are
threatening our country and demanding that
the patent laws should be changed. The
sovereignty of our country cannot be threat-
ened. The Government should come out
with a statement.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr.
Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been raising
this issue in this House for the last 7-8 days
and not only it appears daily in newspapers,
the U.S. Government is continuing to pres-
surise the Government of India. Today it has
come clearly before the people and about
the 46-page Pentagon report, which was
published against India, it is being said that
it does not have the support of the U.S.
Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has appeared in newspapers that it is supported by the United States. This is the report of Pentagon. It has been stated in it that the U.S.A. will attack India, Pakistan, Iraq and especially India because we tell the U.S. Government that we will not sign the N.P.T. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Dixit, who is secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and who is in U.S.A., had a talk with Carla Hills. She has said it clearly that unless India agrees with our administration on intellectual property rights, the U.S. would retaliate, it is the answer of the U.S. Government in the Senate. A threat of retaliation has been given and senator says,

[English]

Hindustan has committed piracy.

[Translation]

This is being said by the U.S. Government and the senators. The question raised by Shri Nirmal Chatterjee in this regard is very serious. I would like that, leaving aside all the business, there should be a discussion in the House on it. I submit that in the context of ongoing developments I have no doubt in my mind that the Government will sign the Dunkel report, though it has agreed for a discussion on it. Therefore, the Government succumbs to pressure being exerted by Carla Hills. Today I am saying so and you will admit it. We demand a discussion on it in the House.

[English]

SHRI MA. JORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Please look at this side also. This side also should be given a chance.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I was just watching. Nobody has raised his hand.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): This is not a routine matter. We must express our views in this regard.

[Translation]

PROF. PREMDHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House has already expressed its deep concern over this issue and the reply given by the Government every time that there will be a discussion on it in the House, proves to be a white lie in newspapers the next day. Now it is clear from the newspaper reports that Pentagon papers were having the support of the U.S. President. Carla Hills is dictating terms to them and it appears that they have lost self-respect absolutely. They are surrendering in every field. Therefore, I support the demand that there should be a full discussion on it in the House and the Government should take the House into confidence before doing anything there. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I want to give an opportunity to all the parties. Let us know the views of the Parties one by one.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, it has been rightly pointed out today that there are very important developments in the attitude of the United States of America towards our country.

Firstly, President Bush has accepted the very basis of the Pentagon report which was earlier denied even by our Foreign Secretary.

Secondly, there has been an open threat today by Mrs. Carla Hills that action under Special 301 will be taken against India if the Government of India does not compromise its position particularly in relation to the Intellectual Property Rights.

Thirdly, it has been announced today categorically that within a month or so, there will be Joint Naval Exercises between the Indian Navy and the U.S. Navy in the Indian Ocean. This is a blatant interference in the internal affairs of our country. Not only that, it has jeopardised our defence strategy also. We have been demanding all the time that the Indian Ocean should be made a Zone of

Peace. In contravention to that basic principle of India, joint naval exercises are going to be held with the United States of America's Navy.

Lastly, there has been a complete reversal of the Government of India's policy with regard to signing of NPT. Our Foreign Secretary says that within two weeks, our Government may examine the bilateral talks with the United States of America. Therefore, on all these four issues, our Government should give explanation to this House. I want you to advise the Government to make a statement covering all these points. (Interruptions)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for the last few days, number of reports are being published in the newspapers saying that the United States of America is pressurising the Government of India in various ways. And, number of times, the opposition Members have also raised this issue. The other day, I also raised this issue regarding what Mr. Bush is doing. And if the Pentagon report which has been accepted by the President Bush, as reported in the newspapers, is correct, then the matter is a serious one. We do not know how far these reports are correct or not correct. So, the Government of India, the Minister of External Affairs should come out with a statement to clear the position as to what is the actual position so that everything can be cleared and there is no confusion. That is why, I request the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, who is here, to assure us that the country is informed about what has happened and what is the fact. There may be some misleading report in all these newspaper reports which gives the handle to the opposition friends to accuse the Government. That is why, I request the Minister to kindly consider this and come out with a statement to clear the position. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurduars): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think that due to

tilting of balance of power, as Russia has disintegrated into small republics, the U.S.A. is imposing its policies unilaterally on the whole world. There is no doubt that whatever it wants, the developing countries will follow it. All this has been said so many times. Ours is a weak Government, a bankrupt Government in every field, even in the matters of defence, it is talking to them and consulting them. I demands, through you, on behalf of my party R.S.P. that the Government should clarify its position on this important issue and there should be a detailed discussion on it in the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now Shri Lewis to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): We on this side of the House...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I beg your excuse. Kindly bear with me.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, he delivers under-arm bowling. He is an under-arm bowler. (Interruptions)

SHRI A. CHARLES: We on this side of the House are equally concerned about the press reports and what is now going on in the media. If my memory is correct, I will just remind them one important factor. When the National Front Government was in power, there was an attempt made by the United States to impose Super 301. And then it was Shri Rajiv Gandhi who vehemently reacted to that and said that we would not in any way surrender our economic right or any right to any nation. But unfortunately, an attempt is being now made to give a wrong message that this Government is trying to surrender the economic sovereignty of this country. Sir, our Prime Minister has categorically

stated that under no circumstances, the Government will in any way surrender either the economic rights or any interests of this country. That is on record. (*Interruptions*) There is one more thing. Our country is a founder Member of the IMF, the World Bank and the GATT. We have every right to represent ourselves in all these forums and this Government is capable of doing that.

I request that a statement may be made by the hon. the Prime Minister clarifying the whole position. And we, on this side, categorically say that we will not yield to any pressure from any quarter of the world, whether it is the U.S.A. or Mr. Bush or any other big brother. We will certainly identify ourselves with all the Members of the House. Let us not divide the House. Let us be one, to face the great crisis that our nation is now facing.

We have to give a united message to the whole nation that we are one. But the attempt of the Opposition will only divide the House and will give a wrong message to the nation (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Sir, if you exclude me, I have no grudge. But how can you exclude the CPI party?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am calling one by one. Each political party should have their say. Even the ruling party also should be given a chance to have its say. According to the strength, two people from the ruling side have spoken and one each from Marxists, Indian Communists, B.J.P., and an independent Member also was given a chance and he has spoken.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: But you have excluded the CPI party.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bhogendra Jha, your allegation carries no weight. I am calling the names of every political party member. It is not that as if I am ignoring anybody here.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Except CPI. You are following a correct principle.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry. Kindly excuse me. If CPI member is not called, I will call now. Now, Shri Bhogendra Jha:

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there are any important aspects, you should tell it to the House but you cannot take the entire House. Your subjects are also important. You should bring it to the notice of the House. One subject cannot take the entire time of the House and also the time of the other Members. So, it is all in the hands of the hon. Members. Now, Shri Bhogendra Jha:

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a matter of exceptional gravity and importance. Now, new colonial offensive against India in a full pressure form is taking place; not on this issue or that issue. The Dunkel's proposals, they are being implemented bit by bit, without accepting it. The Foreign Secretary has said in the U.S.A. that to the extent possible, they are implementing it. This is a violation of the assurance given in this House by the Minister that first it will be discussed in the House and then only the Government will take a stand. But the Foreign Secretary, Shri Dixit, in the U.S.A., had openly violated the assurance given in this House. And this is a matter of privilege against the Foreign Secretary and let the Government clarify this.

The second thing is that India was in the vanguard of the movement for declaring the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. The United Nations adopted a Resolution for keeping Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. We were the leader of that movement, we are the voters of that Resolution in the UN and today under US pressure we are violating that commitment of ours. We are violating the commitment of this House, of this country and the Resolution of the UN, through joint Naval exercises with the US in the Indian Ocean.

This is not just a formal matter, though formally also we have no right to violate the UN Resolution. We are never in favour of the American stand. We have no right to violate the unanimously agreed position of this country that Indian Ocean must be a zone of peace and then carry out Naval exercises at our door. We are a party to violating our own commitment and going against the interests of our own country.

Besides that the secret Pentagon report mentions about the alleged hegemonic ambitions of India in South Asia. Now President Bush has almost corroborated it. This is an attempt to rouse, to provoke, to incite our fraternal and friendly neighbours against this country.

In such a situation our Finance Minister argues on the basis of finance. He was arguing that foreign banks are better. I think tomorrow he may come up with a proposal to do away with all our nationalised banks and he can come with all the foreign banks. (*Interruptions*)

Because this Government cannot manage our economy well, because this Government has mismanaged the economy, bit by bit we are surrendering. Particularly I would like to say this because our Finance Minister and many others may not understand that those of us who have fought for our freedom, we cherish it, we value it and when this is in danger through full-fledged neo colonial offensive, this cannot be tolerated.

This must be made a special agenda in this House and get it fully discussed. Before that the Government must not take a single step against our national interests in accordance with the commands of the US Government either on industry or on economic policy or conduct joint Naval exercises. On all these issues, I would like to submit and request my friends on that side also to realise the importance and stand together.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): I share the views given expression to by the other lead-

ers of various parties. This is not a matter affecting one section of the people of the country. This is affecting the entire nation, this is affecting the self respect of this nation. This is high time for the Government to come out with a statement expressing the position of India to stand up with America. We cannot just live in this world under the wings of America or any other nation. We have our own policy, our own perspective with regard to the Indian Ocean Zone. We are committed to keeping it as a zone of peace. Any power in this world who will come and interfere in these affairs will have to be told in plain language.

My hon. friends Bhogendra Jhaji has been mixing this matter with that of the structural changes made in our financial policy. It is quite irrelevant. The financial policy is to tide over a difficult situation. But this is to be viewed politically. We have a policy being pursued right from the time of Jawaharlal Nehru and that shall not be surrendered before any power in the world, let it be America or any other power.

I request the hon. Minister on behalf of my party to come out with a statement denouncing the Pentagon papers which has assumed a very great importance after President Bush has given approval to it.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): There are many others who would like to speak on this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Yes, it is too serious. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: There are many other points.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD): You do not want an answer?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: You pleased sit down for some time. You give an answer after all of us finish speaking on the Subject.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Sir, we have heard enough about the threat being posed to the sovereignty, unit and integrity of our country from outside. I am drawing the attention of this House to such a threat being posed from within the country also. Recently, in Hubli, some prominent citizens, including a large number of people, hoisted the national flag in the Municipal Corporation Maidan situated in front of Kittur Rani Chennamma Circle. Within Minutes, some police officials showing total disrespect to the national flag and in utter disregard to the national ethos removed the national flag and they just threw it away.

This is a very serious matter. From within the country also, a very strong threat is being posed to the unity and integrity of the country. I would like the Government to immediately take steps to see that such erring officials are kept under suspension and an inquiry is instituted by the CBI. The Government should come up with a statement.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today hon. Shri Rabi Ray has raised an issue that President George Bush had supported the Pentagon proposal in connection with taking action against India if it does not sign the N.P.T. Our Prime Minister has said in Mauritius that he would not sign the N.P.T. A special situation has arisen out of it. America is trying to threaten us. I would like to appeal to the Minister of External Affairs of Government of India that the U.S. Ambassador should be summoned in the Ministry of External Affairs and told that India will not yield to the U.S. attitude at any cost otherwise it will be taken that the Prime Minister says somethings and does some things other behind the curtain which might tantamount to connivance. Bhogendra Jhaji has rightly said. Manmohan Singhji is doing something or the other in the economic field and now it seems that he has surrendered before America in diplo-

matic and political spheres. If not, if he has the slightest regard for the freedom and sovereignty of India, then the U.S. Ambassador should be called in the Ministry of External Affairs and told clearly about our policies that we are not going to bow down before them at anytime and in any situation.

[English]

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): Sir, we have been saying for a long time that Carla and Dunkel are just two faces of the same coin. The recent meeting between our Foreign Secretary and the US Trade Representative has made this very clear because we see in Dunkel draft one of the most controversial issues is the issue of intellectual property rights. And it is precisely on this issue that the US Trade Representative has been trying to pressurise our Foreign Secretary. Unfortunately newspaper reports, show that the response of our Foreign Secretary - representative of our Government - has been an extremely weak-kneed approach.

I would demand from the Government a statement clarifying: (a) whether Ms. Carla Hills has sought that investigation under Special 301 will be revived unless India quickly comes to a compromise on matters related to trade, intellectual property rights, etc. Secondly, we would like to know whether or not our Foreign Secretary has said that the Indian delegation in Geneva will work with the US delegation to narrow the differences on certain issues and reach compromises wherever it is possible. What is this narrowing of differences we would like to know? I would also like to know whether it has been said by the Foreign Secretary that they are working with the US delegation to come to an agreement within the framework of the Dunkel draft and that to reach any compromise outside the Dunkel recommendations would be difficult. Sir, this would be in direct contravention to what has been promised to us on the Floor of the House by the Commerce Minister himself. This is a very serious matter and so, we want a statement from the Government on these specific questions.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): Sir, this is a matter of great concern. It is reported in the Press today that Mrs. Carla Hills has threatened India and also our Foreign Secretary, as per newspaper reports, was expressing his helplessness. Mrs. Carla Hills has mentioned about Super 301. Indian Ocean will be a zone of peace which is our commitment and we cannot compromise on that. Our honorable Prime Minister has very well explained our position on the floor of the House. For the last three to four days, Members of the Opposition have been expressing their concern regarding Pentagon report and other things. I request the Government to come forward to clear this suspicion so that the picture becomes clear. It is because one newspaper is reporting entirely different from another newspaper. So, I request the Government and the External Affairs Minister to come forward with a statement so that the reality of the facts can be placed before the House and the Nation should know about that (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ganesh festival in Hyderabad city of Andhra Pradesh... (*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We shall certainly hear hon. friends who have got other important issues also to raise. But if it comes in between, Sir, then the whole discussion will derail.

(*Interruption*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Somnathji, he does not expect any reply from the Government. He just wants to bring the matter to the notice of the Government.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: But afterwards. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, we would like to hear from the Government first. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANORAJAN BHAKTA: Sir, the Minister wants to respond. Let him respond. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is true that this is really a very important subject and many Members want to participate in this debate and want to contribute their views. but, at the same time, it will take them probably. When the Minister has replied, one or two Members may also like to ask questions. So, can we come to a conclusion?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, let the hon. Minister make a statement and then, the subject will be over. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Fernandes, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, Mr. Saifudin Chowdhury and Prof. Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee want to make their contributions. What I wish to say is that there are some other important matters from other Members' point of view, who have come to the office before 10 O' Clock' and given notice. Their notices are also listed here.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: They can mention those points after the discussion on this topic is over. .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How can you come to such a conclusion? You have already spoken on this and others also want to speak....

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: We have already expressed our concern. This matter is agitating us to such an extent that many others also wish to express their concern. Then, we want to the Minister to make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I agree with you one hundred per cent. Can we come to this understanding that when the Minister answers, whether you are satisfied or not, you should not make any further submissions?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we request you to allow those Members who wish to express their concern over the US interference. When that subject is over, let other hon. Members raise their issues. I hope the Hon. Foreign Minister has been permitted to make a statement by Carla Hills. This is a very serious matter. First allow those who wish to speak on this issue. The others may be allowed later and we assured our attentive presence. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your physical presence is very much here and there is no doubt about it. But the question is whether they could get time to speak.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): There should be a statement from the Government's side. How many more people want to speak? We all expressed our concern about it. Please see that the matter stands at rest.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Panigrahi, many people from your side also have spoken. They want to speak. Please sit down. I have called Mr. George Fernandes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would like to submit two points regarding the matter which is being discussed in the House just now. Firstly, we don't know whether there is a clear cut foreign policy and defence policy in the country. During the last few days, we have found two types of reaction of Government on this issue. On the one hand, Government is silent over the provocative news items that are being published in newspapers regarding statements of Ms. Carla Hills and the Pentagon Schemes for this country. On the other hand, Government has issued a statement that joint naval exercises of Indian Navy and the American forces would be organised in the Indian Ocean. See how the Government is playing a dual role. On the one hand plans are being made to destroy the fabric of this country and the whole House is agitated over it and on the other

hand, Government says that it would take the House into confidence in all matters. This means they would continue with their own plans. The plans of joint exercises with their forces still stand. A few days back the top brass of Indian forces paid a visit to America and today an announcement has been made that the Defence Minister would pay a visit to the country in the first week of next month. We are at a loss to understand whether this country is becoming a colony. Our Prime Minister is enraged when such questions are raised but we would like to enquire whether everything else has been settle and only an announcement has to be made to this effect. What is the dignity of the House if we cannot seek information regarding the policies of the country. Where should we discuss such issues of national importance as the defence and foreign policy of the country?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we wanted to raise this issue on Monday and I had given a notice for it today. But I could not help myself because yesterday a newspaper carried an interview and news report with photographs of General Rodrigues on three pages. The newspaper had announced that the second part of General Rodrigue's interview would be to published today. We want to know from the hon. President since he is supposed to be the chief of the Indian troops of the defence services as to how the Chief of the Army staff, General Rodrigues has given an interview of about two hour duration to a newspaper 'The Pioneer'. In that publication the Chief of Army staff says "Good governance is our business as well". In the two hour interview he has not said whether he is speaking on behalf of the Government. He has no right to make statement in public. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru had dismissed General Thimayya for a passing a cursory remark. Today General Rodrigues is challenging the Government and the neighbours. Irrespective of the relations we have with Russia, China, and America he has called them bandicoots.

[*English*]

Yes, he has called these three countries

as bandicoots. Commenting on the move to rope the three major power, USA, China and Russia, into a regional non-proliferation agreement, General Rodrigues wondered about the role of these three bandicoots. "You have two protagonists and three Supervisors. Are they supervisors or are they part of this whole arrangement?"

[Translation]

Now China has become a bandicoot, Russia has become a bandicoot. Hon. Foreign Minister is making untiring efforts to improve country relations with these countries and these countries are being labelled as bandicoots by the Chief of the Army Staff. (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARANJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the hon. Member has authenticated that interview from the newspaper.

SHRIGEORGE FERNANDES: Yes, Sir, I authenticate it.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): Sir, the interview appeared yesterday in the Pioneer. Today, there is no contradiction neither from the Government nor from the General himself. So, all these technicalities will not help.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Let us not worry about it. I am prepared to authenticate it. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would request my friend Shri Rangarajan to take a serious view of this issue. If this is not taken seriously I challenge the language used by the General (Interruptions) The second

part of the interview was to be published today.

[English]

It has been mentioned:

"The excerpts from two hour interview granted by the Chief of Army staff General S. Rodrigues to Ramindar Singh, the second half will be published tomorrow".

[Translation]

It had to be published today, but it has not been done. This means that the Ministry of Defence has taken some action in this regard. I am glad that that the Supreme Commander of Armed Forces i.e. the hon. President has taken a serious note of it. We are happy that Government has banned the publication of the second part of the interview. But at the same time, we wanted to know the whole view, the General had in his mind while giving the interview.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would submit that we are not frightened. We have fought dictatorship. But we are apprehensive about the further of this country because for the first time the General who is Chief of Army staff has challenged the political decisions. He says what else could he have done in this regard. In reply to the previous question he has said:

[English]

Pakistan is a minor irritant.

It is a half page interview.

*Question: How serious a threat does Pakistan appear to be today, after the events of the February 11 march?

Answer: As a professional I would say peripheral.

Question: Pakistan is peripheral to our security concerns?

Answer: Yes, it is an irritant, but the point is it is an irritant I could do without.

Question: Isn't that a little bit of over confidence?

Answer: No its a professional analysis."

"I am not overwhelmingly bothered about whatever he tries to do. He meaning 'Pakistan'. His problem very simply is that he sees me as being central to his security concerns. And as far as I am concerned I don't see him as central to mine." *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Don't read it.

SHRI E. AHAMAD: It is important. It has to be quoted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, how will the House know about it. This news item was published in the newspapers yesterday. I had talked to my friends in the House and we had decided not to raise this issue today because we wanted to go through the entire interview - the latter half of which was to be published today but that was not published today and I think it was done at somebody's instance. That is why the need to raise it arose today. When he was asked whether JKLF's entry into Kashmir was a very serious matter, the General replied that the matter was not serious by any means and that he had not deployed even a single jawan. When the journalist asked him:

[*English*]

"Question: When the Foreign Secretary calls in all the editors and tells them Paki-

stan would try to start civil strife in Kashmir.....

Answer: From our point of view, it is a very basic question"

Question: How do you say the tension was created by the media?

Answer: Because you made such a song and dance about what was going on. If it had blown up I would have had to be in battle locations. I wasn't deployed."

[*Translation*]

This contains the mysterious information given by C.I.A. to the Indian Government. It also contains extracts from the intelligence report furnished by America to the Indian Government. It is the responsibility for the Government to make public the information furnished by America and the General cannot do it. The General did not have the right to publicise the intelligence reports regarding Pakistan and other neighbouring countries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are worried, the way in which this discussion is proceeding. On the one hand, naval exercises are underway with America and on the other hand the General is saying that America is running this country. I am not saying this but these are his words.

His opinion about the Pakistan leaders is worth hearing but I will not quote it here. However, what he thinks about his own country is that*(Interruptions)*.....

Headline is different. I would like to tell you what he said in that interview....*(Interruptions)*..... Please listen to my concluding sentence. I am concluding. He said he would repeat what he says to his forces deployed in Assam, Kashmir and Punjab that*(Interruptions)*.....

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Sir, he is going in for a full discussion. This is not a discussion. An important issue raised by some other Members is diverted by him. He should give notice for this (*Interruptions*).....

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It reads as follows:

"If Pakistan was not the country's central security concern then what was ?

This is the reply:

"Just as national security had become everybody's concern, so also 'good governance is our business as well.'"

[Translation]

The Army and the General is taking responsibility of governance of the country. Therefore, we urge that the General should immediately be relieved of his duties. We want to make this demand in this House. It should be unanimously agreed in the House.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deograh): He cannot do like this.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: He should give a proper notice. What is this? He is making an election speech. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KAPSE: The Defence Minister should come to the House and make a statement about this interview. The interview is horrible. We want that the Defence Minister should come to the House and make a statement what the Defence Ministry has done about this interview, if necessary?

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore): The news which he is reading is not authenticated.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Yesterday it appeared; and it was authenticated by Mr.

George Fernandes. He has a right to speak on that.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): I think, Mr. George Fernandes has already said that he had already authenticated it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am sure, all sides of the House agree that this is a very serious matter; just cannot be ignored or wished away. I take it that the hon. Foreign Minister has been pleased to come here in view of the discussion that is going on in the House. I am sure, he is also feeling very disturbed as to the activities of the Foreign Secretary that are going on. What is the truth? I hope you have been informed through the USA Agency as to what is the truth. Therefore, I would expect that this should not be treated as a partisan matter when the country's sovereignty is involved. And I am sure, like our young friend Mr. Ramesh Chennithala, there is a section of this House, I hope so, a section in the Treasury Benches, who was feeling disturbed about it.

I had raised during my speech on the President's Address, a question on joint exercises, military exercises, naval exercises. The hon. Prime Minister in his euphoria about the possible outcome of the result of the voting, ignored all these points in his reply, because he was keen to prove that economic sovereignty, according to his perception, was there. But, today, in spite of the clear assurances given by the Commerce Minister that no decision will be taken on the Dunkel's proposal without a prior discussion in the House, the Foreign Secretary goes there and makes commitment.

So far as Super 301 is concerned, we are openly threatened that we must compromise on what terms, on our terms, but on their terms. The naval exercises are jointly going on.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Not going on as per newspaper report.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Manoranjan Bhakta has become desh bhakta

at last. Therefore, he is saying he is correcting me rightly I hope so unless it is going on. This is a matter, we feel that this House, which is a supreme body in this country, should be taken into confidence at the first instance.

When a news like that comes out in the National Press, I feel it is amazing that the Government does not respond on its own. They could have been here at 11 A.M., latest 12 P.M. to make a statement that such a news is coming out; this is the true position. This is the true position. We are an independent country. I hope you still recognise that it is an independent country. What is happening with regard to economic sovereignty and political sovereignty, our Defence secrets, joint exercises, pressurisation by Carfa Hills, and this surrender on Dunkel proposals, A General is behaving as if he is the Government of India! What is happening in this country? This is not a routine matter. As I said earlier, do not treat this as a routine matter, not to be dealt with casually. therefore, I would hope and expect that the Foreign Minister will make a statement today immediately and the Defence Minister should also come to dispel the doubts in the minds of the hon. Members here. This is a matter which we cannot allow to be ignored or just passed away, or wished away. We cannot allow this. We must have a satisfactory reply before — you will appreciate — any other business can be taken up. The Railways have gone. It is all derailed. Let us have this first

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Apart from all that has been said in regard to the U.S. interference, another point that has come to our notice today is the surveillance of Indian Coast by the U.S. war planes. That has been admitted by their Marine Commander that they were surveilling the ship that was carrying, according to their report, nuclear missiles to Iran from North Korea Everybody knows that. But the point is that we are not supporting some country giving nuclear missiles to Iran. The point is that what power the U.S.A. has got to put up surveillance on our Indian Coast?

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

With whose permission has that been done?

Another very important point is, I demand that we cancel this Naval exercises. Now the Foreign Secretary has said that, "Where it will be held we do not know; whether it will be in the middle of the Indian Ocean". It should be Indian coast.

Now, our Prime Minister is in Mauritius. What is the sentiment of the Mauritius Government in regard to throwing out the U.S.A. from Diego Garcia? Now he is there and the news item is coming that we are going to have joint exercises. I demand that this must be cancelled forthwith.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): I will take half a minute only. As Shri George Fernandes was speaking my mind went back to the days when Ayub Khan acquired power and finally Martial Law was imposed in Pakistan.

He talks in terms of this most obnoxious pronoun, "I,I,I",

"I know what is good for the country. I shall do what is good for the country." I think that this demand has got great merit and I would suggest to the Government to consider with almost seriousness and gravity that such a man should not be in a position of power. Such a man must be dismissed today, if the country is to be safe. This is what I want to say and therefore I would say that the Government must take notice. Here is something surprising. He has said all this after his visit to the Pentagon. Therefore, I see a connection. Here is an American plan to penetrate India's defence, to impose hegemony over the area, and here is a man who is prepared to take up a role. This man if he acts, and when he acts will not be acting on his own but as a**

**This is why he must go.

SHRI SUDARSHAN RAYCHOUHURI (Serampore): what is disturbing is the role of the Foreign Secretary to go beyond the professed parameter of the Government of

India's foreign policy. His *volte-face* on the question of the Five Nation Conference on South Asia's Nuclear Weapon Free Zone. He is telling that the Conference will not be held now but the possibility of holding such a conference is not totally rejected outright.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister.

SHRI SUDARSHAN RAYCH-
OUDHURI: The Foreign Secretary has told that the entire concept of the Indian Ocean being a zone of peace is a nebulous concept. Will the Government of India reconsider their earlier stand? This is my question.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATU-
RAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S.
KRISHNA KUMAR): I just want to place on record my opinion that it is very unfortunate that such comments are made against India's Chief of Staff who is not here to defend himself. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera):
The Government is here.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS-
TRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY
AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN
KUMARAMANGALAM): He said **It is ter-
minology. They may refer to the Press state-
ment which has been authenticated by Shri
George Fernandes.

13.00 hrs.

But they cannot call a man**. You cannot call a man names. I am sorry, Sir. There is a parliamentary procedure; there is a parliamentary etiquette. If you want to refer to his statement, you can do it after authenticating it like what Mr. George Fernandes has done. But, to say that he is a**

case and other such comments against an individual of this type is not correct. And that, I think, should be removed..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: He is not an individual; he is in charge of the Indian Army today(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

He gets his salary from the consolidated Fund of India and this house approves it.

[*English*]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMAN-
GALAM: You do not call him a **Do you have a medical evidence to that effect?..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): You are worried about one gentleman and not bothered about others.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): We wanted your reaction on whatever he spoke here. The Defence Minister owes an explanation to the House. We demand a statement on this ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV
(Azamgarh): Sir, I am on a point of order. Two very important points have been raised. Though both are separate, they concern the sovereignty and security of our country. One point which we were raising earlier is about the U.S. pressure. The Foreign Minister is here. He can make a statement or say whatever he wants to say. But, Mr. George Fernandes has raised another important point. The State Minister for Defence cannot just wish this away by saying this much that because the Chief of Army Staff is not present in the House the Members cannot raise this issue here.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMAN-
GALAM: That was not what we said. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you kindly allow for a

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

minute I will clarify....(Interruptions)

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: the insinuations and observations made against the Chief of Army Staff are unfortunate..... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: A very basic issue has been raised by Mr. George Fernandes pointing out the attention of this House towards a statement, towards an interview of the Chief of Army Staff, which is unprecedented in free India. On basic issues, he makes observations, which not only concerns our security but it concerns our relations with other countries also. It is a very serious issue, which has been raised there. Now the Minister cannot just wise away this issue by saying that it is very unfortunate that that person is not present here and therefore we cannot raise this issue here. Let the Minister bring to the House the full interview. Let him make a statement. We will not make any statement against the Chief of Army Staff. Let him come before this House with a full interview, which has been given by the chief of Army Staff, which concerns with our major policies of our country. And no Chief of Army Staff - I am not naming a person - has a right in this country to express his opinion on the issue which concerns our sovereignty and also the relations with other countries.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is already one O' Clock. Kindly hear me. The understanding was that - as Shri Somnathji has said - one or two persons would participate in this debate and express their opinion and afterwards the Minister will say whatever he wants to say. Everybody has expressed their feelings and annoyance over it. There are other Members who have given their subjects for raising them. probably some of the Members may not have heard what is going on in the Lobby. Some of the Members are feeling that injustice is done to them and are annoyed because their subjects have not come up for discussion; and everytime their subjects have been postponed. Probably you must have heard how some of our hon. Members are talking....

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA(Cuttack): Sir, all sections of this House are interested in this subject. This is not a question of any particular Member not being able to make his submission.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: This is a very important issue, Sir. Those who want to speak on this, please allow them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is an important subject. It is a matter concerning the entire nation. But if everybody wants to participate in it., where is the time at our disposal?

SHRI E. AHAMED: Let us hear the views of the Government, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): The Minister wants to say something. Why don't you listen to him?

SHRI RABI RAY(Kendrapada): I am on a point of order, Sir...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rabi Ray Ji, during Zero Hour, where is the question of point of order?

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY: My Point of order is that it is a very serious issue.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The cooperation from the hon. Member is absolutely essential. Otherwise we cannot carry on the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, perhaps I would not have stood once again if Shri S. Krishna Kumar would not have stood upto speak. I would like to point out that the matter raised by Shri George

Fernandes is not a thing to rejoice. In fact when we are concerned about something we are apprehensive about the future of the country, worried about the violation of Constitutional provisions, and such utterances by persons holding high offices is not an ordinary matter. Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam wanted to object but I am not quoting anybody. I agree with Shri George Fernandes who has raised this matter and would like to add that in our constitutional structure it is the civil authorities and not the military authorities who take political decisions. This is the characteristic of our Constitution. I am really anxious about the matter and would like Shri Krishna Kumar and their Cabinet Ministers to take it seriously. Perhaps, for the first time the Commander-in-Chief of the country has made such an alarming statement. If he had not spoken I would not have mentioned it. I would only say that Shri Krishna Kumar should not make a statement and leave the technical point to be explained by Shri Kumaramangalam as the person concerned is not present in the House. I agree that his name should not be mentioned...

[English]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, let me clarify. what I objected to was not the the raising of the issue, what I specifically objected to was calling a persons a "That is all. That I think should not go on record. You cannot make a comment like that about any individual which cannot even be replied to.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY: I agree that his name should not be mentioned.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Sir, I demand that these words should be expunged from the proceedings.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If any parliamentary words are used, they will be examined and they will be expunged.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue. Let us not embroil ourselves into a controversy and ask Shri Krishna Kumar to make a statement after due deliberations so that we are convinced and satisfied.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a very important matter has been raised in the House and I agree that the name of a person who is not present to defend himself should not go in the proceedings. However, if we do not uphold the supremacy of the House within the framework of rules what will the further generation say? The Chief of Army is making a political statement and it has been published in yesterday's newspaper. It is a very important matter but not clarification has come from the Government side and the Government has not taken this matter as seriously as it should have. The Government did not say even a single word on it until a hue and cry was made in this House. I would also like to point out that this same gentleman whom I would not like to name, had visited Punjab on an earlier occasion and had given a political statement. If Government allows such things to happen again and again the same warning will come from army as is given by army officers in other countries. It is a question of governance of the country. He said that

[English]

Good goverance is our concern.

[Translation]

One more warning has come from him stating that a particular official should be removed. Now the Government should give a clear statement about it? Why is it silent? (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to say that we have great faith in our army and no Member of Parliament of any side have any doubt over the patriotic zeal and bravery of our army. All of us have different fields, of work, and we should all do our duty. The judiciary does its duty, the army and the administration perform their duties and if there is any interference, then it is natural that the parliament and its members may feel annoyed. This matter relates to an interview. This parliament is sovereign and if the parliament is sovereign, then it is the responsibility of the Chair to safeguard its sovereignty. I would like to say that if the Government had been even a little conscious of its responsibilities, as it was published in yesterday's newspaper, either the Government would have contradicted it or the Government could have refuted the report published in the newspaper. But from the interview which has been published, it appears that the Government is very much concerned about it. Even if the Government has taken some action in this regard, we would like to know as to what action the Government has taken and if this interview is correct, if this interview has been given by the Chief of Army Staff, then I feel that.....**..... and it is the responsibility of the Government to clarify it.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, kindly ask whether anybody from the Opposition has been left over, so that they could be given time! Injustice has been done to this side. We protest. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will obey your order Panigrahi.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): It is not only they who are concerned with it. There are many members on this side *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not like to dis-satisfy Shri Sriballav Panigrahi. If you want to speak for two minutes, I will give you time.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): He does not want to speak. He wants to comment on your behaviour.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): He will give a lecture.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is the job of the Chair to swallow pills. The Chair shall have to swallow all these pills.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNAKUMAR): Sir, neither my colleague Shri Kumaramangalam nor I have denied the right of the Members to raise this issue as such. But, I regret that certain observations were made against our Chief of Army Staff who is very patriotic officer. Especially they mentioned that he is a ** *(Interruptions)* and that he has been set up by Pentagon. I request that the Deputy Speaker may kindly scrutinise the records and the words may be expunged. That is my request.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The unparliamentary words used are already expunged.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Shri George Fernandes has raised certain issue quoting from a newspaper. There is no technical objection as such, there is no bar on the Chiefs of any of the of the Forces or Generals from speaking to the press, there have been cases in the past. So, we will verify, in view of the importance attached by the Members, in view of the points raised here, the authenticity of the report, we will have to look into the contents and if any response is

necessary on the part of the Government, it will be done at the appropriate time by my senior colleague.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMADHAVSINH SOLANKI): Sir, the sovereignty, integrity and security of our country is uppermost with us just as the Members as well as Government, and we cannot allow and we would not allow in any manner the compromising on this aspect. Sir, I have heard with great attention the views expressed and the concerns expressed by hon. members with regard to the security of our country, particularly about the newspaper reports concerning pentagon. I have only to say at this moment that our Foreign Secretary, who is in America has had detailed discussions with the various authorities of the United States in this respect, he is due to return today or tomorrow, and on Monday we will make a statement in this regard in this honourable House.

As regards the issued raised by honourable Shri George Fernandes, I understand that the Defence Minister would be in a position to make a statement again on Monday or the next day. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I have given notice of a motion of privilege.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What about the Commerce Minister, Sir? We have raised a point on Dunkel proposals. (Interruptions).

I am on a point of order, I am on a point of propriety. (Interruptions). Sir, he has given as assurance that Dunkel proposal will be discussed on the floor of the House, Sir, why does he not speak? (Interruptions).

13.16 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications under Army Act, 1950 and Coast Guard Act, 1978

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.R.O. 11 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th February, 1992 regarding induction of women in selected branches/cadres of the Indian Army issued under section 12 of the Army Act, 1950.
- (2) A copy of the Coast Guard (General) Amendment Rules, 1991 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.R.O. 4-E Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 1992 under sub-section (3) of section 123 of the Coast Guard Act, 1978. [Placed in Library. See No. LT - 1539/92]

Explanatory Statement giving Reasons for Immediately Legislation by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance 1992

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir, on behalf of Shri Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy, I beg to lay on Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English version) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1992. [Placed in Library. See No. LT - 1540/92]