

- (ix) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas) and Oil India Limited, for the year 1999-2000.

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SPECIAL MENTION

Visit of Pope to India

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Goa): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. It is very kind of you to have been given me this opportunity to mention a couple of events that have taken place, particularly, with regard to the forthcoming visit of Pope John Paul-II. My submission is, it is extremely important for the image of the country, particularly, at this point of time, when the country is projecting the image of really being the bulwark against terrorism, against religious extremism and fundamentalism, that the visit of Pope should take place in a peaceful and harmonious manner, and, more than that, it should be a real opportunity for the people of goodwill and also for the people of all religions to affirm social harmony, to affirm religious unity and to affirm the spirit of brotherhood which must percolate down to all sections of our society and the global society.

Now, the Prime Minister has been projected, and many people, across this country, are under the belief that the Prime Minister is liberal; that he is a person who is not merely the leader of a party, but a person who rises above sectarian considerations; that he is a national figure who is committed to tolerance and to the culture of peace and harmony. That is how he has been projected. Now, something more must be done. He must give a message, an open message, and call upon all the disruptive forces, all the extremists and the fundamentalists, who are bent upon disrupting this very important visit to stop from doing so. Therefore, it is extremely important that this message must go from the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister announcing it merely in Parliament will not do. He has to appeal to everybody through Doordarshan, through the electronic media and through the other media. These disruptive and fundamentalist activities will not do and they must stop; they must roll back and they must ensure peace and harmony.

Here, I would like to mention a point, which concerns my own State and which also relates to this subject. A march took place complaining about the crimes that were committed during the Inquisition. Now, Goa, is haven of peace and harmony. It is one part of the country where never in its history have there been any riots. And, now doing precisely such a thing from Goa, on a ground, that is totally untenable, is really something that is aimed at immediate, short-term political gains and consolidating vote banks. But it is basically disrupting the society and disrupting the country.

Now, what was the Inquisition about? The Inquisition was something that was done at that point of time against the Christian themselves—against the Christian converts who would not abide fully by the Christian orthodoxy. I would like to say for the record that the struggle against the Portuguese colonial rule in the 18th and 19th Centuries which was the first phase of the anti-colonial struggle, was led by Christians as well as Hindus. But basically, it -was led by those people who had of Western education and who had the economic power and they were mostly Christians and a few Hindus. It is very interesting to note that in this first phase of the struggle against the colonial rule, it were Christian priests who participated in it because of racial discrimination against the Indian Christians generally. There is a History which speaks about the unity of the people, which speaks of harmony. So, that should not be disrupted. Therefore, my appeal here is that people from all sides of the House, whether they are on this side, or they are on that side—there are people of goodwill everywhere; there are people who believe that social harmony must be maintained, there are people who believe that religious pluralism must be ensured—must get together, taking advantage of this occasion, not because of the visit of the Pope, which will be just an occasion for all of us—people from there, people from here—but to get together so that harmony is maintained* unity is strengthened and this country really achieves the place that it deserves, that is, at the top, as a super power, as an economic super power, which can only be achieved if we are united, if we maintain harmony, if we maintain the spirit of brotherhood. This message must go from the top, from the top of the political system, that is, from Parliament itself, to all the corners of this country. Religious and cultural pluralism must be respected, national unity must be strengthened and social harmony cannot be compromised at any cost.

In conclusion, I say that the Prime Minister must not only have his image; he must do something for furtherance of his liberal image of a national leader. He must call upon those people and urge them, and, if necessary, action must be taken against fundamentalism, against the people who are bent upon disrupting national peace, and, in particular, disrupting the forthcoming visit of the Pope.

SHRI CO. POULOSE (Kerala): Sir, the forthcoming visit of the Pope to our country in the first week of November is indeed a great event. I request the Government to make all arrangements to see that everything goes smoothly. Normally, there is no need to request the Government to make special arrangements, but the things have changed. Now, certain organizations, which owe allegiance to the *Hindutava* ideology, are propagating hatred against the Christian community at large. In several parts of the country, this propaganda is going on. Mr. Eduardo Faleiro has rightly pointed out that they are taking a *yatra* from Goa to Delhi. There are

reports that effigies of the Pope are being burnt in Delhi. The newspapers are publishing scores of reports from various parts of the country. This has created an atmosphere of hatred in the society. It should be checked. The Pope visited the country earlier also. We had given him a warm welcome. He had not only addressed thousands of people, but he had participated in religious functions also. Every religious personality has a right to come to our country. Religious personalities go abroad and take part in religious functions. There should be no objection to it. But now, certain organizations, owing allegiance to *hindutava*, are propagating hatred among the people against Christianity. This hatred had created havoc in several parts of the country in the past also. Now, it is time this vehement spreading of animosity against the society is blocked forthwith. The Government is aware of this situation, but they are not taking any steps to curb the spread of this kind of hatred among the society. So, I request the Government to take steps to stop forthwith this hatred campaign and, as Shri Eduardo Faleiro has rightly pointed out, the Prime Minister and the representatives of Government should come forward to see that this propaganda of the Hindutava organisations is stopped forthwith and appeal to all sections of the society to have a unified opinion and welcome the Pope and make his sojourn in India a complete success.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, it is a very normal thing that when any head of State visits this country, he or she enjoys the warm and traditional Indian hospitality. The Pope is a religious leader and, at the same time, he is the head of the Vatican State. Therefore, the normal Indian tradition, in conformity with our age-old practice, is that a warm welcome is given to him. This is in consonance with India's culture, India's hospitality. The Pope may be having his own agenda; he may be meeting his clergymen; he may be talking to the representatives of the Catholic churches; he is free to have his own programme and enjoy the hospitality of the country. This is what I would like to stress and I would like the Government to understand. But what is unfortunate and derogatory for the country and which creates an inflammatory situation is that if the two outfits of the great Sangh Parivar make a statement as wild as this, that if he does not apologise for all the persecution that is supposed to have taken place in Goa 400 years back, demonstrations will be organised. Now, demonstrations can be organised. Everybody has the right to dissent. It is guaranteed under the Constitution. I can definitely dissent on occasions that I believe to be correct and justified. There have been demonstrations in India when bombs were dropped on Vietnam or things were taking a worse turn in different parts of the country, oppressing the people. But in a situation like this, to speak like that that either the Pope should apologise or face a demonstration, is un-

Indian, I do not say anti-Indian; that is un-Indian, unethical and it tarnishes the image of the country. This gives an opportunity to the people who are not friends of India to lead a campaign every where that India is being led to a situation of medieval political system. Even the visit of the Pope has become controversial. Sir, this would not have been controversial, this would not have been a matter to be raised in this House, if, sometime before, the matter of conversion was not made a controversial issue in the country. The matter of conversion was made a political issue. Even important political leaders made a statement that there has to be a discussion, a national debate, on the efficacy of conversion. Things would not have been too sensitive for the country if the same brand of fundamentalism, which is threatening today demonstrations against the Pope, had not been accused of—I am saying accused of—mounting attacks or even been accused of being implicated in killing a clergyman. Sir, it is past history. Whether the accusation is justified or not, it would be proved in the court of law, but the accusations are all there. Sir, I had been there, in Manoharpur, in Orissa. I have seen what has happened there. Everyone knows what happened in Gujarat. Everyone knows what happened in Madhya Pradesh. Without this background, the statements could have been just brushed aside. We would have chosen to ignore the statements. But, in the background that I am stating to you, it is not a matter of concern only for Mr. Eduardo Faleiro thinking that he is living in an abode of peace i.e. Goa. Let him not believe in that. It is not a matter of that concern to him only. It is a matter of concern to the whole of India. If such statements are allowed to be translated into real militant action, it is for the Government to take the precaution, not for me. Therefore, Sir, I am suggesting that the Government—I do not only speak of the Prime Minister. She is the head. It is the collective responsibility of the Government. The Government must restrain the trouble-makers; the Government must restrain these people from carrying out their threat; the Government must create a situation where the visit of the Pope takes place in an atmosphere of peace. The Government must not only not allow these acrimonious incidents to be repeated, but it must also see that the image of India is not tarnished. I am more concerned about the image of India. It should not be tranished. Let there not be any un-Indian activities. Let the Government take the necessary precautions because the threat has been given by the Sangh Parivar; and the Sangh Parivar, I consider, to be an associate member of the Government.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सभापति, महोदय, सबसे पहले 3 मैं अपनी चिंता व्यक्त कर दूँ सरकार के सामने कि जिस तरह के धमकी के बयान कुछ दिनों से अखबारों में छप रहे हैं, दुनिया की नजर में न केवल धमकी देने वालों के बारे में या सरकार के बारे में बल्कि पूरे हिन्दुस्तान की तस्वीर खराब हो रही है। सारी दुनिया में मजहब के नाम पर कई जगह झंझट होते रहते हैं। जो किसी मजहब के सबसे बड़े हैड कहीं रहे हैं, अगर वे किसी दूसरे देश में जाएं तो उनका स्वागत इसलिए होना चाहिए कि हमारे

देश का जो सबसे प्रमुख मजहब है, उसमें अगर कुछ अच्छाई है तो उससे वे कुछ सीखेंगे और अगर बुराई है तो कुछ सिखाएंगे। मजहब कभी भी आदमी को बुराई करना नहीं सिखाता, चाहे वह क्रिश्चियनिटी हो, चाहे वह इस्लाम हो, चाहे हिंदुत्व हि, कोई भी मजहब हो। बीच-बीच में हम लोग एक दूसरे को घेरते हैं और घेर करके एक दूसरे को मारते हैं। इसमें मुल्क बंट जाते हैं, अपना मुल्क भी बंटता है लेकिन मुझे मालूम नहीं सभापति जी, कि हमारा कोई शंकराचार्य जगद्गुरु कहलाता है और वह हिंदुस्तान की सरहद के बाहर कभी गया, मुझे नहीं मालूम। हम हो हिन्दुत्व का नारा बहुत जोर से देते हैं, क्या सिकुड़कर वह नारा देंगे? हमारे देश का संदेश पूरी दुनिया में देने के लिए किसी जमाने में विवेकानंद जो गए थे। किसी दूसरे देश के लोगो ने उनसे यह नहीम कहा कि तुम मत आओ। कभी भी ऐतराज नहीं किया। लेकिन हिन्दुत्व जो ज्यादा फैलाववादी धर्म अपने को मानता हैं, उसकी प्रवृत्ति सिकुड़नवादी क्यों हो रही है मैं समझ नहीं पा रहा हूं? दूसरे, यानी क्रिकेट का खिलाड़ी तो हमारे देश में आ सकता हैं। वह भी देखा हमने कि एक बार एक देश का खिलाड़ी आ रहा था तो पिच तक खोद दिया गया और कहा कि नहीं आने दिया जाएगा इसको। इस सीमा तक बातें चली जाती है। खेल, मजहब, संगीत, साहित्य और दर्शन किसी मुल्क की सरहद में नहीं बांधे जा सकते, यह विचार हुआ करते हैं। यह इंसान के विकास के लिए चाहे शारीरिक विकास, अगर सरहद के भीतर बांधने की किशिश की गई तो वह सिकुड़नवादी प्रवृत्ति का द्योतक है। हमने शंकराचार्य का बयान भी पढ़ा, हमने सरसंघ चालक का बयान भी पढ़ा। ऐसा नहीं हैं कि नहीं पढ़ा। रज्जू भैया ने तो इतना ही कहा कि पोप आते हैं तो आएँ लेकिन ऐसा नहीं करें-हिन्दु धर्म को अपने धर्म से इंफिरियर बताएं। कोई भी दूसरे धर्म को अपने धर्म से इंफिरियर बताए या छोटा बताए यह हम पसंद नहीं करते हैं। कोई भी हमारे अल्लाह को या हम अपने ईश्वर को किसी अल्लाह से खुदा का या गॉड को छोटा कहने लगेंगे तो हमारे आपके बीच में झगड़े होंगे। इस प्रवृत्ति को रोकना पड़ेगा। भारत एक विरात और विशाल दृष्टि का देश है। पिछले दिनों जो घटनाएं हुई हैं चर्च में, वहां काम करने वाली लड़कियों के साथ, उनके स्कूलों में, पिछले दिनों जो घटनाएं हुई हैं बम्बई से लेकर अहमदाबाद, बड़ौदा होते हुए अयोध्या तक वे घटनाएं कभी-कभी हम लोगों के इए हैरानी और परेशानी का विषय बन जाती हैं। यह सच है कि हिन्दुस्तान बहुसंख्यक हिन्दुओं का देश हैं। यहां छोटे-छोटे आबादी वाले मजहब के जाती के लोग भी रहते हैं। अगर उनको सुरक्षा नहीं दी गई और, जिस हरकत से कि हम पोप को नहीं आने देंगे, प्रदर्शन करेंगे, क्षमा मंगवाएंगे तो इस हरकत से हिन्दुस्तान में जो कम तादाद में बसने वाले मजहब के लोग हैं उनके दिल में दहशत बढी है और यह दहशत न बढे इस बात का आश्वासन भारत सरकार को देना चाहिए और कोशिश करनी चाहिए कि पोप सम्मान के साथ भारत में आएँ। कोशिश यह भी करनी चाहिए। कि हमारे धर्म का कोई जगतगुरु चाहें तो पोप से बात करें, इस्लाम धर्म का कोई बहुत बड़ा किसी मस्जिद का इमाम हो या और कोई भी हो उससे भी बहस करानी चाहिए, सार्वजनिक बहस करानी चाहिए, धर्म के नाम पर सब का एक प्लेटफार्म बना करके। आज तो यह सम्भव नहीं, क्योंकि 5 नवम्बर तक यह हो नहीं सकता लेकिन उनके सामने यह प्रस्तावना देनी चाहिए कि आप एक धर्मगुरु हैं, हमारे यहां भी कई तरह के धर्मगुरु हैं। क्यों नहीं सब लोग बैठ करके पूरे धर्म के बारे में एक बहस करें और जितनी अच्छाइयां धर्म की हैं उनका निचोड़ निकाल करके एक मानव धर्म की स्थापना की जाए, इस बात का प्रयास भारत सरकार को पोप से बात करके करना चाहिए, यह मैं निवेदन करूंगा।

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the papal visit to India has got two aspects. One message is to the entire world as

to how this country is going to receive the religious head of the most popular religion in the whole globe. That would send a signal not only to our neighbouring country, but also to the entire Europe and other parts of the globe where we are looking forward to have economic relationships and business transaction and their investment here. Perhaps, our friends in the Treasury Benches might remember the cruel murder of Mr. Staines and his two children in Orissa in the recent past which had sent a wrong signal not only to the business community of the globe, but the whole society. They thought that we were going back to the stone age. This is one aspect of the problem.

The other aspect is: you are sending a wrong signal to the Christian community in India which is 2000 years old. You are trying to change the history as if we had come to this part of the land with the Britishers. This is not correct. Our religion is as ancient as any other religion in this part of the country.

He is coming here not to enter into any trade pact or to sign » document by which the country surrenders to the Pope. He comes here to address the Asian Bishops who gather here for their religious discussions. I do not know why the Government is turning a blind eye to the malicious propaganda that the Pope is and embodiment of forcible religious conversion. What is the reason attributed? They say that some 400 years ago, there was some forcible conversion. I would ask my friends there how many attacks and deaths were there on account of religion not only between Christians and Hindus but among Hindus themselves in other parts of the country? In the State where I come from, virtually, 8000 Jains were killed by Saivites. Who is to apologise for that? In Nagappattinam, a whole temple was ransacked and Lord Vishnu's statue was melted and Kulotunga Chola, the Great, took it away and built a Buddha Vihar. Who is to apologise for that? Why should you try to change the history? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, these things will be reported widely and unnecessarily create further troubles. If you want Tamil Nadu people ...(*Interruptions*).. I request you to kindly confine to the issue. Let us confine ourselves to the issue.

श्रीमति सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : सभापति महोदय, ये क्या कह रहे हैं? ...(*व्यवधान*)... जो इतिहास हैं, उसको सामने लाने का हमें पूरा अधिकार है। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, all of you.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: (Maharashtra): He is quoting facts from history. ...(*Interruptions*)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr Alphonse, please confine yourself to the present issue.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very sorry. I am really getting agitated.

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): It is history. ...*(Interruptions)*.; This has happened all over the world. If religion ...*(Interruptions)*'..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, all of you. ...*(Interruptions)*.. I am on my legs, please sit down.
श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : आप इतिहास को बदलना चाहते हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

एक माननीय सदस्य : हमारा मुंह मत खुलवाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*... हमारा मुंह मत खुलवाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : इतिहास से सबक तो ले सकते हैं आप लेकिन इतिहास को बदल नहीं सकते ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI JIBON ROY: He is the religious leader of millions all over the world. ...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Roy, please sit down. Mr. Alphonse, please do not extend it. Do not go beyond the issue. And finish it, please.

SHRI JIBON ROY: They have to read the history. ...*(Interruptions)*.. You do not know the history. There were religious killings in the past.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : ये इतिहास को बदल रहे हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*... क्या इतिहास वही होगा जो ये बताएंगे? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr Alphonse, please confine yourself to the visit of the Pope. Nothing more.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Sir, I have not gone out of the brief.

SHRI JIBON ROY.'

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what is said by the hon. Member whom I have allowed to speak.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: The Pope, during his last visit, made the purpose of his visit to the various parts of the country very clear to the entire world. When he came to our land, immediately after his arrival, he kissed the mother land. What for? He said, "This is the land which is the home for thousands of centuries of spiritual history." That is why he kissed the land and said, "I have come here not to Christianise India but to Indianise Christianity. I am here to benefit from the rich traditions of India." Why should your suspect it? I know that you do not do it just as that. You do it because of elections in U.P. You want to play the game in a different way. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Duraisamy (*Interruption*). No, nothing, Mr. Alphonse. You have gone beyond the limit. You have pinpointed the idea. (*Interruption*). No Mr. Duraisamy.

SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY (Tamil Nadu): I thank you very much, Sir.

Our country is a secular state. Minorities are respected and protected.

The majority should protect and safeguard the interest of the minority. In order to show to the world that our country is a secular State, we should invite the most reverent Pope as our distinguished guest. We all hope that during his visit to India, harmony and peace will prevail among all the communities. In order to demonstrate our respect towards our culture and traditions, we should invite the Pope to our country.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, from our experience in this country and from our experience all over the world, whenever the expression of intolerance is expressed, it complements and supplements the other elements in the other religions. The visit of Pope Paul should be taken as an opportunity to tell the whole world about the glorious traditions of Hinduism and the great Hindu religion, that is, tolerance, co-existence, love and affection which the great Hindu religion has always upheld. Sir, we have seen that whenever the limits were crossed, the result has been obvious. I would like to say this with all the force at my command. I do not want to cast aspersions on anybody. Sir, this type of language was once used by Bhindranwale when he used to say this thing and that thing and his utterances ultimately resulted in chaos and the unfortunate long years of killings. I humbly request the Government of India to kindly intervene and come openly to receive the Pope and welcome his visit to this country. It will be a befitting expression in the old glorious traditions of this country. Thank you.

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा (बिहार) : धन्यवाद सभापति जी। महामहिम जो पोप जो वेटिकन के शासक और दुनिया के बहुसंख्यक लोग जिस धर्म से बिलोंग करते हैं, वह धर्म हैं क्रिश्चियेनिटी उसके वह धर्म प्रधान है, वह इस देश में आ रहे हैं। इस देश के कुछ संगठनों ने कुछ विवादास्पद बयान वगैरह जारी किया है। मुझे याद आ रहा है जब क्वीन ऑफ इंग्लैंड, क्वीन एलिजाबेथ आ रही थी 1977 में उस समय मैं मिनिस्टर ऑफ इंचार्ज थी उनकी विजिट की। मुझे याद है उस समय भी इसी प्रकार का विवाद शुरू हुआ था क्योंकि जलियावाला बाग में अंग्रेजों ने लोगों को मारा था, यदि वे भारत आएंगी तो उनकी इसके लिए माफी मांगनी चाहिए। सिचुएशन इस तरह से क्रिटिकल हो गई थी, उस समय लगता था कि शायद सरकार को कहना पड़े कि आप मत आएं। लेकिन मैंने देखा उनका 10 दिन का विजिट था, कहीं कोई विवाद नहीं हुआ। वे जलियावाला बाग में गईं और वहां जाकर उन्होंने फूल चढ़ाए। लेकिन उन सिखों ने जिन्होंने विरोध में बयान जारी किया था उन्होंने भी कोई आपत्ती नहीं की, कोई अप्रिय घटना भी नहीं घटी, केवल जब हम कोचीन में गए वहां जरूर होटल के सामने एक डिमोस्ट्रेशन हो गया। किन लोगों ने किया यह पता नहीं चला। तो इस तरह का विवाद कभी-कभी हो जाता है। हमें उसमें नहीं पड़ना चाहिए। कोई

संस्था या संगठन अपनी इच्छानुसार, अपनी दृष्टि के हिसाब से कोई बात कहता है तो उसको बहुत तूल नहीं देना चाहिए। पोप इस देश में आ रहे हैं भारत सरकार के नियंत्रण पर, वे राष्ट्र प्रधान हैं, भारत सरकार निश्चित रूप से उनके अनुरूप, उनके पद के अनुरूप, उनको सम्मान देगी और उनके लिए जो कुछ संभव है वह करेगी।

जहां तक बाकी धर्मगुरुओं की उनसे मिलने की बात है तो यह उनके ऊपर है कि वह कैसे मिलेंगे, क्या करेंगे। भारत की परम्परा वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् की है। हम सबको बराबर मानते हैं, हम सबको मित्र मानते हैं तो वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् की परम्परा को निभाते हुए निश्चितरूप से पोप की होने वाली यात्रा सफल होगी। यदि कोई छोटी-छोटी बातें कहीं पर उठाता है तो उसको तूल देने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है।

इस देश में हम लोगों ने हिन्दु धर्म में देखा है। एक साथी ने कहा कि शैव और वैष्णवों में मार काट होती थी शंकराचार्य से पहले। शंकराचार्य ने शैव धर्मावलंबियों और वैष्णवों को यह करने का प्रयास किया और हर जगह शिव और विष्णु की आधी-आधी मूर्तियां उन्होंने बनाई। हमारे यहां बिहार में हरिहर नारायण की मूर्ती है। यह तो हुआ है। इस पर कोई विवाद का रूप नहीं देंगे। यह कहना कि भंयकर अनर्थ होने वाला है, यह सही नहीं है। कुछ नहीं होने वाला है। उनकी विजित निश्चित रूप से बहुत शांतिपूर्ण तरीके से होगी। भारत सरकार उनकी अगुवाई करके जो उनके सम्मान के लिए करना है। करेगी।

श्री संजय निरुपम (महाराष्ट्र) : सभापति महोदय, आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया इसके लिए धन्यवाद। पोप का भारत आना निश्चित रूप से कोई पाप नहीं है, उनका स्वागत होना चाहिए। वे एक राष्ट्राध्यक्ष हैं और एक सम्प्रदाय के प्रमुख भी हैं। लेकिन प्रश्न यह है कि वे किस नाते से हिन्दुस्तान में आ रहे हैं? वे एक राष्ट्राध्यक्ष के तौर पर आ रहे हैं या एक सम्प्रदाय के प्रमुख के तौर पर आ रहे हैं, क्या एक राष्ट्राध्यक्ष के तौर पर भारत सरकार ने उनको निमंत्रण किया है? जहां तक मेरी जानकारी है कि उन्होंने भारत आने की अनुमति मांगी है और भारत सरकार ने उनको अनुमति दी है। अगर वे राष्ट्राध्यक्ष के तौर पर आ रहे हैं तो भारत सरकार को चाहिए कि उनके सारे कार्यक्रमों की जानकारी ले, उनके क्या कार्यक्रम हैं, कहां जा रहे हैं उनका इस देश में आना शुभ हैं, अशुभ हैं, मैं इस विवाद में नहीं जा रहा हूं। अगर विरोध हो रहा है तो उसके पीछे बहुत कारण हैं। जो वातावरण हमारे देश में बना हुआ है, इस वर्ष चर्चों पर हमले हुए। इन हमलों में कितनी सच्चाई है, मुझे इस विवाद पर भी नहीं जाना है। लेकिन इस देश का जो बहुसंख्यक समाज है उसके मन में डर लग रहा है। सभी जानते हैं कि हमारे देश में जबरन धर्मान्तरण की एक परम्परा रही है। यह आज कोई नहीं बात नहीं है। मैं यहां कोई चार सौ वर्ष पुरानी बात ही नहीं कह रहा हूं, आज भी जारी है इस देश में। तो इस ...**(व्यवधान)**... एक मिमिट बोलने दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): No, no no.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Please let me speak**(interruptions)**..
Please let me speak.....**(interruptions)**..

नहीं सर मुझे कम्पलीट करने दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Maharashtra): Sir, I am on a point of order (interruptions)....

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE (Maharashtra): Sir, is it relevant to the visit of Pope? ... (interruptions)...

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : चेयरमैन सर, ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री संजय निरुपम : आप लोगों ने जो बिलना था बोला, मुझे अपनी बात कहने दीजिए ईमानदारी से ...(व्यवधान)... यह गलत बात होगी।

मैं वही बोल रहा हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)... पोप के भारत आने पर लोगों को एतराज है। अभी दो दिन हुए हैं। पहले सुनिए। सदन की यही परम्परा रही है। ...(व्यवधान)... अभी दो दिन हुए हैं ...(व्यवधान)... पहले सीखिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप चिल्ला रही हैं तो मुझे भी चिल्लाना आता है। ...(व्यवधान)... मैं चिल्लाना शुरू करूंगा तो कोई नहीं बोलेगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir. you have just now said that the speeches should be confined only to the visit of Pope.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The speeches should be confined only to the Pope. Nothing more.

श्री संजय निरुपम : सभापति महोदय, मैंने साफ-साफ स्पष्ट कर दिया है कि पोप का स्वागत होना चाहिए, मैं उसका विरोध नहीं कर रहा हूँ। लेकिन जिन तत्वों ने जिन संगठनों ने विरोध किया है उस विरोध के पीछे के कारणों को समझना होगा।

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: It should be expunged from the record. MR.

CHAIRMAN: Please complete it. बस अपनी बात खत्म करिए।

श्री संजय निरुपम : महोदय, मैं बताना चाह रहा हूँ कि अगर पोप आयेंगे तो निश्चित तौर पर उड़ीसा जायेगे, दांग जायेंगे। भारत सरकार और श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी के प्रयास से भारत ने एक सांप्रदायिक सदभाव जैसा माहौल बना दिया है। जब वे दांग और उड़ीसा जाएंगे तो एक सदभाव का माहौल टूटेगा बिगड़ेगा, खराब होगा। ...(व्यवधान)... पोप राष्ट्राध्यक्ष हैं उनको कोई अधिकार नहीं है। भारत के अंदरूनी मामले में कुछ बोलने का ...(व्यवधान)... इस बात का ख्याल रखना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please confined to this. That is all right. ... (interruptions)

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Sir, it is against the Rules of Procedure... (interruptions)... He cannot speak like this.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir, he is making most objectionable remarks.

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु : धमकी नहीं चलेगी। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री संजय निरुपम : महोदय, मुझे अपनी बात कहने दीजिए। यह गलत बात है। महोदय, यह गलत हो रहा है मुझे नहीं बोलने दिया गया तो फिर मैं किसी कि नहीं बोलने दूंगा। मैं सम्मिशन दे रहा हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please complete it now.

Please complete now. (*Interruptions*). Please wind up (*Interruptions*).

श्री संजय निरुपम : सभापति महोदय, मैं कैसे वाइन्ड अप करूं, मैं कैसे कम्पलीट करूं अगर इस से विरोध होता रहेगा ...(व्यवधान)...। सामने जो बैठे हैं उन्हें समझाएं कि थोड़ी शांती रखें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The leader of the House will reply to all the points. About certain things which the hon. Member mentioned, I have said, "Please confine to the point." Let us keep up a better atmosphere. Let us not create an atmosphere which is not suited to our culture.

श्री संजय निरुपम : सभापति महोदय, मैं सिर्फ यह कहना चाह रहा था कि कुछ हिन्दु संगठनों ने ऐसी मांग की है कि पोप आ रहे हैं, बेशक वे आएंगे लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान में 400 वर्ष पहले गोवा में जिस तरह एक फोर्सिबल कन्वर्शन हुआ, जबर्न धर्मान्तरण हुआ, उस धर्मांतरण के लिए वे क्षमा मांगें ...(व्यवधान)... मैं मांग नहीं कर रहा हूं मैं उस मांग का जिक्र कर रहा हूं ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: He is misleading the House. (*Interruptions*). **श्री सभापति** : देखिए ...(व्यवधान)... आप सुनिए ...(व्यवधान)... उन्होंने जिक्र किया था, मैंने मना कर दिया था। पुरानी बातों को याद मत कीजिए, नया हिन्दुस्तान बनाना है।

श्री संजय निरुपम : सभापति महोदय, मैं केवल उस मांग का जिक्र कर रहा हूं कि इससे पहले भी जहां तक मेरी जानकारी है, मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार पोप अमरीका गये थे। जब अमरीका गये तो वहां के रैड इण्डियन्स ने मांग की थी कि जो आप लोगों ने फोर्सिबल कन्वर्शन और जो औपनिवेशिक अत्याचार किया, उस अत्याचार के लिए आप माफी मांगें और पोप ने अमरीका जाकर माफी मांगी थी। अगर पोप ने अमरीका जाकर माफी मांगी थी तो हिन्दुस्तान आकर माफी मांगने में क्या एतराज है। ऐसा नहीं कि कहीं इस देश का नाम खराब हो जाएगा, ऐसा नहीं कि इस देश की इज्जत मिट्टी में मिल जाएगी। लेकिन पोप ने इस परम्परा का पालन किया है। पोप ने यह परम्परा स्थापित की है। जिस देश ने अत्याचार किया उस देश ने वहां के लोगों से माफी मांगी है और अगर ऐसी माफी मांगने की परंपरा उन्होंने चलाई है तो अपने हिन्दुस्तान में भी माफी मांगनी चाहिए, बस मैं इतना निवेदन करूंगा। सभापति महोदय, धन्यवाद

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): All of us are aware that the revered Pope is visiting our country as the Head of a State. Sir, some news items have appeared in the Press that some unfriendly scenes will be created, or, some disturbances may take place. Sir, if some undesirable scenes are created during the Pope's visit, it will not be in tune with India's great traditions. Sir, our Chief Minister has already appealed to the Prime Minister. I once again, on behalf of my Party, i.e. the TDP, appeal to the Prime Minister to take all necessary measures to see that the Pope's visit goes off in a peaceful and harmonious manner. Sir, we should send a message to the world also that India stands for a culture of peace, harmony and friendship. We believe that the world is one family. Thank you.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM (Tamil Naud): I would like to inform this House that we have different religions and different political parties in our country. But during the last one-and-a-half year, an ugly situation has developed in our country. A number of minorities from abroad have come to our country. I would like to inform the House that last year also, a similar incident took place in our country. My learned friend, Mr. Sanjay Nirupam, knows this very well. A sportsman from Pakistan came to our country. At that time, we had an alliance with the BJP. They took out processions and agitated in Bombay. And the same thing is being repeated now also when the Pope is visiting our country. As far as the Pope is concerned, he is a religious leader. Now, how are they going to protect the minorities? I would like to give some examples regarding my State. Recently, a small incident took place. No, it was not a small incident. It was an attack on the minorities and the churches in my district, Kanyakumari. We made a representation.. *...(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, please*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: My point is that*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): there is harmonious relationship in Tamil Nadu.... *(Interruptions.)*

Let him do something that creates an atmosphere of harmonious relationship.*(Interruptions)....*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No*(Interruptions)...* Nothing beyond this.*(Interruptions)* ... Nothing beyond this.*(Interruptions)...*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: He is unnecessarily raising some matters not related to his*(Interruptions)...*

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Sir*(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have finished. You have no more points. Shrimati Saroj Dubey.

श्रीमती सरोज दुबे (बिहार) : सभापति, महोदय, यह बहुत ही चिंता का विषय है कि पोप की भारत यात्रा को विवादास्पद बनाया जा रहा है। बजरंग दल और संघ परिवार के लोग जिस तरह की बयानबाजी कर रहे हैं, जिस प्रकार के धमकी भरे शब्दों का इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं, उसे अल्पसंख्यकों की भावनायें आहत हो रही हैं। वे एक बार फिर अपने को असुरक्षित महसूस कर रहे हैं और उनका धैर्य खत्म होता चला जा रहा है। पहले ही उनके साथ इतनी घटनायें हो चुकी हैं। ईसाई मूल के लोगों की नृशंस हत्याएँ हुई हैं उससे विश्व में हमारी छवि धूमिल हुई है। इस तरह से पोप की यात्रा कि विवाद का विषय बनाकर हमारी छवि को और धक्का लगेगा, ऐसा मेरा मानना है। हम भारतीय हैं और अपने यहां अतिथि सत्कार की एक शानदार परम्परा है। लेकिन इस तरह की बयानबाजी और रथ यात्रा से हम अपनी अतिथि सम्मान की परम्परा को विकृत करने का काम कर रहे हैं। हमारा देश सर्वधर्म समभाव को मानने वाला देश है।

हमारा धर्म बहुत उदार है। हम हर धर्म की अच्छी बातों को ग्रहण करना चाहते हैं। महोदय, अभी हमारे संजय निरुपम जी ने कहा है कि हम बहुसंख्यक हैं लेकिन हमारे मन में डर है कि उड़ीसा जायेंगे। गुजरात जायेंगे मैं उनसे पूछना चाहती हूँ कि अगर तुम बहुसंख्यक हो तो फिर तुम्हें डर क्यों है? उनको यह डर है कि अगर पोप गुजरात चले गए या उड़ीसा चले गए तो उनकी काली करतूतें सारी दुनिया के सामने उजागर हो जायेंगी ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't make it political now. You have made your points. *(Interruptions)* You have finished.*(Interruptions)*... Now you have finished. Mr. Vayalar Ravi. You will only associate.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by my colleague, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, and other hon. Members on this side, on the visit of His Excellency The Pope John Paul II to India on a goodwill mission and I appeal to the Government to take all necessary steps to uphold the high traditions and the ethos of our great country where certain fundamentalist elements are determined to disturb the visit.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heard with care what the various hon. Members had to say on the subject of the forthcoming visit of His Holiness, the Pope. I must share with the House an impression in my mind that the concern seems to be overstated. I will rather explain why. I am sure that once I explain, the Members will be satisfied. We seem to be crying fire. But there is no fire. Now, let me first place the facts of the matter for the consideration of the House. His Holiness, the Pope, is visiting India on the invitation of the Government of India, and it is this Government that had invited Him. I am astonished at some of the views that are being expressed. It is this Government that has sent an invitation to His Holiness, the Pope, and that invitation is, at least, about—I do not recollect the exact date—three and-a-half months old. That is why I say that when I heard the views that were expressed by various Members, I am somewhat astonished because we are crying fire. But there is no fire. Let it also be understood that His Holiness, the Pope, combines in himself the functions of both the Head of the Church and Head of the State.

That is the reality. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI M.J. VARKEY MATTATHIL (Kerala): This is the first statement being made by a responsible person in your Government *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I really do not know...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI M.J. VARKEY MATTATHIL: This is the first statement made by the Government.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: No, this is not the first *(Interruptions)*. Let me finish. Let it also be understood that when the visit of the Pope was worked

out, simultaneously—I am sure my hon: friends know this very well—whereas India invited His Holiness to visit India, our neighbours like the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and even our next door neighbour, Sri Lanka, did not extend him any invitation. I am sure, it has caught the attention of my friends. But, notwithstanding that, and knowing that some of the neighbouring countries had taken this step which they have, the Government after reflection and examination of this issue extended the warmest possible invitation to His Holiness the Pope to visit India.

Now, a number of other issues have been raised under the guise or on piggy-back upon His Holiness's visit. It is not my intention to enter into all those issues. There are aspects, for example, of proselytizing. This is not the occasion to discuss that. There are aspects of repentance. Even though repentance is a Christian ethics, a part of ethics of charity, we are not talking here of repentance by the Head of the Catholic Church. Even though the Head of the Catholic Church has also on an earlier occasion and recently also, as the Head of the Church and, as a part of the ethics of that Church.... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI JIBON ROY: They should not *have...* *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Admittedly, I am almost faithless because I pursue no faith. But some of my friends who are persuaded by the catholic faith know very well that there is dissent and in pursuance of that ethics if the Head of the Church elsewhere had expressed repentance, that is a different matter altogether. Hon. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I have a point of order. Repentance for what? *(Interruptions)*. This is outrageous. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka): *Repentance for what?*

MR. CHAIRMAN: *Please let him complete. (Interruptions)*. Please, let him complete. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Why is he talking like this? Let him talk openly. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): Sir, the Leader of the House is endorsing what we are condemning. *(Interruptions)*. All of us have condemned the viewpoint of the VHP. Now the Leader of the House is endorsing the VHP's viewpoint. It is very unfortunate. Is this the way to build a consensus?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: They have no respect for anybody.. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI MD. SALIM: This is the least expect from the Leader of the House... (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATHI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I want to ask the Leader of the House: What does he expect the Pope to express repentance for? How can he say that? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JIBON ROY: You are supporting the work...(*Interruptions*) You are taking a dangerous position? (*Interruptions*) He is denigrating the Christian community... (*Interruptions*) He is denigrating the people of this country..*(Interruptions)*

. MR. CHAIRMAN: Please...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Let me explain...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: I am on a point of order...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Let me explain, Mr. Chairman, . Sir..*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Can the Leader of the House kindly yield for a minute? When the Leader of the House speaks, he speaks not only on behalf of the Government, but sometimes he also represents the sentiments of the whole House. Therefore, I would most respectfully submit to the Leader of the House that sensing the feelings of a cross-section of the House, he should not use such phrases and nuances which could be interpreted, and which should be interpreted, as some sort of a loaded question. The word which he has used about 'repentance' can be interpreted in various ways. And, most respectfully, I would like to submit to the Leader of the House to avoid such phrases, where the intention of the host Government may be mistaken. Because he represents the host Government. He himself, on behalf of the host Government, had extended an invitation to the Head of another Government. He will be the principal interlocutory with the persons who are coming. Therefore, his every word should be guarded, and it should not give any scope for a wrong interpretation, and, therefore, the loaded word 'repentance' should be abandoned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Let him speak now.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I take seriously what hon. Pranabbabu has said. I simply pointed out,—not any expectation, not any demand, not any enunciation of a viewpoint—I simply illustrated a part of the Christian ethics because this is...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JIBON ROY: You should understand what you are speaking..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Let me finish, Sir ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JIBON ROY: You are handing over an instrutment of denigration to the people outside. ...*(Interruptions)* You are provoking them...*(Interruptions)* You invited him and you are denigrating him too.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Why do you want to repeat that word?
(Interruptions)

SHRI JIBON ROY: He should know...*(Interruptions)* You make him understand what he is speaking...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will you permit me to carry on? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I protest. He says. "The Leader should understand what he is speaking". How can he say that?/merrup(io/is)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Leader of the House kindly yield? Sir, I would just plead with my friend, the Leader of the House, whom I highly respect, to appreciate that this question of repentance will definitely inflame passions, and that is really the purpose why the extremist organizations, the divisive forces, are asking for repentance.

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It is not because they are bothered about repentance. There are so many things to repent for. Everyday we have to repent for so many things. The question of repentance is to create a divide, to create a hate-atmosphere and, therefore, appreciating that, please, forget and withdraw that word.
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody should speak now. Let him complete.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I referred to the issues that were, while discussing the visit of His Holiness, the Pope, introduced as aspects of the visit. I did not refer...

(Interruptions)

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: You should withdraw the word 'repentance'

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Another aspect that was referred to...
(Interruptions)

SHRI JIBON ROY: You see, this is the culture of this Government
(Interruptions) You must withdraw it.

(Interruptions)

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Mr. Minister, please withdraw that word
(Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: We requested the Foreign Minister to withdraw that particular expression. He has not done it. In protest, we are walking out.

(At this stage some hon. Members left the Chamber.)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I appeal to the hon. Leader of the House to understand the implication of the word that he has used and, therefore, I request him to kindly withdraw this, in consonance with the tradition of India. Kindly withdraw. (Interruptions)

(At this stage some hon. Members left the Chamber.)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman. Sir, I will be very brief now. But I am saddened that the Opposition has found it convenient to walk out. That was my apprehension and that is why I had said that piggyback on the occasion of His Holiness's visit, extraneous elements had been introduced. I need to take only one aspect. A mention was made of certain incidents, that had taken place earlier this year. In regard to those incidents, a sitting judge of the Supreme Court has already inquired into a major one. The sitting judge of the Supreme Court has given his findings. I do not have to go into those findings. The sitting judge's report speaks for itself. Sir, the fears are overstated. Let me state very clearly and categorically that any guest to India is a very welcome guest because we continue to function on the basis of *Atithi Devo Bhavah*. In this particular case, the head of the Church, the head of the Catholic Church and the Head of the State of Vatican, is coming to India on the invitation of this very Government and, therefore, it did not require on the part of my friends in the Opposition, who seem to have come prepared to create and issue where there is no issue, to stage a walk out. I am saddened by that development. But it seems to fall into part of a pattern. It is the responsibility of this Government. The Government will fulfill its responsibility impeccably. I have one final sentence. Just a few days back, perhaps last week or ten days back, a weekly journal had asked me this very question. I haven't seen what the weekly journal¹ has published. But I am informed. Sir, that my reply there to that weekly journal and I am confident that that has been reproduced faithfully—when this question was asked—was, and I repeat, that His Holiness, the Pope, is a guest of the Government of India, of all of India and, in deed, the dates of his visit coincide with the great festival of Diwali, the festival of lights when Ram, after conquering over evil returned to his capital. What better than that on such a joyous occasion, a head of another State, other church and other religion should also be participating with us during those festivities. It is only befitting of India and it is our commitment, Sir, I said so openly that we are committed to

ensuring that the visit of his Holiness the Pope during the dates of 5th to 8th November is a glittering success. That is all that I have said.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me say on this subject first.

SHRI M. VINKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I will be very brief. Sir, try to respect our sentiments also. They go on making running commentary. They don't understand our hurt feelings. I have no words to say. I am sorry. See, they took the name of RSS Chief. In what way he is connected here? Mr. Chairman, Sir, I don't know whether you were able to hear him or not, but in what way the Chief of the RSS is connected with this? I humbly request that the names of the organisations and the name of the Chief of the RSS should be deleted from the proceedings because this House should not be allowed to denigrate the persons who are also patriots. They are also nationalist forces. They can have their view. The BJP has taken a view that the Pope is welcome, all respect should be given to him. Nobody object from the party also. Not only that, even the RSS Chief has said it.

I want to put it on record, Sir, that RSS or the Vishwa Hindu Parishad or even other organisations, as I could read in newspapers, nobody has opposed the visit. Let us maintain peace and harmony. Let us not inflame passions by our speeches here in this House. This is my request.

OBSERVATION BY THE HON'BLE CHAIRMAN

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, hon. Members, whatever has happened, in spite of walk-out or raising some objections, I would like the country to know that the general consensus of this House is that as Indians we are heirs to a great cultural tradition of tolerance shaped- by Buddha, Mahavira, the Sufis, Ramakrishna Paramhansa, Swami Vivekananda and Gandhiji. Gandhiji used to say, "You can never be a good Hindu unless you are a good Christian." Vinoba Bhave said that India's biggest contribution in this century is Sarvadharm Prarthana, prayer of all religions. That is what the biggest contribution of this century to the whole mankind and all religions is. I think, on this issue, whatever Members might have said, there is a general consensus of this House. Whatever you might say otherwise; His Holiness, the Pope is our honoured guest. Besides being the head of a religious community, he is also a head of State. It is our duty—as the Leader of the House has also said and each one of us has said—to give him the honour he deserves. We owe it not to the Pope, but also to ourselves, to our culture, to Gandhiji, our freedom traditions that it should be the same honour everywhere, during this period when he comes here and even afterwards, so that in the new world where religious terrorism is growing, India sets an example that terrorism and fundamentalism cannot besiege religions. Religion has to rise to spirituality so that India can become a light to the whole world.