

Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Male. The Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers of the Sultanate of Oman, Sayyid Fahad Bin Mahmoud Al Said, visited India last December, marking the first visit in a decade. I visited Oman in January 2008. During this period, we also hosted visits from PM's of Denmark, Hungary and Greece.

Hon. Members would also be aware that we are currently engaged in negotiations with the international Atomic Energy Agency to arrive at an agreed text of an India-specific Safeguards Agreement. The conclusion of such an agreement will enable the Nuclear Suppliers' Group to amend its guidelines for civil nuclear commerce in favour of India. This will open the door to civil nuclear cooperation with various countries, including Russia, USA, France, UK, etc., with many of whom the necessary enabling bilateral agreements for such trade have been discussed and are in various stages of finalization. This development will signify, finally, an end to the unfair technology denial regimes and sanctions that India has been faced with for over three decades. We will continue to seek broad political consensus within the country to take forward our engagement on this issue with other countries.

In this context, Members' attention may have been drawn to some statement by US officials regarding the applicability of the Hyde Act to Indo-US civil nuclear cooperation. Let me take this opportunity to reiterate that the Hyde Act is an enabling provision that is between the executive and the legislative organs of the US Government. India's rights and obligations regarding civil nuclear cooperation with the US arise only from the bilateral 123 Agreement that we have agreed upon with the US.

To sum up, I would emphasize that the Government will continue its efforts to develop close political, social and economic relations with the countries of our region and with all the major powers of the world, so as to add to our ability to pursue our independent foreign policy as dictated by our national interest. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Clarifications will be later. (*Interruptions*) Clarifications will be after the debate. Now, Dr. Maitreya. (*Interruptions*).

श्रीमती सुष्मा स्वराज (मध्य प्रदेश): सर, स्टेटमेंट के बाद हमारे यहां जो क्लेरिफिकेशन्स होते हैं, उसकी अपने यहां परंपरा है, लेकिन इनका स्टेटमेंट इतना विस्तृत और व्यापक है, इतनी ज्यादा चीजें ले रहा है कि क्लेरिफिकेशन की बजाए आप हमें full-fledged discussion दीजिए और इस पर एक पूरे दिन का डिस्कशन दे दीजिए।

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, if the hon. Minister agrees or the Government is prepared, instead of clarifications, let there be a proper structured discussion.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: We have no problem We will have a full-fledged structured discussion,

श्रीमती सुष्मा स्वराज: हम बीएसी में रिकमेंड करेंगे कि इस पर Full-fledged discussion हो।

श्री उपसभापति: हम वह करेंगे।

MOTION OF THANKS ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS --Contd.

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, do we have time to complete my entire speech? Or will it be like half today and half tomorrow? If that is the case, I don't want to speak today.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. You complete. (*Interruptions*) Time allotted to the House. (*Interruptions*) Within the allotted time. (*Interruptions*)

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, I have plenty of time in the world today. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Provided you leave some time for your friends also.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, on behalf of All India Anna DMK, I rise to express our views on this debate. (*Interruptions*) The Address by the President of India to this Parliament is an elaborate document of 68 paragraphs. But, it does not touch upon the *aam admi* and the *khaas mudde*. It speaks eloquent about the *khaas admi* and *aam mudde*. The Government boasts that India is on the move. But, the poor *aam admi* is definitely not moving. In fact, he is not even standing let alone moving. Unless the so-called historically higher rates of growth permit as benefit and welfare measures to the rural poor, the kisans, the *khetihar mazdoors*, the artisans and the people living below the poverty line, there is absolutely no use of this growth. As Mahatma Gandhi has said, "One cannot speak anything to a hungry man except in terms of food. घर, नया, बर्तन नए, कपड़े नए, इन पुराने कागजों का क्या करें? The Government claims that outlays on agriculture, health and rural development have tripled. But, still the number of people living below the poverty line is showing an increasing trend. The major structural shift in Plan priorities being claimed by the Government has not resulted in reduction of disparities and empowerment of people. Once again, it is very painful for me to point out that, on the one hand, the Government claims that the agricultural credits have doubled, on the other hand, the suicide of farmers is increasing at an alarming rate. The Government has to explain where the credit is flowing and whether it is reaching those for whom it is intending. I am sorry to state that neither the National Food Security Mission nor the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana has resulted in increase in agricultural production or in the farm revival.

In the Budget presented last week, the Finance Minister has announced waiver of loans of the farmers. However, there is no Budgetary allocation for this and we do not know who will bear the burden of this repayment. Further, those farmers who have been driven to suicide are not those who take loan from the banks, but they are those who are in the clutches of the unscrupulous money-lenders. Relief for this large section of farmers cannot come from a mere waiver of bank loans. What is required is a comprehensive plan for the protection of farmers. Unfortunately, no such constructive approach has been unveiled either in the President's Address or in the Budget. The Government should be aware that the country is facing acute shortage of skilled workers. The tall claims made by the Government for augmenting skills to marginalized groups and regions sound rather hollow. While, one does not deny the importance of setting up institutions of higher learning, there is an imbalance because no concrete steps have been taken by the Government to induce education reforms to make the secondary education more skill-oriented. The National Skill Development Mission has not initiated any steps to ensure employability of our youth nor it has any plans to address the skill deficit being felt by the industry. In the name of Special Economic Zones, fertile lands are being converted into costly real estate, and the meagre relief, promised to the poor land owners, is not actually reaching them. On the one hand, the Government claims of initiating measures for achieving 4 per cent growth in agriculture, on the other hand, it is converting fertile lands into industrial land. The Government has to necessarily give clarification on this aspect. One cannot but look askance at the Government which claims that its foreign policy is to promote an environment of peace and stability in our region, and it is attaching high importance to its bilateral relations with China. The recent happenings in

Arunachal Pradesh, the construction of dam in the Pakistan - occupied - Kashmir and the claim of 10,000 square miles of Indian territory by China, they are not definitely the behaviour of a country with whom this Government claims to have strategic and cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity. In only hope that history is not being forgotten by the foreign policy-makers. 1962 is still fresh in our memory, and there is immense need to tread with precaution. Though much has been said about women's reservation, everybody has spoken here. This is the last year of this Government, and still, they have not come out with a comprehensive Bill on the women's reservation. Almost all leaders, from all political parties, have pledged their total and unconditional support for the smooth passage of this Bill. In fact, I would like to remind that it was my party leader, who, way back in 1998, reserved 33 per cent of all party positions, from panchayat up to the executive level, to women in our party, and so, we will be the first to support such a Bill if it is introduced in this Session itself. The President's Address expresses Government's hope that civil nuclear cooperation with the U.S.A. will become possible. My party leader, and the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Madam Jayalalitha, was the first to characterise the Indo-US Nuclear Deal as a slave Charter. Despite the strong opposition inside the Parliament as well as outside the country at large, it seems the Government has not changed its stand. The Government definitely should not go ahead with the deal much against the sense of this House and the entire Parliament. The President's Address does not mention anything about the Setusamudram project. After a lot of heat and controversy, last Friday, the Government filed a new affidavit. The new affidavit shows embarrassment of the Government to toe the line of its bullying ally. It exposes the division and difference of opinion between the Congress and the DMK on Ram Setu. The affidavit quotes the recommendations of the Committee of eminent persons appointed by the concerned Ministry, that is, Mr. T.R. Balu's Ministry. This Committee cannot be described as a Committee of Experts, as being claimed by the Union Government. The Chairman of that Committee had already expressed his views publicly supporting the Setusamudram project, and hence, he cannot be expected to take a different view or an unbiased view. Also, there are no social scientists to discuss the problem of the coastal people, particularly, the fishermen. To discuss the navigational problems and the issues, there are no maritime or naval experts. There are no defence personnel to discuss the security concerns, especially, when the Setusamudram Ship Canal becomes an international sea. There are no oceanographers to discuss the ocean currents and their effects, especially, as it comes within the tsunami-hit area. There are no economists to discuss the economy-related issues, especially, when the project is being touted as one that will economically uplift Tamil Nadu. These conspicuous and glaring omissions raise serious doubts about the credibility of the Committee, the veracity of its report and the validity of the affidavit filed. Setusamudram Ship Canal Project is ecologically unfeasible, environmentally hazardous, economically unviable, and is a total disaster.

The project, as conceived, would be a blatant use to the nation as it would have a centrifugal effect on the economy, navigational tonnage of ships, the environment, and above all, the sentiments of the widest sections of our people.

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM He is talking like our B.J.P. friends.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: उपसभापति जी ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: आप क्यों बोल रहे हैं ... (व्यवधान)... आप बैठिए ... (व्यवधान)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: We have our own view... (Interruptions)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The Supreme Court dismissed their intervention petition ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, Please allow him to speak.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The AIADMK Party strongly opposes the destruction of Ram Setu and demands that the Setusamudram project should be scrapped ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please allow him to speak ...*(Interruptions)*... Allow him to speak.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The AIADMK strongly opposes the construction of Ram Setu and demands that the Setusamudram Project should be scrapped. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: He is talking exactly like a BJP man ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: No. We go one step further. We want the project to be scrapped. बाबर ने राम मन्दिर तोड़, बालू जी राम सेतु तोड़ना चाहते हैं। बालू और डीएमके तो डूबने वाले ही हैं, मगर वे आपको भी डूबाएंगे। देखो मेरे मित्रों, यह काम न करो, राम का नाम बदनाम न करो। राम को समझो, डीएमके को जानो, नींद से जागो, मेरे दोस्तों, समझ लो माहोल पढ़ कर जनता का, चुनाव में हारा, तो क्या जीता। न्युक्लियर डील और राम सेतु, इन दोनों मुझ पर केन्द्र सरकार मुश्किल में है। डील पर हस्ताक्षर करेंगे, तो चुनाव के पहले आपकी सरकार जाएगी, राम सेतु पर आगे बढ़ेंगे, तो चुनाव के बाद गायब हो जाएंगे। ये आप क्या ऐसी मुसीबत में फँस गए हैं, राम जाने ओर बालू जाने।

In the President's Address, para 49 speaks eloquent about the internal security. The Government boasts of ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu):*

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: * ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:*

DR. V. MAITREYAN: We will have a debate separately in Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will not yield to you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I just want to seek a clarification.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, no.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I only want to seek a clarification from him.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, no.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I make an appeal to you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; this is not the platform to seek clarifications ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no, you cannot ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, it is my humble request ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, Member can seek clarifications from another Member. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: He is mentioning about my party. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, he is on a point of clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; please sit down ...*(Interruptions)*...

All of you sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record, whatever you have said. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, when he mentioned about my party, ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; he has not mentioned ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: When you speak, you tell them ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can mention names ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: (Jharkhand): He has mentioned about Ram. He does not want to mention about Siva! ...*(Interruptions)*... If you want him to mention, what will he do? ...*(Interruptions)*... What will he do? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: आप बैठिए ...*(Interruptions)*... पाणि जी, आप बैठिए ...*(Interruptions)*...

Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... All of you sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Narayanasamy, please sit down ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: His leader filed a petition before the Supreme Court. That petition was thrown out by the Supreme Court ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Okay. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The people of the country will throw them. ...*(Interruptions)*... The people of the country will throw those who oppose this ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Maitreyan, you please go ahead. Go ahead.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Para 49 of the President's speech speaks eloquent about the internal security. The Government boasts that it is fully alive to the threat of terrorism and left-wing extremism, and mentions about Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, but it is conveniently silent about Tamil Nadu. The Government asserts its resolve to stamp out left-wing terrorism but it does not utter even a single word against the LTTE, its activities and acts of Pro-LTTE organisations in Tamil Nadu. The brutal assassination of the former Prime Minister of this country, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, is still fresh in our memory. He was killed in Tamil Nadu in 1991 during an election campaign by the LTTE Suicide Squad. It was due to the persistent efforts of my party supremo and the former Chief Minister, Madam Jayalalitha, ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: She only supported ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him speak ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Siva, let him speak. When your turn comes, you can mention about that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The LTTE was banned due to her efforts in 1991, by the then Congress-led Government, let by the late Shri PV. Narasimha Rao. The ban is periodically reviewed and it is in vogue even today. Whenever madam Jayalalitha takes charge as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, terrorist organisations like LTTE, TNLA, TNRT, they are all dealt with with an iron hand. But whenever DMK comes to power, LTTE and there are other

banned organisations—have the same way ...*(Interruptions)*... The detailed reports of the seizure of arms and ammunition like AK-56 rifles, guns, belts for suicide bombers, explosive materials etc., during the last two years of DMK rule are already with the Central Government, submitted by the Intelligence agency. In fact, Mr. P. Chidambaram, Union Finance Minister, had in a public meeting in Nagar Kovil, on 2nd February, 2008, publicly acknowledged that the Union Government was receiving information from the Central intelligence Wing to this effect.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I do not want ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

वे बैठ गए, आप भी बैठिए।

DR. V. MAITREYAN: on 3rd November, 2007, ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Whoever supports LTTE, we are opposing them.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Thank you. Thank you thank you. On 3rd November, 2007, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu wrote a poem praising the slain political wing leader of the LTTE, Mr. Tamil Selvan. The organisation was banned by the Indian Government on his death. The poem was published in all daily newspapers. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Sir, it is not an Assembly. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: This is about terrorism and internal security. ...*(Interruptions)*... The President's Address has mentioned about all that, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Sir, can he talk like this on the President's Address? *(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can reply when your turn comes. *(Interruptions)*... Your name is there. *(Interruptions)*... You speak whatever you want to speak when your turn comes. *(Interruptions)*... Whatever the Member speaks may be irrelevant for you. But he wants to say that. *(Interruptions)*... Please sit down, Mr. Siva. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, I am on a point of order. *(Interruptions)*... The Chief Minister is not present in the House and now he has made allegations against the Chief Minister. *(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: No. This is terrorism which I am talking about. *(Interruptions)*... I am talking about terrorism. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: He made an allegation against the Chief Minister. *(Interruptions)*... He made an allegation. *(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: I don't yield on this point of order *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Can such an issue be raised here? *(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The Government is aware of it. Your Union Finance Minister has gone on record. *(Interruptions)*... The poem written by the Chief Minister was released through the administrative machinery of the Tamil Nadu Government. He released it through the Government Information Department. It is in public knowledge. Madam immediately condemned it as an anti-national act and asked how a Chief Minister who assumed office under the Indian Constitution could express support to a person belonging to an organisation

banned by the Indian Government. *(Interruptions)*... The official machinery is a State machinery. *(Interruptions)*... Let me finish. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: He is raising irrelevant matters. *(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The Legislature Party, the Tamil Nadu Congress... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is in his wisdom to say relevant or irrelevant things. *(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The Legislature Party, the Congress Party of Tamil Nadu, had condemned it and they said that it had brought tears in their eyes. The AICC session held in November, 2007 also strongly condemned it. But the Central Government was silent. Soon an unfortunate incident took place in Erode. The effigy of the Union Minister of State for Textiles, Shri E.V.K.S. Elangovan, was hanged on a lamp-post on the main road junction with a sticker, "This is only a rehearsal". *(Interruptions)*... It was repeated again in Salem. Who did it and why they did do it, everybody knows. Again the Central Government is silent. Faced with such strong condemnations from the AIADMK, the Congress—I mean the Tamil Nadu Congress—and other Opposition parties in Tamil Nadu, the Chief Minister suddenly rose from his slumber and made the DGP to release a statement. *(Interruptions)*... The DGP's statement which is a public document...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: I am on a point order. Can we discuss it? *(Interruptions)*... It is law and order. *(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, it is a public document. *(Interruptions)*... It is a public document. *(Interruptions)*... It is not a law and order issue. *(Interruptions)*... It is terrorism. *(Interruptions)*... It is terrorism by a banned organisation. *(Interruptions)*... The DGP's statement dated 26th November, 2007 was published in all dailies on the following day in the form of a warning. The DGP made a special mention of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act of 1967. He warned that stern action would be taken under this law against any person, no matter who he is and whatever organisation he belongs to, if he is found to support the banned organisations such as LTTE. *(Interruptions)*... Now, on 25th January, 2008 ...*(Interruptions)*... the Viduthalai Chiruthaikal Katchi, VCK, held a conference. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. *(Interruptions)*...

Siva please sit down. I will give you a chance. *(Interruptions)*... When your turn comes, you can refute all this. *(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: On 25th January, 2008 ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Vaiko is your alliance partner. *(Interruptions)*... He is an ardent supporter of the LTTE. *(Interruptions)*... He is talking about LTTE. *(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: On 25th January, 2008, the VCK, Viduthalai Chiruthaikal Katchi, held a conference. That conference was organised to proclaim total support to the LTTE. How did the police grant permission for such a conference? The VCK president openly spoke in support of the LTTE at the conference. His speech was published in all dailies and telecast on all television channels. *(Interruptions)*... However, the police did not take any action. The Tamil Nadu Assembly was in session at that time. *(Interruptions)*... Our Congress friends' MLAs raised this issue in the Assembly and demanded as to how the permission was granted...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is an Assembly matter. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: An Assembly matter can't be raised here. *(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: ...how was the permission granted and why no action was taken, and why he was not arrested *(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is an assembly matter. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N. SIVA: It is an Assembly matter. *(Interruptions)*... It can't be discussed here. *(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: It is not a question of Assembly. It is all public records. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Assembly matter shouldn't be discussed. *(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Do you know what reply the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu gave? He referred to the POTA and the Supreme Court verdict, and the CM mentioned...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You need not mention here what has happened in the Tamil Nadu Assembly. If you want to speak on terrorism, only then you speak. *(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu went on record saying that there was no law in Tamil Nadu in force at present to take action for speaking in support of banned outfits like the LTTE. That is why, AIADMK is a strong votary of POTA and we protested strongly when the UPA Government annulled POTA. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What can the Chair do? If it is unparliamentary ...*(Interruptions)*. Please listen to me. Don't put the Chair into embarrassment. Please sit down. Whatever he is saying, it is for him to prove. Now, if you ask me not to allow him to speak, what can I do?

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Sir, he is speaking on something which has happened in the Tamil Nadu Assembly. *(Interruptions)*.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, it concerns terrorism. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The best thing will be, when your turn comes, you answer all these points.

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Sir, we are discussing the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. But he is discussing something else.....*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us not have a debate on this.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, he is talking about the Tamil Nadu Assembly. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is why, I said ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, kindly go through the records. If it is unparliamentary, you remove it from the records.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Definitely, I will look into it. If it is unparliamentary..*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Narayansamy, be rest assured that if there is any unparliamentary word, that will be removed.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Whatever has been said against the rule, that should be removed. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That has to be examined.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY (Gujarat): Sir, terrorism relates to sovereignty of India. If it cannot be discussed in Rajya Sabha, what can be done?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not saying that it should not be discussed.

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: He can show his loyalty to ...*(Interruptions)*. Let him do that. But let him not discuss something which has happened in the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, his party voted in favour of POTA. It is only when his party changes stance...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, here is a former Law Minister who is saying ...*(Interruptions)*. They are discussing about the State Assembly. Is it permissible?

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, we objected to it very strongly. We protested against it when the UPA Government repealed POTA. Then, Madam Jayalalitha asked how would an action be taken against..*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Under what rule?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, it is under Rule 238.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, I am talking about terrorism, sovereignty and security.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Maitreyan, if he quotes a rule, I have to look into it.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It is Rule 238(3). The hon. Member knows the rule. He is referring to the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, I am not talking about the proceedings. I am talking about a statement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me hear him. *(Interruptions)*. Mr. Narayansamy, you address the Chair. *(Interruptions)*. He is not telling you. He is addressing the Chair. Let me understand.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, it says, "A Member while speaking shall not use offensive expressions...."*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please tell me which are the offensive expressions.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, he was quoting the proceedings of the State Legislature. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It says, "A Member shall not use offensive expressions about the conduct or proceedings of the Houses or any State Legislature". You please convince

me. What is offensive? *(Interruptions)*. That is why I cautioned him. *(Interruptions)*. It is not appropriate for us to discuss about any other House...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I am only saying... *(Interruptions)*.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: I am only saying that the Chief Minister stated that there was no law ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Let me complete my point of order...*(Interruptions)*. It states: "Use offensive expressions about the conduct or proceedings of the Houses or any State Legislature."

DR. V. MAITREYAN: I am not talking about the State Legislature. I am only talking about the Chief Minister's statement...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, I fully agree that he cannot use offensive language, and I have cautioned Dr. Maitreyan about that ...*(Interruptions)*. Please, let us not refer to the proceedings of the other House.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: I fully understand my responsibilities. I am only mentioning.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, it may be offensive or it may not be offensive. But there is a rule...*(Interruptions)*.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, what do I do when the State Chief Minister says that there is no law in force in Tamil Nadu to take action against people who support banned organisations? That is why I am raising it. The President's Address talks about 'firm resolve' in containing terrorism. Where is the firm resolve? That is what I am asking.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can make general remarks. But even supposing some statements have been made in the other House, we don't discuss it here...*(Interruptions)*. Why do you rush to the well of the House? It can't go on record if you speak from here...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, there is a little difference. The difference is that as Rajya Sabha Members, we represent the Council of States. The State-Legislature elects us. And if something is going on against the spirit of the country and some protection is being given for the terrorists from some quarter, and if this cannot be raised here, where would we raise it?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ahluwalia, you are not prevented from raising it...*(Interruptions)*. It is only that you cannot refer to the proceedings of the other House or of the State Legislatures...*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Maitreyan, I did not prevent you from saying all that you wanted to raise because you are within your right. But when you refer to the proceedings of a State Legislature...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: He is my Chief Minister...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So you only say that the Chief Minister has said that there is no law and order...*(Interruptions)*.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: I am coming to that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That would have saved a lot of time for you...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: He is mentioning the helpless attitude of the Chief Minister...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ahluwalia, Dr. Maitreyan does not need your support.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, Rule 238 (5) states under Rules to be observed while speaking: "A member, while speaking, shall not reflect upon the conduct of a person in high authority unless the discussion is based on a substantive motion drawn in proper terms."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Poojary, I agree...(Interruptions) No no. Please. (Interruptions) No, no. (Interruptions) Mr. Jothi... (Interruptions) Mr. Jothi... (Interruptions). Mr. Perumal, you go to your seat. (Interruptions).

SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY: We oppose it and I want to bring it on record.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, I am on my legs. (Interruptions). Please wait. (Interruptions). No, I am not giving a ruling. I am just saying what Rule 238 is. Everybody is quoting it. (Interruptions) I am coming to that. Now, Rule, 238 says:—

"A member while speaking shall not—

- (i) refer to any matter of fact on which a judicial decision is pending;
- (ii) make a personal charge against a member;
- (iii) use offensive expressions about the conduct or proceedings of the Houses or any State Legislature;
- (iv) reflect on any determination of the Council except on a motion for rescinding it;
- (v) reflect upon the conduct of persons in high authority unless the discussion is based on a substantive motion drawn in proper terms".

Now, in the proceedings, there was no reflection upon the conduct of the person. If that is there, then I will... (Interruptions) We have to base our arguments on... (Interruptions)...Now, in the context of what is being said on terrorism, how do you convince me that it is a reflection on the conduct of a person?

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, I am only explaining the sequence of events in Tamil Nadu. (Interruptions).

SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY: No, no. He was criticizing the Chief Minister.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: सर, यह तो फोरम ही क्रिटिसिज्म का है। रोज ही प्राइम मिनिस्टर क्रिटिसाइज किए जाते हैं और आप कह रहे हैं कि He was criticizing the Chief Minister. ...(व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not able to understand...(Interruptions) Please. Why are you dragging the debate to that extent? (Interruptions)

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir we have the right to discuss any subject that concerns the country. But the question here is regarding an offensive expression. What is offensive?

DR. V. MAITREYAN: It is an assault on democracy.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Please. I do not want you to do this. He is addressing me.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, 'offensive' here means a sarcastic remark or any comment--which if the Chair think is a fair comment, it is welcome--which is not a fair comment and which is some kind of a comment which reflects on the conduct of (Interruptions).

6. P.M.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are unnecessary getting involved in arguments. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, it is not an argument. Kindly hear me for a minute. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, I said, "Don't quote the proceedings. If the Chief Minister's name is taken... *(Interruptions)*.. you quote me the ruling, I will uphold it". I would like to uphold the rule.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Now, one more thing, Sir...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I can't go on with your arguments. *(Interruptions)*. You are the Chief Whip of your Party and you are... *(Interruptions)* Now, you have not told me what is defamatory or unparliamentary or what is offensive. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Narayanasamy, I do not understand this. What is this?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the Chief Minister is a high authority. He is a constitutional authority. His conduct is being criticized.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is certainly a constitutional authority. But tell me what is offensive against him? You tell me and I will uphold it. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, then, it is mentioned here that it should be a substantive motion... *(Interruptions)*.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: We are questioning his patriotism. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I want my speech to be concluded today.

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: What is his intention, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: His intention? I can't understand. ...*(Interruptions)*... I do not go by his intention. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seat ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, under what rule they are speaking? ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not yielding ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You see, a point of order has been raised; some rule has been quoted. We are arguing on that. I am trying to understand whether that rule is applicable. ...*(Interruptions)*... He is raising a point of order.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, what is your ruling when they are quoting the State Legislature?...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have already given my ruling 'not to refer to the proceedings'. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have already given the ruling. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Perumal, you please go back to your seat. You can speak from your seat. You need not come over here. ...*(Interruptions)*... What do you achieve by coming over here? You can tell that from your seat itself. You should not speak from any place other than your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record, if the hon. Members are not speaking from their seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have already given my ruling that referring to the State Legislature or to the other House is not proper. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have given my ruling. That is over ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, just a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, supporting a banned organisation' itself is a derogatory remark and it is insulting him ...(Interruptions)...

DR. K. MALAISAMY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I have to make an important point.

...(Interruptions)...I have been trying to speak for a minute, and I am able to get it at last. Sir, you are conducting the House very nicely.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am doing my duty.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, he is complimenting you.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the object of the other side is to disturb him.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Not at all. We are not doing like that. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Narayanasamy, please sit down.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, one second ...(Interruptions)... Sir, he is not permitted to speak. What does it mean? ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You please sit down. The point is that the Chief Minister has made certain statement inside the House. Now, you are alleging...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: I am not alleging. I am quoting. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you quote it then, you have to authenticate it. ...(Interruptions)... You have to authenticate it.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: He takes the responsibility. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; he has to authenticate it. He cannot take the responsibility. Now, because you are saying that a Chief Minister is supporting a banned organisation ...(Interruptions)... Please listen to me.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Let him complete.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You said, 'a Chief Minister is supporting a banned organisation'. This itself is an offensive one, according to me.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: That is, the AIADMK is a strong votary of ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is a constitutional authority. You cannot say that he is supporting a banned organisation. For that, there are other courses of law ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, what is wrong in it? ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ahluwalia, there are other forums for it. ...(Interruptions)... Then, you move a substantive motion. ...(Interruptions)... No, you move a substantive motion, according to this. ...(Interruptions)... Please listen to me. All the time, I was thinking that there was nothing offensive in it. But, when another hon. Member got up and said, 'charging a Chief Minister, who is positioned at a high authority ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: I was quoting ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have given my ruling ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Maitreyan, a constitutional authority ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: If this is so, then, tomorrow, they will not be able to speak.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You see, a Chief Minister is a constitutional authority ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, my point is, let him speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has to ...*(Interruptions)*... He has not charged anybody ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: She is a Member of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, this is already past six. The House is supposed to adjourn at six ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You see, the Chief Minister is a constitutional authority. ...*(Interruptions)*... If there is something, you move a substantive motion against him. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, that is why AIADMK is a strong votary of POTA and it protested strongly when the UPA Government repealed POTA in 2004. Madam Jayalalithaa asked: "How action could be taken against those who expressed support to extremists and terrorists if POTA is annulled?" The Union Government said: "What if POTA is annulled? The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 is in vogue. We shall bring the required amendment to that Act." In fact, the UPA Government made that amendment to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 on the same day on which they annulled the POTA. AIADMK opposes LTTE keeping in view the sovereignty and security of India.

The assassination of Rajiv Gandhi is a major incident. Not only that. The LTTE has connections with several other extremist and terrorist organisations in this country. And, they are indulging in anti-national activities.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why are you again creating controversy? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, for example, ULFA in Assam. ...*(Interruptions)*... The other banned terrorist organisations in this country, like ULFA in Assam, the earlier called People's War Group in Andhra, now it comes under the name of Naxalites (Maoists). West Bengal also has witnessed the same incidents in the name of Maoists. LTTE has close relations with all of them. They are extending military training to these Naxalite and other Maoist Organisations.

So, anyway you look at it, LTTE movement is indulging in antinational activities. That is why, we oppose the LTTE outfit. If the Union Government has even an iota of concern on this issue, by now, it would have dismissed the Government. As on date, the Union Government does not have the political will. India's sovereignty must be protected.

India's security should not be compromised. And parties which believe in extremism and terrorism in any form must be curtailed. Such a State Government, which openly indulges in such anti-national activities must be dismissed.

I, on behalf of AIADMK, thank the President of India, on her address to the Parliament. And, our thanks will be manifold if she redresses our concerns. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The House now is adjourned till 11 a.m. tomorrow.

*The House then adjourned at seven minutes
past six of the clock till eleven of the clock
on Tuesday, the 4th March, 2008*