

# RE. PROMULGATING ORDINANCES ON THE EVE OF THE BUDGET SESSION—Contd.

**SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA** (West Bengal): Madam, we have been discussing how this Government has turned into an ordinance Government. Now the situation has come when every form of normal convention is being flouted and violated. We are not going into the merits of the case, but the methodology that is being practised or adhered to repeatedly by the Minister of Finance, clearly shows that he does not care for any normal parliamentary convention and his practice is to bypass the Parliament. I do not know whether Mr. Manmohan Singh is a diabetic patient. I do not know, but the fact remains that this is the Minister under whose tenure the price of sugar has been increased by 60 per cent—during tenure of 18 months.

Madam, the point is, this is not only a pernicious method, but this will tantamount to fuelling of inflation about which the Finance Minister feels satisfied that he has been able to contain it. With the price rises that have been resorted to with regard to sugar, coal, LPG and the impending steps that the Government proposes to take or has up in the sleeves, I am afraid, a double-digit galloping inflation will overtake the country. We take recourse to the extraordinary method of raising the issue in the Zero Hour because Government has brought the country into a disaster because of its economic policy which is bringing foreign capital into the country on the one hand and, on the other, stands in the way of the industrial development of the country.

**SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ** (Haryana): Madam, I am on a point of order.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):** No, let him finish, please.

**श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:** इन्हीं की स्पीच पर मेरा प्वाइंट आफ़ आर्डर है।

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):** What rule is it?

**श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:** मेरा प्वाइंट आफ़ आर्डर यह है कि आज का यह जो बिजनेस है उसमें श्री गुरुदास दास गुप्ता जी का नाम नम्बर-4 पर है : बिल्कुल यही सब्जेक्ट मैटर है, वही कोल, शुगर के एडमिनिस्ट्रैट प्रॉब्लेम्स को बढ़ाने का सवाल है। इसके ऊपर श्री प्रमोद महाजन को इन्टीरुप्ट करना है। उसके बाद श्री गुरुदास दासगुप्ता जी को बोलना है। अगर आप जीरो अर्ब में इस मैटर को उठाने की इजाजत देती हैं तो . . . . . (व्यवधान)

**SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:** It is nice to listen to a lady speaking for the Constitution after breaking the Constitution here... (Interruptions)....

**श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:** आपको 6 दिसम्बर का फॉबिडन हो गया है। हमारे द्वारा कही गई कोई भी बात छः दिसम्बर परियेम्ब में ही देखी जाएगी, इतना फॉबिडन हो गया है छः दिसम्बर का उसके आगे उसके पीछे आपको कुछ नजर नहीं आता। एक डिस्कशन को . . . . . (व्यवधान)

**श्री विश्वनाथन शास्त्री:** महिलाओं का जो अपमान पश्चिम बंगाल में हो रहा है वैसा कहीं नहीं हो रहा है,। बड़े शर्म की बात है। . . . . (व्यवधान)

**SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:** It is a very-well-taken point of order. After all, if the speakers are listed in a different way and you are reversing it, it is, in fact, subverting Mr. Mahajan's motion... (Interruptions)....

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):** I will give the ruling.

**SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:** Just a minute. What I was referring to is...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): All right, you have made your point of order. Let me give my ruling. ... (Interruptions)... You please sit down and I will ask Mr. Das Gupta... (Interruptions)...

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): Madam...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Mr. Salim, let me give my ruling

SHRI MD. SALIM: I am on a point of order.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): What is it?

SHRI MD. SALIM: The business listed, as referred to by Mr. Mahajan and later on by Sushmaji, is about the price-hike of sugar and coal, and what has been raised by Jaipal Reddyji is about the policy decision taken on the eve of the Budget Session. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, please allow me to make my point.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Mr. Salim, let him finish... (Interruptions)...

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: अगर इनको उस पर बोलना है तो कौन मना कर रहा है इनको बोलने से ... (व्यवधान) लेकिन सीधे रास्ते से वह नम्बर एक नहीं बन सक तो दूसरे रास्ते से आने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Let me give my ruling. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: What is the point in giving you the notice?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, I am not going into the merits...

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: What is the point in giving you the notice?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): I am going to give my ruling.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I am not going into the merits of the economic policy, what the projections are, and so on. ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Sushmaji, please sit down. Mr. Das Gupta, one minute. Let me inform the Members that there is no doubt that a Short Duration Discussion is listed and Mr. Mahajan has to initiate it. The Chairman is conscious of it: the matter was decided at the Business Advisory Committee meeting yesterday. ... (Interruptions)... Then the matter about the Short Duration Discussion was decided. Please understand what I am saying. After that decision has been taken, it has been listed as a Short Duration Discussion. Thereafter, I think, Mr. Jaipal Reddy and certain other hon. Members approached the Chairman for permission to speak during the Zero Hour on what they thought was a matter of great importance and which they wanted to raise. The Chairman, in his discretion, has permitted them to speak, not on the merits but to focus attention during the Zero Hour... (Interruptions). Excuse me, please leave that to me. Now, once the Chairman has permitted certain Members to speak, I have no option but to allow them to say this during the Zero Hour. Otherwise you have to approach the Chairman. They have got the permission.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Then why was not Mr. Jaipal Reddy allowed?

श्री प्रमोद महाजन (महाराष्ट्र): अगर माननीय सदस्य गुरुदास दासगुप्त जी जैसे सीनियर लोग, इस छोटी सी चीज के लिए आना चाहते हैं तो मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। लेकिन यह अच्छी चीज नहीं है।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: सदन में अच्छी परम्परा नहीं बन रही है, यही मैं कहना चाहती हूँ।

**SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:** Madam, for the other hon. Members price rise is a small problem.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):** Now, please conclude.

**SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:** Let me finish. To me it is a big problem; to them it is a small problem.

**SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:** I did not say that the problem is small. I have only said as to who should speak first. If a senior Member like Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta speaks first, then he is trying to take away my right. ... (*Interruptions*)...

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):** Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, please conclude now.

**SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:** I am not going into the economic merit of the price-rise. What I am saying, Madam, is that the Government has almost....

श्रीमती सुषमा नारायण : जो तय किया जाता है व्हाइट आफ डाइस से तय किया जाता है । जिसका नोटिस पहले आया .... (व्यवधान)

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):** Please let him conclude. There is no doubt about which came first; there is no doubt about it. The Chair permitted him to speak... (*Interruptions*).

श्रीमती सुषमा नारायण : अगर यह गुरु दास जी के सदि होता तो ... (व्यवधान)

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):** Sushmaji, I have given my ruling. Now please sit down. Let him conclude.

**SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:** The price-rise benefits the BJP most because all the traders are in that Party.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):** Mr. Subramanian Swamy, please sit down. Let him conclude.

**SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:** Madam, I am not going into the merit of the price-rise. That is a matter for us to discuss in the evening.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):** Please conclude.

**SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:** My point is about the method that the Government is practising. It has almost hijacked Parliament. If this is the way to treat Parliament and parliamentary democracy....

**SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:** That is also a subject-matter of the Discussion. (*Budget poorva vridhhi*).

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):** Let him conclude.

**SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:** Everything has been clearly said.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):** I have permitted him to speak. Please let him conclude.

**SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:** You can permit him.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):** Yes, Let him conclude. You have raised the point of order. Let him conclude.

**SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:** If this is the way the Government is allowed to function, then, if you don't uphold operation of rule of law, if you don't uphold legality, you cannot fight illegality and subversion in other places. Therefore, I call upon the Government to strictly adhere to the parliamentary convention and give up this method of taking recourse to pre-budget price hike.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): Though the hike in prices of coal and sugar has been listed for a discussion after the two Bills are passed, I would like to say that it is not a matter of coal and sugar only. The manner in which the Government is functioning is practically denigrating Parliament itself. Mr. Yashwant Sinha and other Members raised it. Twenty-four ordinances were promulgated during two months. It is not only a question of the 24 ordinances, but on the economic policy the Government has taken certain measures which are making the budgetary exercise something redundant and farcical, Madam, if you list them, a number of actions the Government of India has taken. There is partial decontrol on fertilizers. There is hike in the petroleum prices. There is increase in the issue prices of rice and wheat. There is change in the excise duty. There is everything, including the hike in the price of steel. All these measures taken together show that the budgetary exercise has no meaning for the Government, and Mr. Manmohan Singh will be presenting a budget which will have no bearing on the general economic situation in the country. That is what we object to.

Madam, that is why, I appeal... (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): I will not permit.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, only one minute.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): I am not permitting a debate. All these Members have got permission to speak... (*Interruptions*) I have already given a ruling.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Only one minute, Madam, (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Advance the Discussion.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):

No, I will not advance the Discussion.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: This is an important issue.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): No, I cannot.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Parliament has been bypassed.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: This has become a habit with the Government Madam... (*Interruptions*) in the last session the Government promulgated an ordinance.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): I will call you later, Mr. Padmanabham. Please sit down.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: This is an important issue. The sanctity of the budget has been violated.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): We are going to take up the discussion after the Legislative Business... (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Ghosh, we are going to take it up after the Legislative Business.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Before the budget is presented, the Government has taken recourse to the budgetary measures. Parliament has been bypassed. We are objecting to this. We can advance the Discussion.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): No. We have special mentions. The special mentions have to be taken up... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: What is the harm in discussing it now?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Will the Government clarify the points raised?

In protest against this absolutely unparliamentary procedure followed by the Government, we stage a walk-out.

[At this stage some hon. Members left the chamber.]

**SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:** As a protest we are walking out of the House. This Government has no right to exist. This Government is not reacting. This Government is undemocratic. Therefore, we are staging a walk out.

[At this stage some hon. Members left the chamber.]

**SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu):** On behalf of the AIADMK we have to bring to the notice of the Government that the State Government has to be consulted on the price rise. Whenever there had been an NDC meeting, the Chief Minister had not been consulted and unilaterally the prices had been raised. There had been agitation in Tamil Nadu not only by the other parties, but also by the Congress party members. Recently the rice prices were raised by Rs. 1.44. There was a wide agitation against it and it looked as if it was the State Government which had been responsible for it. As a matter of fact, it has been the Government of India which is responsible. It has never consulted the State Government. For all the omissions and commissions of the Congress Government and for all the omissions and commissions of the Finance Minister, we are being unnecessarily brought into the picture because the safety net of the poor people is being removed by the Government. Consequently the poor people are suffering there. So, we also associate ourselves with the sentiments expressed by the Opposition parties and walk out from this House.

[At this stage some hon. Members left the Chamber.]

**SHRI S. MUTHU MANI (Tamil Nadu):** (Interruptions)\*

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):** I am sorry, Mr. Muthu Mani, what you are saying is not going on record. You please sit down.

\*Not recorded.

**SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN (Tamil Nadu):** Madam, the State Government have reduced the price by 25 paise. They have no power to do that. How have they reduced it? That is my question. The State Government have accused the Central Government that they have raised the price. Now, they have reduced it by 25 paise. Who has allowed them to do so? How have they got this power? The State Government has done it. I would like to know whether the Centre has the power or the State Government has got that power.

**SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:** Madam, it has not been clarified whether the AIADMK has alliance with the Congress or not.

**SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:** I fully take note of the point that there is a discussion listed on the price hike for sugar and coal. So, I don't want to raise that issue. I am on a more fundamental issue. Some customs duty exemptions have been given by this Government 20 days or one month before the Budget is to come. For the last few years it has been a fashion on the part of the Government to suddenly introduce some tax before the Budget. That was a revenue raising measure. For the first time we have seen revenue concessions are being given 20 days before the Budget. I would like to know what the urgency of giving the concessions is. How is the Government going to gain by it. I do not understand the logic. The entire sanctity of the Budgetary process, the entire sanctity of Parliament is sought to be destroyed. I feel our party cannot be a party to this kind of a blatant violation of procedure.

**SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondichery):** Which is your party?

**SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:** The BJP. I know you want to wish our part away. (Interruptions)

**SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:** You are welcome back anytime.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Janta Dal is there to take all Members.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Madam, I want to place on record our very strong protest against this blatant violation of financial rules. The Government should revoke the notification with respect to the customs duty and bring whatever proposals they want to bring in the Budget itself. As a protest we are walking out.

[At this stage some hon. Members left the Chamber].

**RE. IMPOSITION OF HINDI ON PEOPLE OF TAMIL NADU BY  
DOORDARSHAN**

SHRI C. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, I want to raise a very serious matter affecting the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu. The Tamil broadcasting time on the Doordarshan has been reduced from 9.00 P.M. to 8.45 P.M.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shrimati Sushma Swaraj) in the Chair.]

Madam previously the Tamil news transmitted between 8.40 P.M. and 9.00 P.M. But now what have they done? They have reduced it. Now they are commencing it at 8.30 P.M. and concluding to 8.45 P.M. The argument that has been given by the Director of Doordarshan is that the Tamil TV viewing timing formerly started at 5 o'clock and ended at 9 o'clock. I do not know whether this was his argument or the argument given by the Government. As a matter of fact, he has been broadcasting now from 5.30 P.M. to 8.45 P.M. and in that sense he has increased the time. But what we have been agitating is that the original time was the prime time for the people of Tamil Nadu. As you know, many of the people of Tamil Nadu can neither speak nor write Hindi. They do not know Hindi. So the people have been seeing the programme after coming from their offices. After 6 or 7 o'clock they start viewing to the Doordarshan programme. They

were very happy with that. It went on up to 9 o'clock. After 9 o'clock, as far as the State of Tamil Nadu is concerned there has been no T.V. viewing by the people. So it is agitating the mind of the people that the Government of India has been indirectly imposing Hindi upon the people of Tamil Nadu. In this connection the Tamil Nadu Assembly had also passed a resolution on the 10th January requesting old timings I do not know whether the Congress Members want the imposition of Hindi in Tamil Nadu. As requested by all the parties there the original T.V. viewing timing should be restored. I hope the Congress party will also accept the proposition that the original timing has to be restored which has been pressed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

Madam, you know the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu. They do not want imposition of Hindi. Similar resolutions on the two-language formula had been passed during the time of Anna and also during the period of MGR. We personally feel that Doordarshan is trying to impose Hindi on the people of Tamil Nadu.

I wish to stress on this occasion two important things. One is that the Government of India should restore the old timings. The other is that the news should be from 8.40 P.M. to 9.00 P.M. The TV viewing time should be from 5.00 P.M. to 9.00 P.M. I think it is a reasonable request. I do not know why they should resist it.

Madam, in the year 1965 there was an anti-Hindi agitation. According to Nehru's assurance, English should be an associate language along with Hindi. We wish that that the assurance by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in the present context, should also be made as one of the Constitutional provisions.

Madam, I hope that the Government will give an assurance on this matter. Thank you... (Interruptions) ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Muthu Mani, you can only associate yourself with