

[1.9 July, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by the Lok Sabha: -

The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2002.

Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Ordinance, 2002 and consideration and passing of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Bill, 2002, after it has been passed by Lok Sabha.

Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they have been passed by the Lok Sabha: -

The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Validation of Electricity Tax) Act and other Laws (Repeal) Bill, 2002.

The Off-shore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2001.

The Constitution Scheduled Caste Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

**MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF CHAIR REPORTED
CORRUPTION IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS**

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH):
Madam, with your permission, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very disturbing news which has appeared in the '*Times of India*' this morning. According to this news, the Intelligence Bureau conducted an inquiry, at the behest of the Prime Minister's Office, to look into complaints of corruption in a particular Ministry, in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. This newspaper report says that the IB has confirmed that bribes, in fact, were taken by the functionaries of this Ministry in the process of releasing grants to various NGOs. Madam, this is a very serious matter,

and we request the hon. Prime Minister, since the report says that this inquiry was conducted at the behest of the PMO, to make statement early in this House as to what are the facts of the case.

Madam, there is another matter which I wish to raise. Last night, some of us saw the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs participating in a television show, where he used words which I do believe are inappropriate words to describe the process of election to the august Office of the President of India and the Vice President of India. The hon. Minister said that he had launched one satellite successfully into the orbit, and that he was going to launch another satellite. Madam, we all know, satellites are controlled through remote control. Does the Minister imply that these august Offices will be controlled ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttaranchal): Madam, I have a procedural objection. He is raising two issues at the same time. He can raise them separately. My objection is only procedural. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI (Madhya Pradesh): Madam, he has been permitted by the Chairman. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Madam, I had sought the permission of the Chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gautam, let me inform you that the Chairman has given him the permission. The only thing that I would like to say is that, whenever such things are raised, the procedure is that the Minister is given a chance to give his personal explanation. This is the procedure. But you are talking about a wrong procedure. The procedure is, when something is talked about a Minister or a Member, then, the opportunity is given to that particular Minister or Member to come and give a personal explanation.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Madam, that was not my objection. My point is, these are two separate issues.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Chairman has permitted him.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): The Chairman has given him the permission ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, when the Chairman has permitted him.

आप उस पर आब्जेक्शन करें उसका कोई अर्थ नहीं होता। उनको बोलने दीजिए।

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Madam, I was saying that the words used by the Minister -- that he had launched two satellites -- to describe the election to the august office of the President and the Vice-President of India is an insult to these high Offices. We all know that satellites are controlled through remote control, and, this suggests, for example, the pernicious thought that these Offices would also sought to be controlled through remote control.

श्रीमति सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) . धन्यवाद उपसभापति महोदया । माननीय मनमोहन सिंह जी ने जो मुद्दा उठाया है, वह बहुत ही गंभीर मसला है । मैं समझती हूँ कि इस आदिवासी मंत्रालय में किस तरह की धांधली चल रही है, आईबी की रिपोर्ट से फिर एक बार साबित हो गया है कि आदिवासी कल्याण मंत्रालय हमारे देश के सबसे शोषित, वंचित, पीड़ित लोगों का कल्याण करने के बजाय अपने ही अधिकारियों का कल्याण करने में लगा हुआ है ।

उपसभापति महोदया, मैं इस सदन को याद दिलाना चाहूंगी कि इसी संबंध में ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, this is based on a newspaper report.

श्रीमति सरला माहेश्वरी . नही, नही, मैं इसलिए कह रही हूँ कि न्यूज पेपर की रिपोर्ट के बेसिस पर नही, मेरा क्वेश्चन है इस संबंध में , मेरा विशेषाधिकार नोटिस है । ...**(व्यवधान)**... इसलिए मैं इसको सवस्टेंशियेट कर रही हूँ । आप बैठिए । आप सुनिए । ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप मेरी बात को सुनिए । मेरी बात आईबी की रिपोर्ट से प्रमाणित हुई है । उपसभापति महोदया, ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: Madam, the allegations are based on the 'Times of India' report.

श्रीमति सरला माहेश्वरी . मेरी समझ में नही आ रहा है कि आप क्यों बोल रहे हैं । ...**(व्यवधान)**... उपसभापति महोदया, माननीय सदस्य को शायद अब भी संदेह है, इसलिए मैं इस सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहती हूँ । इसी प्रसंग में किस तरह इस मंत्रालय द्वारा ऐसे एनजीओज़ को, ऐसे स्वयं सेवी संगठनों को सहायता बांटी जाती रही, जिन स्वयं सेवी संगठनों का कोई अस्तित्व ही नही था । मैंने इस संबंध में सदन में तारांकित सवाल किया, उस तारांकित प्रश्न का जवाब मेरे पास में आया जो कि बिल्कुल गलत था, यह मैं आपकी जानकारी के लिए बता रही हूँ । इसलिए मैंने मंत्री महोदय को पत्र लिखा, विशेषाधिकार हनन का नोटिस दिया, मंत्री जी का जवाब आया कि नही साहब, मैंने ऐसा कुछ नही किया , मैंने फिर स्टैंडिंग कमेटी की रिपोर्ट उनके विचारार्थ भेजी कि यह देखिए स्टैंडिंग कमेटी की रिपोर्ट है जिसमें पूरी की पूरी जानकारी दी गई है । इसके बाद में, आईबी की रिपोर्ट के बाद में यह साबित हो गया कि एक तरफ़ तो ऐसे एनजीओज़ को अनुदान दिया जा रहा है जो अस्तित्व में नही थे और दूसरी तरफ़ ऐसे एनजीओज़ लो महिलाओं के उत्थान के लिए काम कर रहे हैं, आदिवासियों के कल्याण के लिए काम कर रहे हैं, वे बार-बार इस मंत्रालय के चक्कर काट रहे हैं कि हमें अनुदान राशि

दीजिए। वे मंत्री जी से मिले, मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि हमारे पास में कोई कुबेर का खजाना नहीं है जो हम आपको दे देंगे, हमारे पास में राशि नहीं है। लेकिन अगर वे किसी एक टाउट से जाकर मिल लेते हैं, उनको चार लाख रुपया दे देते हैं, तो उनको अनुदान राशि मिल जाती है। हमारे माननीय सदस्य कह रहे हैं कि हम आईबी की रिपोर्ट का हवाला दे रहे हैं। इसलिए उपसभापति महोदया, मैं कहना चाहूंगी ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह मेरे क्वेश्चन का मंत्री जी का जवाब है। आप अभी तक नहीं समझ पाये हैं, मैं इतनी देर से बात कर रही हूँ। शायद आपने मेरी बात को सुना नहीं है। उपसभापति महोदया, मैं कहना चाहूंगी कि इस आदिवासी कल्याण मंत्रालय में जो धांधली चल रही है, उस धांधली की पूरी जांच की जाए और मेरा जो विशेषाधिकार का नोटिस है, जो कि अब भी लंबित पड़ा है, मैं समझती हूँ कि मंत्री जी अगर अब भी इस सवाल का जवाब देने के उत्तरदायी नहीं है, तो उन्हें अपने पद से इस्तीफा दे देना चाहिए और इसमें जो धांधली हो रही है, उसकी पूरी जांच होनी चाहिए।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Madam, the point raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition and also by the hon. Member relates to a very serious issue. I will definitely bring this to the notice of the Prime Minister, and a proper action will be taken.

Regarding the second point made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition about some statement made by the Information and Broadcasting Minister, I am informed that he is just now making a statement in the Lok Sabha. After that he will come here and make his position clear.

श्री जीवन राय (पश्चिमी बंगाल) . मैडम, आईबी की रिपोर्ट आई है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम . मैडम, ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing you. Please sit down. I have not permitted you. &e&l 3Fsr arm" «tcj w\$\$\$l Mr. Arjun Singh wants to say something. Just one minute, Mr. Pillai.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH (Madhya Pradesh): Madam, the issue raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition is serious by itself. But the fact that it relates to the functioning of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs makes it all the more serious, because the Tribals are the most oppressed people of this country. If this is the state of affairs in that Ministry, the least that should be done is to allow a special discussion on it. Of course, the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister says that he will inform the Prime Minister and see what can be done. But we want a special discussion on this issue so that Members here can bring out many more things in regard to that. Then the Government can give an answer. This is my request.

[19 July, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can put this before the Chairman. If he allows, you can have a discussion on it.

**HARASSMENT OF INDIAN CITIZENS BY U.S. IMMIGRATION
AUTHORITIES**

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI (Kerala): Madam, with your permission, I raise an important issue about the attitude of the US immigration authorities and security personnel towards Indian citizens visiting the United States. These authorities are treating Indian citizens as terrorists and are trying to harass them. There are reports in today's press about the experience of a Malayalam Actress called Samyuktha Varrha. She was visiting New York with her father, mother and sister. They were detained by the authorities for interrogation for hours together. This is not an isolated incident. When Somnath Chatterjee, the leader of the CPI(M) group in the Lok Sabha visited the United States of America, he was detained by the immigration authorities, and they asked him to sign in Bengali. Earlier, Kamal Hasan was detained, and he was not allowed to visit another place. We are asking the American Government to declare Pakistan as a terrorist State.- The United States of America is treating the Indians as terrorists. So, I would request the Government of India to take up this matter with the United States authorities and try to take appropriate measures, upholding the dignity of the Indian citizens.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Premachandran, only one name is being permitted. Mr. S. Ramachandran Pillai had sought the permission of the Chairman for raising this issue, and he made his statement. Now, we have the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. He wants to give a personal explanation.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Madam, I am very sorry that when the Leader of the Opposition raised this matter, I was not present in the House, because, today being a Friday, both the Ministers have to submit the next week report to both the Houses, and I could not leave that House on time. Secondly, I would like to say that I have the highest respect for the Office of the President and Vice-President, and more respect even for Dr. Manmohan Sirrhgi. So, I am not going to argue on how I made a statement and what statement I made. If a person like