

RE. STOPPAGE OF FINANCES TO
KERALA FOR I.R.D.P.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN (Kerala): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I want to draw your attention to a very serious situation that has developed in the State of Kerala because of which there is going to be a real Constitutional breakdown. The Government of India has now stopped all funds for rural development saying that the State Government has failed to conduct the Panchayati elections. Also, the Union Minister, Thakur Sahab, has threatened the State saying that if elections are not going to be conducted in time, a Constitutional breakdown will arise. That means, as per the law passed by Parliament, it is a constitutional obligation on the part of all the State Governments to conduct panchayat elections in time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Balanandan, please bear with me. Your subject is about stoppage of financial assistance to Kerala for IRDP.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: I am coming to that, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Then, why are you switching over from one subject to another subject?

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Sir, I am referring to the statement of the Minister. This is the statement of the Minister.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Kindly confine yourself to the subject.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: What I am saying is that the IRDP contribution of the Centre to the Government of Kerala is stopped. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana funds have been stopped. The Indira Rozgar Yojana funds have been stopped. The Women and Child Development funds have been stopped. The Drought-Prone Area Development funds have been

stopped. The NREP funds have been stopped. All kinds of financial assistance for rural development have been stopped. It is a serious situation. Why are the funds stopped? It is because the panchayat elections are not conducted in time which is a constitutional obligation. Therefore, a constitutional breakdown is emerging in the State of Kerala. The Government of Kerala has no time to conduct the panchayat elections because the ruling coalition in Kerala is a divided house. As you know, your party is divided into four pieces, the major party, the Muslim League, is divided into three pieces and another party is divided into two pieces. Therefore, how can you conduct the elections? The constitutional obligation demands that the Government of Kerala should conduct the elections in time. That is an obligation. Then, why is it not done? The result is that we the people of Kerala, are put in a very serious situation. Mr. Vice-Chairman, kindly understand the problem. We are already poor people. For many of our areas, we get the Central funds for rural development. Now, the development of rural areas is completely stopped. What is the way out? As a Member of Parliament can I go and stage a protest in Kerala? No, it is not allowed in Kerala. Even if I lead a simple procession, the result will be that the police will be brought to the scene and innocent people will die in the process. This is the present situation in Kerala. I would like to know, through you, from the Government whether a constitutional breakdown will arise if elections are not held in time. As per the new Act—the Speaker of Lok Sabha has also said this—if any State fails to conduct elections to the panchayat institutions, it would amount to a constitutional breakdown and the Government concerned would be dismissed. That is what the statement made by the hon. Speaker of Lok Sabha means. So, what is going to happen in Kerala? I feel that the Central Government should not stop financial assistance to any State where a similar situation exists. If there is a constitutional breakdown in a State because of this the Government con-

cerned should be dismissed. That is the only way out. Its people cannot be asked to suffer because of the inefficiency of the Government, because the State Government cannot conduct the elections in time and because of the quarrels within the Government... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, he is deviating from the subject... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Balanandan, kindly conclude.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: I am from the Kerala State. I know the problems there. So, the point I am making is—Mr. Vice-Chairman, you should understand my point—that total development activity in the rural areas of the State is stopped. What is the situation? When I describe the situation, I am quarrelling with me. My point is that a constitutional crisis is being created due to the inefficiency of the ruling party and that party has no time to conduct the elections in time. We are not allowed to stage a protest. If I stage a protest, the police will come on the scene. Just now we discussed the Bihar issue. In Kerala, those IAS officers, those IPS officers who want to go according to the law, are being transferred to hell. That is the position there. A real constitutional breakdown is emerging in the State of Kerala. The Government of India should take proper action to see that development activity in the rural areas is not stopped.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Sir, this is regarding Kerala.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Ravi, kindly be brief.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, I will be very brief. I fully understood the concern expressed by Mr. Balanandan

regarding development activity in Kerala. I definitely share his views. I am not contradicting his views. It is reported in all the major newspapers. It is a major issue. As you know, in the morning a question on this issue was put to the hon. Minister during the Question Hour. And, the Government of India has taken a decision that the elections should be conducted before April... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Sir, he says that the money is there. Where is the money?... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, I was a patient listener even though Mr. Balanandan criticised my Government. I was hearing him. So, when I speak, he should keep quiet. Kerala has a tradition of a better parliamentary debate. So, let us keep quiet. Sir, now as has been specified by the Government of India in their letter of April that they have taken a decision to conduct the election in April... (*Interruptions*)... There is no question of postponement of elections... (*Interruptions*)... I am coming to the point, Sir. The point is... (*Interruptions*)... Sir, the Government of India... (*Interruptions*)...

(The Deputy Chairman in the Chair)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I fully agree with him. The Government of Kerala has already intimated to the Government of India that as they stipulated and suggested that the elections should be effected in April, there is no justification for blocking the funds. The funds should be released... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: He is saying "April". How can we go to April? The Constitution doesn't allow us... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, I was basically hearing all the allegations made by Mr. Balanandan. I am not going to get into any controversy. What I am saying is that the Government of India's decision is wrong. They cannot stop the funds to the Government of Kerala for rural development. These should be released because we are saying

that the elections must be conducted before April. It had been decided. It has been announced. So, they should be conducted. There is no constitutional breakdown. There is no reason for stopping the funds. Sir, the people's protests are there. It is true, Sir, that on some occasions some times a protest is there. *(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I don't know. I came here just now. I will have to find out. *(Interruptions)*...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): Why is he talking about West Bengal...?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, when they are speaking about the Government of Kerala, then naturally they must be patient enough to hear about West Bengal... *(Interruptions)*... So, don't make allegations and accuse each other... *(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: So, Madam, whatever Mr. Balanandan has said, I agree with that very strongly and fully.

I agree with that... *(Interruptions)*... Let me finish. I agree...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you agree, then there is no point in continuing... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I am concluding, Madam. The point is that the Government of India is... *(Interruptions)*...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: He is talking about West Bengal. He is not interested in Kerala... *(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, his priority is Kerala. But what is the Kerala problem?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, Mr. Balanandan raised a problem. I am also sharing the view. Unfortunately, my Bengal friends get so excited that they have become a new shouting-brigade... *(Interruptions)*... Every

five years the elections are there.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: No. No Congress Government has ever been able to do it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Biplab Dasguptaji, आप की क्या समस्या थी ?

He is talking about Kerala. How Bengal is involved in it?

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, he mentioned Bengal.

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

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, that is the only State where the elections are held consistently.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vayalar Ravi, are you over?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: No, Sir. Madam, many times the truth is very bad. Now, my point is very simple. I fully agree with the point made by Mr. Balanandan that the Government of India should not stop the funds to Kerala for rural development. The second thing is that the Kerala Government can go in for elections. There is no constitutional breakdown. There is nothing. So, that allegation is baseless.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right... *(Interruptions)*... Now, before I call Mr. Satish Pradhan to speak, I must introduce Mr. Suresh Pachouri, the new member on our panel and request him to take over the seat. He has a very nice voice, quite audible even without the new system and, so, I hope he will have the same voice from the Chair too, but for another purpose, not for the same purpose that he had from his seat. I hope, the entire House will cooperate with him in running the House... *(Interruptions)*... Now, I leave the place for Mr. Suresh

Pachouri. ... (Interruptions)... You
give me a list and we will consider it.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Why
should I? You are an expert.

The Vice-Chairman, (Shri Suresh
Pachouri) in the Chair.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुरेश पचोरी) :
बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद । अपने उत्तरदायित्व
के न्यूनता के लिए मैं आप सब लोगों
से सहयोग की प्रार्थना करता हूँ ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र . बिल्कुल इसमें तो
गारंटेड गहपोस है ।

4.00 P.M.

RE BOMBAY-HOWRAH INDRAYANI
EXPRESS RUNNING WITHOUT THE
DRIVERS AND THE GUARD

“श्री सतीश प्रधान (“महाराष्ट्र”) : उप-
सभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे रेल के
संदर्भ में एक महत्वपूर्ण घटना का उल्लेख
सदन में करने के लिए जो अनुमति दी
है उसके लिए मैं आपका आभारी हूँ ।

मुंबई-पुणे रेल मार्ग पर दिसंबर के
पहले सप्ताह में जो घटना घटी उसका मैं
उल्लेख करना चाहता हूँ । मैं जिस
घटना का उल्लेख कर रहा हूँ वह काफी
अचरज में डालने वाली है । क्योंकि आज
तक के रेल के इतिहास में इस तरह की
घटना कभी भी नहीं घटी ।

पुणे से मुंबई जाने वाले इंद्रायणी
एक्सप्रेस कसारा घाट में ठाकुरवाडी के
पास रुकी थी । गाड़ी का ड्राइवर, सहायक
ड्राइवर और गांड गाड़ी से नीचे उतर
गये थे । ठाकुरवाडी से यह गाड़ी अपने
आप शुरू हो गयी । ड्राइवर सहायक
ड्राइवर और गांड के बिना गाड़ी 15
कि०मी० चली गयी । यह गाड़ी आगे जाकर
कर्जत स्टेशन के पास रुकी । ड्राइवर और
गांड के बिना बगैर गाड़ी ने 15 कि०
मी० की सफर की ।

श्री. मराठी भाषण का हिन्दी
अनुवाद ।

इस घटना के बाद कई अखबारों में
अलग अलग समाचार आये । दो-तीन दिन
तक अलग अलग समाचार अखबारों में
आते रहे । उस समय अखबारों में इस
घटना की विस्तृत चर्चा हो रही थी ।

लेकिन रेल विभाग के अधिकारी इस
विषय पर मौन साधे हुए थे वे इस विषय
पर कोई भी प्रतिक्रिया व्यक्त नहीं करना
करते थे । रेल मंत्रालय तक इस घटना का
ब्योरा मांगा गया, लेकिन उन्होंने भी
जानकारी नहीं दी । रेल विभाग और
मंत्रालय इस संदर्भ में कोई भी बात करने
के लिए तैयार नहीं है ।

मैं खुद कर्जत होकर आया हूँ ।
मैंने वहां मौके पर जाकर स्थिति का
जायजा लिया था । इंद्रायणी एक्सप्रेस का
इंजन और पांचवां डिब्बा जल गया था ।
गाड़ी का इंजन आधा जल गया था तो
पांचवां डिब्बा पूरी तरह से जल चुका
था । रेल इंजन का पिछला हिस्सा जल
चुका था । उसके साथ जो पहला डिब्बा
था वह बिल्कुल सुरक्षित था ।

इंद्रायणी एक्सप्रेस का जो पांचवां
डिब्बा जला था उस से पहला और बाद
का डिब्बा भी क्षतिग्रस्त हुआ था । यह
एक बड़ी दुर्घटना थी । लेकिन इस संदर्भ
में रेल अधिकारी और रेल मंत्रालय कोई
भी प्रतिक्रिया व्यक्त करने के लिए तैयार
नहीं है । रेल विभाग के इस मौन के पीछे
क्या कारण है यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ ।

मैंने खुद रेल विभाग के अधिकारियों
से बात की । उन्होंने जो जवाब दिये वे
बहुत ही असंतोषजनक थे । उन्होंने जो
भी जानकारी दी वह और अचरज में
डालने वाली थी ।

सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण कैच
सायडिंग और स्लिप सायडिंग कसारा घाट
में इस्तेमाल किये जाते थे । गाड़ी जब
ऊंचाई से नीचे की ओर जाती है तब अगर
ब्रेक फेल हो जाते हैं तो सुरक्षा के लिए
जब गाड़ी रोकने के लिए या जब गाड़ी
ऊंचाई की ओर जाती है तब सुरक्षा की
दृष्टि से इन कैच सायडिंग और स्लिप