

Destruction of Mahatma Gandhi's Statue at Villupuram and increasing terrorist activities in Tamil Nadu

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, with your permission may I speak from the front ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH) : Yes.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : Sir, I rise to bring a very grave and important matter to the notice of this House and, through you, Sir, of the Government. On Martyrs' Day this year, on the 30th of January this year when the whole nation was paying homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, when all over the country people were engaged in remembering the message of non-violence given by the Father of the Nation, which to this day all of us are trying by our actions, by our deeds and by our thoughts to emulate, which created a revolution, a peaceful revolution, unheard of in the world before, when all over the country the homage was being paid to Mahatma Gandhi, Sir, at Villupuram in Tamil Nadu, in my State an anti-national act occurred. Sir, a crude bomb blast occurred which burst into smithereens and shattered into many pieces. a statue of Mahatma Gandhi which was kept at a Municipal Office over there. And this shameful and anti-national act went unnoticed by most of us sitting over here and by the State Government. Sir, this is not the first anti-national act which has taken place in the State. Apart from that, just one or two months before there was also a huge bomb blast where the Doordarshan Kendra in Kumbakonam was affected. Till today we still don't know who was responsible for that bomb blast.

Sir, after the bomb blast occurred on the Martyrs' Day, there was yet another bomb blast at the Hindi Prachar Sabha, which, in my opinion, was fuelled also by certain divisive forces that have probably raised their head or are emboldened by the politicisation which is being done by certain political parties in the State. Even I, Sir, protested a few minutes ago about Hindi being imposed in the House, and now these are the things which we discuss among ourselves, but when a State Government takes it upon itself to politicise an issue, when a State Government makes

Hindi an issue or use* language as an issue to inflame the feelings of the people, this is the kind of bomb blast which will occur. A bomb blast occurred at the Hindi Prachar Sabha and on the same day Mahatma Gandhi's statue was blasted ! Bomb blasts occurred in two Congress offices—I don't mention the Congress offices because I happen to be a member of the Indian National Congress, but only in the sense that they represent a national party which is in Government at the Centre. Therefore, it is an act of terrorism against the Centre, an act of defiance against the authority at the Centre. Some pamphlets were found near the Gandhi statue. The responsibility for this anti-national act was claimed by some organisation which is supposed to be based in Tamil Nadu allegedly, a separatist organisation, which is supposed to be based in Tamil Nadu. The State Government arrested one Professor Kalyani who had nothing to do with the bomb blast, who had absolutely nothing to do. All the political leaders of that area in Villupuram condemned this arrest and, in fact, when this Professor was produced before the Court, the Judge had to pass very strong strictures against the Government when he could not uphold the arrest and that Professor had to be released. I only mention this with great regret, Sir, because I feel the State Government is not serious about apprehending the culprits. They simply made an arrest of somebody just to show that somebody had been arrested and then he was released. Later, two other people have been arrested. I don't know whether they have any connection with the actual bomb blast or not. Sir, yesterday in Madras city two Sri Lankan youths were found on a scooter. They were holding machine-guns in their hands. They could have just blasted off the citizens who were simply walking down the streets in the city of Madras. These people have been taken into custody. We don't know how they were allowed to go around. Still the State Government says that there is no terrorist activity; the State is peaceful; there is absolutely no law and order problem in the State. In addition to all these, they are now going to promote communal harmony by allowing the BJP to have their rally and allowing Mr. Ashok Singhal to make a speech on 21st March which Dr. Swamy raised today,

which I don't want to repeat. My point is very simple. The question of blasting \ off the Gandhi statue is a very serious anti-national act. The State Government simply has not taken it seriously. It has [just not taken it into consideration at all because they are blinded by narrow considerations of politics. In fact, they themselves are helping the divisive forces, helping the communal forces to take over the State which has so far been peaceful. Therefore, my demand to the Government is that as far as the Gandhi statue investigation is concerned, that investigation should be taken over by the CBI and stern action should be taken against those people who are responsible in order to prevent the bomb culture from spreading further in the State.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH) : Dr. Bapu Kaldate. *(Interruptions)*. ..

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, since she has referred to our Government I want to say a few words with your permission. She has said that our Government. ... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH) : You can only associate. *(Interruptions)* . . . You don't refer to any points.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI : She has referred to. . . *(Interruptions)* . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH) : No, no. This is not a discussion that is going on.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : Sir, they are not the spokesmen of the Government to respond. They are not the spokesmen of the Ministers of the Government to respond... *(Interruptions)*... and there is no provision for explanation. The explanation of the Tamil Nadu Government ... *(Interruptions)*.. .

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: You cannot prevent us from making our submission. You cannot intervene in our State affairs. *(Interruptions)*... You cannot be permitted to speak on all aspects. You cannot interfere in our State affairs *(Interruptions)* ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH) : You please take your seat. *(Interruptions)*.. .Take your seat. *(Interruptions)* ...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : How dare he say I cannot interfere ? I am elected by the people of Tamil Nadu *(Interruptions)* ... How dare he say I cannot interfere ? This is my State. I was born there. I have a right to speak for my people. I live there. *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH) : No, no, this is not a discussion. I am only allowing you for one minute. *(Interruptions)* ...

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: I submit, with your permission, Mr. Vice-Chairman, that with regard to all that my learned friend has referred to the incidents of blasting the statue and Hindi Parachar Sabha office and pamphlets—proper action has been taken. Moreover, I want to submit that our All India Anna DMK and our leader, Puratchi Thalaivi, are very eager to maintain the honour of the nation and we are cooperating with the Centre. But I want to say one word about the remark that we are not giving any respect to Gandhiji. *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH) : There is no need of giving any reply here. *(Interruptions)* . . .

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI : We are showing more respect towards Gandhiji than the Congress people who are here.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN : Dr. Bapu Kaldate. Not here. Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury. Not here. Shri Lakkhiram Agarwal. Not here. Shri S. Austin.

Need for early clearance to National Highway Projects in Tamil Nadu

SHRI S. AUSTIN (Tamil Nadu) : Respected Vice-Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government, through this Special Mention, to the early clearance to convert State-owned Highway into a National Highway between Madras and Kanyakumari and for formation of four-lane National Highways in Tamil Nadu. The twenty- year road development plan for the period 1981-2001 drawn up by the Centre, stipulates that the