

(3) When is Mr. Perry coming? Recently, the Prime Minister deputed some of his very leading bureaucrats to America, within my knowledge, to discuss Mr. Perry's visit and to discuss this point in particular. Madam, I am taking a couple of your minutes only to seek the Government's clarification on this issue before the House adjourns. It is very important that India's security is not left to the whims of a few bureaucrats only and that India's security is not compromised. It has far-reaching consequences, particularly, when Mr. Perry has refused to take notice of the fact that heavy armaments are being inducted in Burma. In the last two years arms worth 2 billion dollars have gone to Burma. We have also seen a naval base being built in the vicinity of Andamans. All these have been happening and the House has been kept in the dark. This is my point. I hope, Madam, in your wisdom and in your equal concern for India's security, you will put your weight in my favour and ask the Government, for God's sake, if not for the country's sake, to make a statement<sup>\*1</sup> here.

SHRI MD. ALIM (West Bengal): Madam, since the Minister is here, he should react...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. The Minister is here. Mr. Gujral has made a very important mention. Let the Minister finish about it. Offhand, I would not like him to speak on such an issue. But since he is here and he has heard you, I am sure that he will take some action and react whenever it is convenient, he will come to the House. Now, Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan.

## RE: RAPE AND EXPLOITATION OF GIRLS AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN PREMANANDA ASHRAM IN TRICHY

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu) : Madam, after one week, I have been given this opportunity. I thank you for finally giving me this opportunity to raise a very important issue before the House. I have been seeking to raise this issue. It relates to serious rape, exploitation and murder, particularly of women, over a long period of time in Trichy district of Tamil Nadu. Recently the Government of Tamil Nadu arrested the so-called Swami Premananda in an Ashram that he was conducting near Trichy in Tamil Nadu and this arrest was based upon the complaints of two girls who had been inmates of this Ashram for many years. They came out with horrendous stories of how the Svami had been exploiting young girls who were lured to the Ashram as devotees. The so-called Swami has been coercing young girls into the Ashram and under the guise of conducting the Ashram over there, exploitation of young girls had been going on. The Swami was arrested. But now I would like to place before the House certain very important details which have come out after his arrest.

Madam, this person came from Sri Lanka to Madras after the anti-Tamil riots in 1994. He is a Sri Lankan by birth. The striking thing is that though he is a Sri Lankan, he came over here. First, he lived in a rented house in Trichy with about 20 children who were living in an orphanage that he was running. Today, he owns more than 200 acres of land, most of which is Government land, *poramboke* land where he is conducting his Ashram. He conducts all his nefarious activities from this 200 acre land that he owns. So far, no action has been taken by the Government.

Madam, another important thing I would like to say is that this man has an Indian passport. The revenue authorities of the State have actually given him a false birth certificate stating that he was born in Papa-nasam district in Tamil Nadu and that he belonged to a particular community. Based on that certificate, we understand, he secured more than 11 passports. I would like to know what the Passport Department of the Central Government is doing. If the revenue officials had acted very badly in issuing a false certificate, how could a Sri Lankan national acquire an Indian passport? What is the procedure that is being adopted in our country for issue of Indian passports? This is not the only thing that this man has done. This is an Ashram which is a hot-bed of terrorist activities. The Sri Lankan terrorists come over there. The LTTE terrorists come and stay over there. They regularly screen video tapes relating to the activities of the LTTE for the inmates of the Ashram. Even the killer of Rajiv Gandhi, Sivarajan, also is supposed to have stayed in this Ashram and this Ashram has been allowed to function undisturbed for all these years. Serious action has to be contemplated by the Central Government. We cannot just be content with the arrest of the Swami. The Ashram is a total hot-bed of terrorist activities. I would like to know, first of all, how a passport was issued to this Swami. How the revenue authorities issued a false birth certificate to him is something to which I will come a little later. My first question is: How did the Passport Department of the Government of India give him a passport? The second point is, already the issue has been taken over by the CBI. The CBI is conducting an enquiry into the matter. But the girls, the inmates, of the Ashram have exhumed dead bodies of people who were tortured to death. One particular person was tortured to death when he tried to come out

of the Ashram and tell the world about the activities in the Ashram. He was tortured to death. His body was exhumed and the CBI conducting an enquiry into the matter. The girls have been continuously exploited. Even today, there are many girls who are living in the Ashram. Video camera are kept in the bathrooms. Videos are taken of girls, who unsuspectingly go to the Ashram thinking it to be a real place of worship. The problem is that the Swami has got very good local links. The girls feel they have come out and given statements in public that there is a threat to their lives. The girls who have already come out of the Ashram say that there is involvement of the local police, Many senior police officials, MLAs, MPs, a close aide of the Chief Minister, had all been and are still devotees of this so-called Swami, In this background...

*(Interruptions)...*

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu) : Madam, even the Prime Minister, the President and many other people are devotees of Swamijis. But we could not say... *(Interruptions)...*

SHRI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : In this background, I am not saying anything. In *this* background, it is very difficult to imagine *(interruptions)...*

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI (Tamil Nadu) : That is only a Press report. She cannot .. say. *(Interruptions)...* There is no need to bring in the name of the Chief Minister. *(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : In this background, it is very difficult to imagine that the lives of the girls could be Protected. I just want to say... *(interruptions)...*

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI : It is very unfortunate that she is asking allegations based on Press reports, *(interruptions)...*

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN :  
Madam, I don't call names. There is a big Swamiji in Delhi.

Madam, there are many *Swamijis*. I don't call names. There is a big *Swamiji* sitting in Delhi. All the Cabinet Ministers go to him on his birthday. Tomorrow, if some thing comes out of it then we can't accuse politicians .... {Interruptions} M.Ps., M.L.As even Congress M.Ps, and M.L. As. have gone there, it is not confined to any particular party.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, the Chief Minister's closest aide Shashikala goes to that Ashram a hundred times. There are pictures showing M.L.As., M.Ps. Education Minister of the States every body sitting in that Ashram. How can you expect them to do justice It is a hot bed of terrorist activities.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :  
Just one minute, let me understand. . {Interruptions}. Please just one second.. {Interruptions}.. Are you objecting to her raising the issue ?.. {Interruptions}.. Nobody is objecting to Jayanthi Natarajan's raising the issue of exploitation of women in that Ashram. Then what are you objecting to ? ...{Interruptions}..

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN:  
She said "Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu." What is this ?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : I didn't say Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. It is unparliamentary...{Interruptions}..

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:  
(Bihar) : You should bring a Bill to ban all such ashrams.. {Interruptions}..

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Your prime Minister is going to *Swamiji*. Your cabinet Ministers are going Swamji .... {Interruptions}...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :  
What is the objection ?

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN :  
My objection is that a friend of the Chief Minister went to *Swamiji*... {Interruptions}....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:  
Now, that is the only objection. The matter is with the C.B.I.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: I don't deny.... {Interruption}....

Madam, it is very unfortunate. People believe in *Swamiji*. Everybody .... {Interruptions}....

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I leave the friend.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:  
Okay, leave the friend {Interruptions} -

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN:  
Are you not going to Chandra Swami? What is this? {Interruptions} ....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:  
Shall we have some order in the House ?.... {Interruptions} No body in this House {Interruptions} .... Please, just one minute. .... {Interruptions} -

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN:  
Cabinet Ministers are going to Chandra Swami's place.... {Interruptions} -

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I leave out the friend. I don't understand their anxiety. I won't say anything about the friend... {Interruptions} ----

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:  
Okay, all right. Please take your seat.....{Interruptions} Please sit down. Mr. Swaminathan, please ....{Interruptions} No, I am not allowing anybody. Just a minute, Jayanthiji. The question she raised was "with permission granted. There are no two opinions about it. Now, let her speak. Be short.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATA-RAJAN: Madam, my demand is very simple. I have two demands. One: How did the passport department of the Central Government, issue a passport to this man who is a Sri Lankan (national, specially when this place is a hot bed of terrorist activity, specially when Sivarasan, the killer of Rajiv Gandhi, Stayed in this ashram? Nobody is looking into this aspect at all. Madam, I only said that the revenue authorities in the State acted very hastily. There is something that needs to be investigated. How did they give him a birth certificate? The Tehsildar in that area, the village officer in that area ..... (Interruptions) ..... How did this man ..... (Interruptions).... This needs to be looked into by the House Ministry. How can the revenue authorities give a birth certificate to a foreign national coming to this country?

Madam, the issue relating to women is also a most important thing. These girls are afraid of their lives. (Interruptions) ..... All right, I would not refer to anybody in power. I am only saying that ..... (Interruptions) .....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why are you reacting to that? I do not understand ..... (Interruptions) She is only saying that the passport office does not belong to the State Government ..... (Interruptions)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: How did they give at such a time ..... (Interruptions) ..... When was it issued? It was during your time. How could you say that? ..... (Interruptions) .....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In whoever's time. (Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATA-RAJAN: Okay, okay. I will finish, Madam. These girls who are coming out with all these details are very

important witnesses to bring out a deepseated conspiracy, Madam. Not only against women but also against ..... (Interruptions) .....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing any other thing ---- (Interruptions) .....

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATA-RAJAN: Madam, they are not confident at all about the stand of the police in the State, especially because there are video cassettes of the Chief Minister herself with the Swami. Therefore, Madam, without the involvement of the State Police..... (Interruptions) ..... We demand, Madam that the Central Government should conduct an inquiry ..... (Interruptions) .....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Misa Ganesan..... (Interruptions) ..... Shri Misa R. Ganeshan.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: We are strongly objecting..... (Interruptions) .....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. I will not allow. I will not allow anybody else ..... (Interruptions) .. I will not recognise anyone. Please... Mr. Ganesan ..... (Interruptions) .. I am not allowing anyone. I will not allow anything.

SHRIAJITP. K. JOGI (Madhya Pradesh): Madam, my request is that they should forget the Swami and come to the Jogi ..... (Interruptions) .....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not permitting. Please sit down. The Chairman has given me clear indications that only those whose names are cleared would be speaking. I cannot allow any kind of a discussion however much I may be concerned about it. Mr. Ganesan Please .. (Interruptions) .. I have to put my foot down somewhere.