

other business.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: I would make my statement. I must say that the Government is prepared to accommodate and Ministers are not above the rules of this House or the conventions of this House. We are bound to respect the sentiments of the Members. Therefore, I agree with their sentiments. It is not that I am taking any objection. I was called by the Chair because it has been listed in today's business at 4.30 P.M. This matter has been discussed. I wrote a letter immediately. That is why it has been listed here. Therefore, I have been called by the Chair. Anyway, I would make the statement.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER ON THE COMMEMORATION OF BIRTH CENTENARY OF SHRI V.K. KRISHNA MENON

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): Madam Vice-Chairman and hon. Members, some concern was expressed in this august House on 6th March, 1997 regarding the celebration of birth centenary of Shri V.K. Krishna Menon. It was pointed out that even the inaugural function had been organised about a week ago and that very little time was left in the centenary year to implement the commemorative programmes and activities.

The Government decided to celebrate the birth centenary of Shri V.K. Krishna Menon for a one-year period beginning from 3rd May, 1996. The celebrations would thus conclude on 3rd May, 1997. It is true that the inaugural function of the celebrations could be held only on 1st March, 1997 and we deeply regret this delay.

But let me assure this House that this delay was not a result of neglect or any motive. A number of factors beyond our control combined to cause repeated postponement of the inaugural function. We shall now do our best to make up for this loss of time and monitor the implementation of the decisions taken by

the National Committee with regard to the centenary celebrations.

I would like to mention that a 71-member National Committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister is guiding the programmes and activities of the centenary year. A 16-member Sub-Committee of the National Committee was given the responsibility to draw up an Action Plan. I shall enumerate the important items of the Action Plan:

*The Prime Minister has already declared in this august House the Government's decision to name the Calicut Airport after Shri V.K. Krishna Menon.

*A commemorative postage stamp on Shri Krishna Menon will be released to 3rd May, 1997—the 101st birthday of Shri V.K. Krishna Menon.

*An annual V.K. Krishna Menon Memorial Lecture will commence from this year. The modalities of this lecture are being worked out by the Krishna Menon Society.

*National Book Trust will bring out an up-dated biography of Shri V.K. Krishna Menon. The task of writing the biography has been entrusted to Shri T.J.S. George and Shri V.K. Madhavan Kutty.

*A Seminar entitled, "India and the World" will be held on 14th March, 1997 at the Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, New Delhi.

*It is proposed to set up memorials of Shri Krishna Menon at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Midnapore and Trivandrum. A Committee has been constituted to develop the concept of these memorials. The Committee has already met and its recommendations will be available shortly.

*Chief Minister of Kerala has been requested to name the Town Hall at Trivandrum after Shri V.K. Krishna Menon.

*Texts and recordings of Shri Krishna Menon's U.N. Speeches have already been collected and published, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has now been requested to publish the speeches made by Shri Krishna Menon in Parliament.

*All assistance will be given to instal the bronze busts of Shri V.K. Krishna Menon at three locations in London viz. Camden, Nehru Centre and the Lohdon School of Economics.

Let me state with all sincerity at my command that we hold Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, one of the tallest leaders of his time, in the highest esteem. The Government shall, therefore, do its best to ensure that a befitting homage is paid to Shri Menon during the centenary year. It shall also be our endeavour to bring to light the contribution of Shri Menon in India's struggle for freedom as well as in building of a modern Nation-State after independence.

I look forward to getting in full measure the support and cooperation of all the Hon'ble Members of this august House for the success of our endeavours.

Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Thank you, Mr. Minister. There are a few Members who would like to seek certain clarifications on the statement. There are two names here. Shri John F. Fernandes.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Madam Vice-Chairman, we are going to conclude the Centenary Celebration on the 3rd of May this year. We hardly have 60 days. The hon. Minister has not explained what made the Government not celebrate the occasion for almost one year. Is it because of factors beyond our control? (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Krishna Menon was a towering personality. He did not only stum the

world by his speeches at the United Nations. He was India's High Commissioner in London. He was also the Defence Minister. We remember, in 1961, when Goa was liberated from the Portuguese colonial rule, he was the Defence Minister and he played a major role in making decisions. When decisions were not forthcoming from the highest quarters, it was he who gave firm guidelines and guidance to Defence to have a military action in Goa. And there was the successful Operation Vijaya. We have seen that. Now, I don't find anything constructive that the Government has mentioned. I would like to suggest one thing to the hon. Minister. As he was the Commissioner in London and we have our High Commission in London names as 'India House', I would like to know whether he will consider re-naming.

'India House' after V.K. Krishna Menon. Secondly, last year, I had been to the United Nations as a Member of the Indian delegation and I happened to meet a lady, Ms. Swadesh-Rana, there. She is an Under Secretary, working for the United Nations. She put up a proposal that what we need in the Indian Sub-Continent is a school of diplomacy. She has created a team over there where we can start our own school of diplomacy. She had given a note to me which I gave to the hon. External Affairs Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral. I would like to know whether the Government will take any initiative to help this institution. They do not want funds. They just want land here. They have enough funds. They have the school of diplomacy and they can train diplomats from the third-world countries who are looking to India for leadership. It is high time that we stopped looking to the West and stopped sending our officials to U.K. and other Western countries under the Colombo Plan. Will the Minister accept this suggestion? Again, the Minister has mentioned what the State Governments have to do, specially in naming the Town

Hall of Trivandrum. I think these matters should be left to the States. It is not proper for the Central Government to give directions or suggestions. Again, the hon. Minister has mentoined that all assistance will be given to instal the Bronze statue. I would like to know to whom this assistance will be given. I would also like to know whether any financial provision has been made and whether any statue will be installed in the precincts of Parliament. I hope the hon. Minister will react to my suggestions. With these few observations, I conclude.

SYED SIBTEY RAZI (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, before you call the next speaker, I would like to make one submission. I suppose, we are going to adjourn by five o'clock. First of all, we agreed that the Minister should make a statement and Members would not be permitted to seek clarifications today. If it is possible, we can keep the clarification business pending for some other day. Some of the Members mentioned in the beginning that the thrust of the debate had been scuttled. I request you to kindly postpone the clarification business for some other day because there are many speakers. This is a very important issue and it should not be taken lightly. Fifteen, twenty minutes are still there. So, I request that the clarification business should be postponed for some other day and the legislative business which was left before the statement of the hon. Minister started, should be taken up immediately. We should take up the legislative business. Our problem is that we are not going to give priority to the legislative business. In fact, it should be the worry of the Government. I am sorry to say that the Government is taking it so lightly. Later on, they will request us to sit beyond five o'clock. (Interruptions) The Government is not taking the legislative business seriously. (Interruptions) We spend a lot of time on other things. (Interruptions) If the

Government does not want our cooperation, then it is all right.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I got your point.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Rajasthan): Let the clarifications be over.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KKHAPARDE): Mr. Razi, I fully agree with you. I have only one more name now. I am not going to allow too many people to speak on this. If we leave this business for tomorrow, we will have the same problem. Let us finish it today itself because we have already started now.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, the clarification business should not be aborted. It should be allowed to continue. It may be five o'clock or five or ten minutes more than five o'clock. We are all unanimous on the point that has been mentioned. From tomorrow, let us see what we can do to improve the discussions. Today, let us not finish it up half-way.

SHRI M.A. BABY (Kerala): Madam, thank you very much for having permitted me. I have very few clarifications to seek. But while doing so, I want to share my slight disturbance over the fact that the Minister's statement lacks mentioning of a particular aspect of the contribution of Shri V.K. Krishna Menon. Madam, there is a reference being made to the contribution made by Shri Menon in the last but one paragraph wehre it is rightly stated:

"It shall also be our endeavour to bring to light the contribution of Shri Menon in India's struggle for freedom as well as in building of a modern Nation-State after independence."

This is a reference rightly made to the contribution done by Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, but after attempting to

make a succinct observation about the contribution made by Shri Menon, if you stop at this and fail to make a reference to the contribution Shri V.K. Krishna Menon has made as the co-author of India's Foreign Policy along with and under the leadership and guidance of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, I think it would be a great myth. It is not our business to make an assesment of the contribution made by Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, but history would definitely underline the most significant contribution of Shri V.K. Krishna Menon as the co-author of India's Foreign Policy, which is missing here. I don't think that this is an accidental omission. That is why I am very much disturbed. Madam, we know that we live in a particular international environment. If anyone of us had listened to the celebrated speech made by Bill Clinton, one would find that he was not speaking as the President of the United States of America, but he was speaking as the President of the world. While listening to the speech of Bill Clinton, who was speaking as if he was the President of the world, I felt like having a person like Shri V.K. Krishna Menon to stand up and fight not only for the country but also for the entire third world and also for the entire humanity which respects human dignity. Madam, I feel that we will be paying a befitting tribute to Shri V.K. Krishna Menon by naming an airport after him and by unveiling his bust. We can unveil his portrait in the Central Hall. Madam, I also feel that the most befitting tribute to Shri V.K. Krishna Menon would be to assimilate and translate to this world—I reiterate “assimilate and translate” the foreign policy perception developed by Shri V.K. Krishna Menon. I think that the foreign policy perception can not be taken ditto by today's world. It is a changed world therefore we have to assimilate what he preached. I do not want to go any further. This aspect is missing in the statement. This is something about which I feel very sad.

Madam, I would only make one or two

brief points. The Prime Minister was kind enough to spontaneously announce that the Calicut airport would be named after Shri V.K. Krishna Menon. But now I have information from reliable sources that the Government is re-thinking about this. It is not that an airport should not be named after Shri Krishna Menon. Instead of Calicut, another airport in Kerala should be named after him this is the live of thinking of the Govt. I have some information. Since the hon. Minister has made this statement today, and the Prime Minister has already made a statement, I don't want this Government to be caught on the wrong foot because we are supporting it, but we are supporting it from inside as a constituent of the United Front. Therefore, I request the Minister to be very clear about it. I don't want the Minister to make another commitment. The other day, the Prime Minister made a commitment. Today, the Minister is reiterating the commitment. But I have information that the Government is thinking of naming another airport in Kerala after Shri Krishna Menon. The Minister must clarify it.

Madam, another point is that two months have passed...(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Please conclude.

SHRI M.A. BABY: I am concluding, Madam. There is a precedent perhaps, when the birth centenary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was celebrated, some functions were allowed to spill over, some activities were allowed to be carried forward even after the final conclusion. Here, I would like to make a suggestion to the Government. October 6 is the death anniversary of Shri Krishna Menon. If we allow the birth centenary celebrations of Shri V.K. Krishna Menon to continue after 3rd May up till his death anniversary which falls on 6th October, we will have another six months and we will be in a position to organise more befitting functions in memory of this great son of our country. With these

suggestions and seeking specific information with regard to the naming of an airport after him, I conclude.

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI (Rajasthan): Madam Vice-Chairman, it is with great disappointment I refer to this statement of the Government. Perhaps, the Minister is ignorant of what has already been done and is trying to take credit for what others have done. I would like to seek some particular clarifications. How many meetings of this National Committee of 71 members have been held during this period? How many meetings of this 16-members sub-committee have been held? I want to know categorically the number of meetings held and the dates when they have been held.

As an hon. Member from Goa has suggested, I would like to point out to the House that Mr. Krishna Menon himself had established an Institution of Diplomacy. It is located in Scindia House at Connaught Place. The construction of a new building for this institution has already begun. It was suggested that it should be named after him. But because of petty controversies it was not named after him. I would request the hon. Minister to inquire into this and the Institution of Diplomacy should be shifted from Scindia House to the new building and it should be named after him.

Another point which I want to make is that the Government should not take credit for publishing the speeches of Mr. Krishna Menon at the United Nations. It is not the Government who has published them. It was Mr. Reddy, Mr. G. Parthasarathy and the present Chairman of the Rajya Sabha who had taken the initiative for publishing those speeches. The Government has no moral right to take credit for publishing his speeches at the United Nations.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: I have not taken any credit for it.

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI:

Then why have you mentioned it here? the Government has not done it. No Government has done it. (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Chaturvedi, you please make your point.

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: I welcome this suggestion of asking Mr. T.J.S. George to write his biography. He has already written a biography. It is a very good suggestion and I welcome it.

Another suggestion which I want to make is this. Mr. Krishna Menon made a will in favour of Mrs. Gandhi. All his speeches, all his letters and all his other documents which were given to Mrs. Gandhi under a will are lying in the Nehru Museum. I will request the Government to publish those speeches, letters and other documents which are valuable as far as international diplomacy is concerned. They were given to Mrs. Gandhi under a will. So, the Government should take the responsibility. As Mahatma Gandhi's 125th birth anniversary celebrations were extended and as the birth centenary celebrations of others were extended, I submit, the Government should take the initiative to extend the birth centenary celebrations of Mr. Krishna Menon up till his death anniversary on 6th October, 1997. Thank you.

5.00 P.M.

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री (उत्तर प्रदेश): उप-सभापति महोदय, मैं बहुत ही आभारी हूँ कि इस महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर आपने मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया।

महोदय, जो राष्ट्र अपने महापुरुषों का स्मरण नहीं करता, उनके अनुकूल उनके स्मारक नहीं बनाता, उनकी भावना नई पीढ़ियों में प्रेरित नहीं करता, वह राष्ट्र कभी जीवित नहीं रह सकता, खड़ा नहीं हो सकता। इसलिए श्री वी०के० कृष्ण मेनन की जन्म शती मनाई जाए, यह एक बहुत ही सही निर्णय था। यह बहुत ही पीड़ा की बात है कि इसमें इतना विलम्ब हुआ और वह शती समारोह अभी तक शुरू नहीं हो सका। मैं "बीती ताहि बिसार दे, आगे की सुधि लेय" की नीति के अनुसार यह

अवश्य कहूंगा कि कश्मीर को भारत के साथ अविच्छिन्न रूप से बनाए रखने के लिए जो ऐतिहासिक कार्य उन्होंने संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ में किया था, उसका हम स्मरण करें और उसके अनुकूल हम कश्मीर को बराबर भारत के अविच्छिन्न अंग के रूप में बनाए रखने की प्रतिज्ञा लें।

मैं इस संदर्भ में एक स्मरण माननीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री जी को दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि कल इस सदन में समग्र रूप से महाकवि निराला ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया (बिहार): 5:00 बज गए हैं, अब बस कीजिए।

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री: मैं एक मिनट में समाप्त कर दूंगा कि महाकवि निराला ... (व्यवधान) ...

उप-सभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापड़ें): शास्त्री जी, एक मिनट। मैं आपको बताऊँ कि मैं यहाँ पर बैठकर हमारे माननीय सदस्यों की भावनाओं को समझ सकती हूँ। वे सब यह कह रहे हैं कि 5:00 बजे के बाद हम लोग नहीं बैठेंगे। एक बार यह फैसला हो गया ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री: मैं सिर्फ एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि कल सदन ने समग्र रूप से मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री जी से यह अपील की है कि महाकवि निराला की शत वार्षिकी को भी मनाया जाए उसकी ओर भी मैं आपका ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ।

उप-सभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापड़ें): मेरे पास काफी मैम्बर्स के नाम आए हैं, मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि कहीं न कहीं आपके थोड़ा सा ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: मैडम, 5:00 बज गए हैं, सदन की कार्यवाही को स्थगित कीजिए।

उप-सभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापड़ें): आप बोलना चाहेंगे अशोक मित्र जी? ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: हाउस बढ़ाया जाता है बजट के लिए लेकिन आज 6:00 बजे तक बैठने का क्या मतलब है? कोई टाइम लिमिट तो रहती है? कल इसको फिर कांटीन्यू कर लीजिएगा। ... (व्यवधान) ... कांटीन्यू कर लेंगे कल। ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल: कल प्रस्ताव रखा गया था कि कल बजट पर चर्चा होगी, उसके लिए हाउस का

समय बढ़ाया जाएगा, हम उसके लिए एग्री हो गए थे। आज सदन में बजट पर कोई चर्चा नहीं हुई। कुछ पता नहीं है कि कब चर्चा होगी। यह सरकार कुछ तय नहीं कर पा रही है। इसलिए ऐसी सरकार के साथ हम 5:00 बजे के बाद बैठने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं। यह बिजनेस कल की कार्यवाही में जाएगा। कल बिजनेस एडवाइज़री कमेटी की मीटिंग है। 12:00 बजे, उस समय फैसला करेंगे कि क्या होगा।

उप-सभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापड़ें): मुझे आज ऐसे वातावरण में एक और बात आप से पूछने का मन कर रहा है, जो मैं सदन में पूछना चाहूँगी। मेरे पास सैक्रेटरिएट से अभी एक ऐसा संदेश आया है कि गुजराल साहब ने कल जो बयान सदन में दिया था, उसकी क्लेरिफिकेशन के बारे में उन्होंने कहा था कि परसों में इन क्लेरिफिकेशन्स का आपको जवाब दूंगा। मुझे अभी जो मैसेज मिला, उसमें वह कहते हैं कि कल दोपहर 2:00 बजे आकर मैं आपको जवाब दूंगा। तो मैं आपसे पूछना चाहूँगी कि 2:00 बजे का समय आपको सूट करता है या नहीं?

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल: कल बिजनेस एडवाइज़री कमेटी की मीटिंग होगी और उसी में यह फैसला होगा।

SYED SIBTEY RAZI: We will discuss such matters with the hon. chairman in his chamber. These are not matters which could be decided in the House.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): We seek clarifications according to the sense of the House and not according to the timings of the Minister.

उप-सभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापड़ें): सैक्रेटरिएट से मेरा निवेदन रहेगा कि आप कल बिजनेस एडवाइज़री कमेटी की मीटिंग में या चेयरमैन साहब से यह बात कह दीजिएगा, फॉर्लियामेंटरी अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर से भी कह दीजिएगा कि मैम्बर्स आर नॉट एग्री दू दिस टाइम।

उप-सभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापड़ें): अगर सभी सदस्यों की इजाज़त हो तो मैं मंत्री जी को जवाब देने के लिए कहूँ? ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल: कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है। ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: नहीं, नहीं, कल करेंगे, अभी 5:00 बज गए हैं।... (व्यवधान)...

उप-सभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी स्मोज खापंडे): मुझे लगता है कि अगर और कोई सदस्य क्लेरिफिकेशन्स नहीं पूछना चाहते तो ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: कल करेंगे, ऐसे ही कांटीन्यू कीजिए इसको।... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Madam, I will take only five minutes... (Interruptions)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, that is not the question. I most humbly submit that when we were discussing this issue, perhaps some hon. Members were not present. We decided at that time that clarifications on a statement should not be postponed endlessly and they should be sought today. We discussed this issue earlier also. I think it will be doing injustice to those hon. Members who have given their names to speak ... (Interruptions) ... Please listen to me. You must allow me to speak. I suggest to the hon. Chairperson that seeking of clarifications should be allowed, at least today, for a limited period.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Let me ask Mr. Pranab Mukherjee what his opinion is. He is the seniormost Member in this House.

SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Madam, when we agreed to discuss the statement made by the hon. Minister, I intervened and requested you that other business be taken up. At that time, some Members said, "No, we should complete it today". We have already decided to sit only up to 5.00 P.M. That time-limit is over. Therefore, I suggest that this matter may be taken up some other day. When I made that point, it was not agreed to. You also did not agree. Since it is already 5.00 p.m., I think we should adjourn the House. You have again opened the Pandora's box.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): This is not fair. I have not opened the Pandora's box.

SYED SIBTEY RAZI: I am very sorry, Madam.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Please withdraw your remark.

SYED SIBTEY RAZI: I withdraw my word. Madam, don't be so sensitive. I withdraw my remark. The decision was that we should not sit beyond 5.00 p.m. and that the House should be adjourned at 5.00 p.m. In the meantime, you said that the Secretariat had sent another message. We started discussing that. That matter was over. Now, this can be taken up some other day. I feel the House should be adjourned now.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): I think we should adjourn the House now. Whatever unfinished business is there, it can be taken up some other day. It is for the Government to decide. If the Government itself is not serious, what can we do? My suggestion to you would be to adjourn the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I have heard enough. I have heard everybody.

SHRI M.A. BABY: Madam, please take your own decision.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Madam the Government is not serious about anything. It is not serious about discussing the Railway Budget, the General Budget or the Appropriation Bills. There is no co-ordination in the Government.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): After taking the sense of the House... (Interruptions)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Madam, it is already 5.00 p.m. We cannot sit beyond 5.00 p.m. It is already five minutes past five.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Okay. Okay... (Interruptions)...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: We are

sitting beyond 5.00 p.m. out of courtesy.

SHRI M.A. BABY: Madam, you can take any decision. My humble submission is that since the clarifications are over, the Minister may be allowed to give his reply to the debate. He may not take more than 7 minutes.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: We will hear him tomorrow.

SHRI M.A. BABY: Mdam, if you don't want to do that, you may adjourn the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS

SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Baby, let me tell you one thing. While sitting in the Chair, I am not supposed to take any decision. I will have to act according to the wishes of the House. I have seen the mood of the House. Hon. Members are not in a mood to sit beyond 5.00 p.m. It is already 5.10 p.m. In this situation, I adjourn the House till 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at seven minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 13th March, 1997.