

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Actually, at 5.00 p.m., the Home Minister is to make a statement on Amarnath Yatra. In the afternoon, hon. Members wanted the discussion on the Budget on continue up to 6.00 p.m. If the House agrees (*interruptions*)...

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, what they wanted was an uninterrupted discussion until 6.00 p.m. Now it is interrupted. The crucial question is, after he makes the statement, there are going to be clarifications on that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): The Home Minister has not yet come. Therefore, interruption has not yet started.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Mr. Salve is not expected to finish his speech within five minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): If the House so agrees ... (*interruptions*).. One minute. Let me solve the problem. The hon. senior leader has raised a question. I would submit that if the House so agrees, we will continue the discussion on the Budget up to 6.00 p.m.

5.00 P.M.

Then, we will take up discussion on the Home Minister's statement at 6'0 clock. If the House doesn't want, then we will take up the statement of the Home Minister. (*Interruptions*)

RE: DEMAND FOR A STATEMENT ON AMARNATH YATRA TRAGEDY—Contd.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: I think the consensus of the House at that point of time really was that the Home Minister may be requested to come at six so that the senior Members of the House representing various important political parties are able to finish their speeches and comments on the Budget. But it seems that somehow it has not worked, though I thought that probably the Government's response was positive. That is why it is only in the fitness of things, because if Mr. Salve has to start now, he will start only ritualistically and then he will have to continue with his speech the day after tomorrow, when we meet

again. If he starts now and then resumes after another hour, after the discussion on the Home Minister's statement is over, the chain of his thoughts and his presentation will be disturbed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): No, no. You have not followed what I said. If the House so agrees, we will continue with the Budget discussion and then at six we will ask the Home Minister to make his statement. But, if the Members want that the Home Minister's statement should be at 5 O'clock, we will go by that. The House is supreme. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh): But in the supplementary list ... (*Interruptions*) The Home Minister has come. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI (Madhya Pradesh): We may seek clarifications later.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: No, the clarifications must be taken up today.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): When there is division in the House, I will go by the supplementary list. If there is unanimity, then Mr. Salve can continue with his Budget speech up to 6 o'clock, as agreed to at 2 o'clock. Yes, Mr. Home Minister.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): I will abide by whatever your directions are. But my difficulty is that after he has made his speech ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE (Maharashtra): Are you going to allow clarifications?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): I would like to know the mood of the House. (*Interruptions*) If the House so agrees, ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI (Madhya Pradesh): If he makes the statement, you must allow clarifications right thereafter. Mr. Salve's speech may be postponed to the day after tomorrow. (*Interruptions*) Now that the Home Minister is here, let him make the statement.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Home Minister, will you make the statement at six? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I have to do whatever you direct me to do. But there is a Cabinet meeting at 6 o'clock which I would like to attend, if you allow me to. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I want to see your indulgence in one matter. I want not more than 15 minutes, but let that be uninterrupted. For me to make half a speech or one-fourth of the speech or one-third of the speech or one-tenth of the speech today and 90% of it the day after tomorrow, is a little difficult proposition.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Okay. Then we will take up the statement by the Home Minister today. You can continue with your speech the day after tomorrow. Mr. Home Minister, you have to make your statement now.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sir, I have a point. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): I have to take up Hanumanthappaji's point now. *(Interruptions)* One minute. First Hanumanthappaji wants to raise a point. I have to deal with that.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Actually, I had joined you in the morning in demanding a statement from the Prime Minister on this. He has made a statement in the Lok Sabha. If he doesn't make that statement in the Rajya Sabha, it doesn't send a good message. The Prime Minister cannot ignore the Upper House or take it lightly. If a statement is made by the Prime Minister on the issue, the Rajya Sabha has got every right to listen to him on that issue. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA (Bihar): You see, it is the Home Minister who has visited that area. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: That is not the issue. Who visited where is not the issue. The issue is whether the Prime Minister is giving the same respect to the Rajya Sabha or not. This is the question. *(Interruptions)* I am sorry. *(Interruptions)* My appeal is to the Chair. What is the prestige of this House? *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): One by one, please. One by one.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, it is not a question of party politics in this. A serious point about the respect of this House has been raised by Hanumanthappaji. I have great respect for the Home Minister. He is definitely the person to make a statement on this subject and there is nothing wrong about it. But the point raised is this. Once the Prime Minister himself took up the issue and made a statement in the other House, then how can he ignore this House?

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: We want to listen to the Home Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: The question is very important. I want to know from you whether it is right on the part of the Prime Minister, once he very rightly took up this matter in Lok Sabha, to ignore this House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सुरेश पबौरी: उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, यह जो वक्तव्य गृह मंत्री जी द्वारा दिया जा रहा है दरअसल यह उस तारतम्य में दिया जा रहा है, उस श्रृंखला की कड़ी में दिया जा रहा है जो कल प्रधान मंत्री जी ने बोला। इस वक्तव्य में भी उसका उल्लेख है। मैं आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहूंगा कि सेना और अर्द्धसैनिक बलों की सहायता से चलाए गए राहत और बचाव अभियानों के बारे में कल पहले ही लोक सभा में अवगत करा दिया गया। इस वक्तव्य में इस बात का उल्लेख है। इसका मतलब है कि कल जो वक्तव्य दिया गया है उस श्रृंखला की अगली कड़ी में इस वक्तव्य को जोड़ा जा रहा है। लिहाजा जब कल लोक सभा में यह वक्तव्य दिया जा चुका है तो कल राज्य सभा में क्यों नहीं दिया गया। मेरे साथी हनुमन्तप्पा जी ने जो प्रश्न उठाया है वह बहुत वाजिब प्रश्न है। उसकी पुष्टि स्वयं गृह मंत्री जी कर रहे हैं। प्रश्न इस बात का नहीं है कि गृह मंत्री जी वहां होकर आए हैं, प्रश्न इस बात का है कि कल प्रधानमंत्री जी ने लोक सभा में जो वक्तव्य दिया है उसे जारी रखते हुए उसमें निरन्तरता को बनाए रखते हुए यह वक्तव्य दे रहे हैं। इसलिए यह स्पष्टीकरण देना बहुत आवश्यक हो गया है।

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Mr. Vice-Chairman Sir, the point which has been raised by Shri Hanumanthappa is a vital one. This question has been raised a number of times, but unfortunately, a tendency is growing in this Government to ignore this House and slight this particular House. This point was also raised today in the afternoon. It is important that the Prime Minister has come to this House. I fully agree with the views of some of the hon.

Members that there is nothing wrong in listening to the Home Minister, but the point remains, and we want to know, as to who is responsible for Kashmir affairs in this Government, the Prime Minister or the Minister of Home Affairs. Last time also a statement on Kashmir was made by the Prime Minister in this House. We want to know in clear-cut terms as to what the categorisation and classification of work under the Allocation of Business is. Does it still rest with the Prime Minister's Office or it has been given back to the Ministry of Home Affairs? This point must be made clear once for all so that this kind of a confusion does not arise in future. Of course, the Prime Minister is always entitled to speak on any subject in the House as and when he likes.

[उपसभापति पीठसीन हुई]

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया (बिहार): महोदया, कल जब अमरनाथ यात्रा का मुद्दा इस सदन में उठाया गया था और इस मुद्दे को उठाते वक्त अध्यक्ष महोदय ने कंडोलेंस मैसेज भी पास किया, पूरे सदन ने कंडोलेंस मैसेज पास किया और फिर बारह बजे तक हाउस एडजर्न हुआ और उसके बाद जीरो आवर में यह मुद्दा उठा और उस वक्त बताया गया कि आज इस पर बयान होगा। पर हमें आश्चर्य हुआ। पता तो जरूर लगा टी.वी. के माध्यम से कि गृह मंत्री जी कश्मीर के दौरे पर हैं और पूरी रिपोर्ट लेकर आ रहे हैं। लेकिन दोपहर बाद यह भी पता चला कि प्रधान मंत्री महोदय ने उस सदन में लिखित स्टेटमेंट दिया। महोदया, इस सदन की परम्परा रही है कि जब भी कोई लिखित स्टेटमेंट या वक्तव्य लोक सभा में दिया जाता है या राज्य सभा में दिया जाता है तो वह दूसरे सदन में भी दिया जाता है। क्या कारण थे कि प्रधान मंत्री महोदय ने इस सदन की अवहेलना की और इस सदन का अपमान किया। क्या कारण है कि उन्होंने इस सदन में उठाए हुए मुद्दों का जवाब देना जरूरी नहीं समझा। क्या इस सदन की अवहेलना या अपमान नहीं है। और अगर अपमान है तो क्या प्रधान मंत्री महोदय इस सदन से माफी मांगेंगे और इस सदन के सामने ऐसा कहेंगे। (व्यवधान)।

अरे, आप अपनी बात रखिएगा, मुझे मेरी बात रखने दीजिए। ... (व्यवधान)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us find out from the Prime Minister. (Interruptions)

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: यह सदन की परंपरा की बात है। यह कोई व्यक्तिगत झगड़ा किसी से नहीं है। अगर

सदन की परंपरा से हट कर कोई आप करते हैं तो उसके लिए माफी मांगना अपमान नहीं है। सदन की परंपरा और सदन की परंपराओं की रक्षा करना और उसको बरकरार रखना, यह हमारा हरेक का फर्ज बनता है। हमारा देवेगौड़ा जी के साथ कोई मतभेद नहीं है, मैं सदन की परंपराओं की बात कर रहा हूँ। जब इस सदन में बात उठाई गई थी और इस सदन की परंपरा आज तक रही है...आपको इतना पता होना चाहिए कि लोक सभा में जब स्टेटमेंट दिया जाता है तो वहाँ क्लेरिफिकेशन का अधिकार नहीं है पर यहाँ परंपरा बनी हुई है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us find out the reasons from the Prime Minister. (Interruptions) Let the Leader of the House say something. (Interruptions)

ठीक है, अब आपने जो मुद्दा है, उसको उठा लिया।

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: मैं अंत में आ रहा हूँ महोदया।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the House is on his legs. (Interruptions) Ahluwaliaji, it is not fair.

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: एक मिनट मैडम, इस सदन में जब हमने यह मुद्दा उठाया तो लोक सभा में भी यही मुद्दा उठा था अमरनाथ यात्रा के बारे में। सारी दुनिया ने देखा पर उस सदन में प्रधान मंत्री जवाब दें और यहाँ पर एक * मंत्री भी जवाब देने के लिए तैयार नहीं है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is not going on record. (Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. (Interruptions) Just a minute please. (Interruptions)

Mr. Ahluwalia, just now you were asking the Prime Minister to maintain the *garima* of the House. But now are you keeping the *garima* of the House by calling the Ministers as * Ministers? It is not going on record. (Interruptions) Please sit down. (Interruptions) Please sit down. (Interruptions)

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: महोदया, मेरी बात सुनिए।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not listening you. (Interruptions)

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: मैडम, मेरा मुद्दा साफ है। इस सदन की गरिमा को अपमानित किया है प्रधान मंत्री ने। प्रधान मंत्री क्षमा मांगें इस हाउस से। यह किसी व्यक्ति से क्षमा मांगने की बात नहीं है। ... (व्यवधान)...

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

I am withdrawing the words, I never wanted to hurt anybody. I meant to say junior ministers. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is unparliamentary. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I was talking about the junior ministers. ...*(Interruptions)*... It meant junior ministers. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not allowing. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing is going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: He is withdrawing his words. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is not corrected. ...*(Interruptions)*... One minute please. If you keep quiet, I will handle the situation. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. Mr. Ahluwalia, there is a respectful language for use in this House whether junior or senior. But this is not the way how you speak. While you are giving sermons to everybody to keep the *garima* of the House you also should maintain the *garima* of the House. You are not doing it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I am withdrawing my words. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have maintained it. ...*(Interruptions)*... I never meant that. I never meant to insult anybody. My submission was just to mention junior ministers. I withdraw my words. ...*(Interruptions)*... Once again, through you, I seek an apology from the Prime Minister for insulting the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No apology. There is no insult. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Take your seats. I am not allowing anybody. Please take your seats ...*(Interruptions)*...

Just one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please keep quiet. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... If certain Members do not want to keep up the dignity, do you also want to join the same camp? If the Chair says, 'please sit down', then please sit down. It is not going on record. I have given my observation. I feel in this House many Members have got their views and they can raise the issues. We have never objected to it; the Chair has never

objected to it. But, there is a certain dignity which we should maintain. If certain Members do not want to keep up the dignity, it is a reflection on their character. Now, it is okay.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): Madam, with due respect to you and to this House I would like to say that this issue was mentioned in the morning when my hon. friend Mr. Chaturvedi was presiding. I had explained at that time. I am not sure whether my friend, Mr. Ahluwalia, was present or not. ...*(Interruptions)*...

AN HON. MEMBER: He was very much here.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: I had explained at that time that yesterday when the hon. Prime Minister made a statement in that House, there was a logistic difficulty and that logistic difficulty was that I was making a statement here and simultaneously the Prime Minister was speaking in that House. There explanations were given and it took time. I was explaining here and it also took time. It could not be coordinated. My hon. friend who was in the Chair accepted this explanation and the issue was closed. I am really surprised that a very senior and seasoned Member like Mr. Ahluwalia should raise this issue again. It can serve his purpose to catch the attention. I had explained at that time and I repeat that this Government has the utmost respect for this House. No intention has ever been there to reflect on the dignity of this House. Sometimes it does happen, it can happen. After all it is a human problem. When there are two Houses functioning simultaneously, sometimes logistics do come in the way. Therefore, I do not see anything about which he should be excited. Thank you very much.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Madam, I am the man who raised this issue. A statement was made by the Prime Minister in the Lok Sabha. Therefore, a similar statement should have come here in the Rajya Sabha also. If it has not come for whatever reasons, it is all right. I accept the explanation given by the Leader of the House that there were certain logistic difficulties. But, today's Agenda should have found a place for it or Supplementary Agenda should have come here. When the same subject

is coming, the Prime Minister has to come to this House and make a statement as he made in the Lok Sabha. A message should go that the Government is not disrespecting either of the Houses. That is the point. This is only a procedural point. We have nothing against anybody. We are talking only of the procedure of this House. I would like to remind the Leader of the House that on many occasions when he was sitting on this side, they had raised this issue and the ruling party had responded. We are only on the procedural point. On the same subject a statement is being made by the Home Minister; we accept it. We want to hear him because he has visited the place. But, the message should not go that the Prime Minister of this country has not given due respect to the Upper House. That is why we raised this procedural issue. The Prime Minister is here. ...*(Interruptions)*... He is happy. A wrong message should not go. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the House has explained. It is possible that things can happen like this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, I raised this issue in the morning and Mr. Hanumanthappa joined me. So, I may also be permitted to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Ahluwalia, are we going to discuss and spend the time of the House on the issue whether the Prime Minister should have made a statement here simultaneously or are you interested in Amarnath Yatra? Let me put it clearly. If the entire House is going to say the same thing, I think I can speak on this issue. He raised, you raised it, from this side or that side, that is not the point. The point here is that both the Houses should be taken into confidence.

I remember instances when the hon. Prime Minister made a statement in the Rajya Sabha on his own. I do not know what happened in the other House, whether they also objected to it. They have a right to object and to ask the Prime Minister that he should speak there also. There have instances when we had made a statements here either by this Government or the previous Government. The point over here is that, both the Houses should be taken into

confidence on important issues. Now, I think, enough has been said on it. The matter is closed.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Madam, let me make the record straight. Hon. Prime Minister made the statement in the other House at 5 o'clock and at 5 o'clock here ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is okay ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the Prime Minister say whatever he would like to say.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Madam, Deputy Chairman, first of all, I would like to clarify why I had not come to this House yesterday to make a statement. This is the issue raised by several senior Members. I want to make a very sincere appeal to all senior Members because I am a new Member—let me be very plain. In my life, whether it is in the Assembly or in the Lok Sabha—I was in the Lok Sabha for about 3½ years, I was one of the saddest persons, in my political career, to see how the standards have been going down day-by-day since 49 years. If we go back to our past history, then we will know how our forefathers have given sanctity, sacredness and prominence to this highest apex institution. If I have done anything wrong I am prepared to apologise. I do not want to stand on any *Izzat*. Let me be very plain on this issue. At least, hereafter, if you all collectively try to restore the image of the House then I will be the first man to cooperate with all the members. I do not want to stand on any formalities. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: That should be the spirit. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I am one of the saddest man. I used to sit in the back bench. I was in Lok Sabha for about 3½ years. How things went on, I could see with my own eyes. We should not deal with matters like this on party lines. It is the concern of everyone of us to try to restore the image of the highest apex institution in the country. Our forefathers have given us such a valuable system. I think, this system cannot be replaced by any other system. I will tell you very frankly, we are going down every day. What happened yesterday? It was

not done at my instance. It is not *suo motu* statement. In the morning, in the meeting of leaders of all Parties, a decision was taken that after the visit of the Home Minister to the affected area, after he comes back, let there be a statement by the Home Minister and after that we will discuss the issue. Unfortunately, the decision taken in the meeting of all party leaders, In the Speaker's Chamber, was somehow not implemented. They came to the House and started moving an adjournment motion. I do not want to cast any aspersions against anybody, either this House or that House. What was agreed in the Presiding Officer's meeting, was totally given a go-by and they started a discussion. And the Speaker directed me that I should make a statement at 5 o'clock. Otherwise, there is no question of my making any statement. He directed me, "Even if the Home Minister does not come before 5 o'clock, with whatever information that is available, you make a statement."

After I made the statement, the Members went on seeking clarifications. There was further discussion. It went on.

Today, Madam, after the Question Hour, at the time of the Home Minister making a further statement on the basis of his visit to the area and on the basis of the information which he had collected, I wanted to stay there. Again, the discussion went on. That is why I requested your goodness that I would be coming by 3.30 p.m. or 4 p.m. to make my statement. This is all that has happened.

There is no question of showing any disrespect, there is no question of showing any disregard, to this House or to the other House. If there had been any lapse on my part, I would like to apologise. There is no question of standing on any prestige. Madam, I had never used any unparliamentary language. During my tenure in Karnataka, no Speaker of the Assembly had ever expunged any such remark because I had never used any unparliamentary language. I would like to tell you very frankly. That is not my culture.

Madam, I am not greater than the House. I am not greater than the House; whether I am Prime Minister or no Prime Minister. The points, everyone of us must respect and restore

the prestige of the House. I am one with you. There is no question of showing any type of disrespect to this House or to the other House.

Madam, now, with your permission, I would like to read out the statement which I made in the other House yesterday. I would like to read out the statement here.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prime Minister, I think you can lay it on the Table of the House. The statement made by you yesterday must have appeared in today's newspapers.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I would like to lay it on the Table of the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can lay it on the Table of the House. Then, the Home Minister can make his statement in the House. There is no need for you to read it out.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER AMARNATH YATRA

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Madam, I lay on the Table a statement on the Amarnath Yatra tragedy.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the Home Minister to make his statement.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Rajasthan): Madam, is there some difference between what the hon. Prime Minister had said in his statement yesterday and the Home Minister's statement?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Naturally, Mr. Agarwal. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Any clarifications or any other decision taken in the House after further discussion, I am prepared to co-operate. There is no question of showing any disregard.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Home Minister had gone there. He had seen the situation there. Therefore, his statement would contain things which he had seen on the ground.

The Home Minister, please.