

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Your own leader is disturbing him.

**SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL:** I would like to invite his attention because....

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Maybe, your leader is telling him the same thing.

**SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:** We do not mind this co-operation between the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition.....(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL:** The Inspector-General of Police, immediately after his retirement, went to the Police Station to file a complaint that he was being harassed and that he was being humiliated only because he happened to be a Harijan. The first accused is the Chief Minister. Unfortunately, the police is refusing to take action.

In this situation, there is no other go for the Central Government but to directly intervene in it, calling for the papers and seeing that justice is done to the officer who belongs to the Harijan community and, unfortunately, because of that justice has been denied to him. If this could happen to a man of that rank, what can be imagined about the plight of the people of lower ranks? We speak much about doing so much for the Harijan community, but those who have been employed, have been subjected to this sort of humiliation and harassment as evidenced by the written complaint given by the Inspector-General of Police in Kerala.

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN):** Madam, I have to get a report from the State Government and find out what exactly has happened.

**Withdrawal of permission to attend friday prayers**

**SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka):** Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the Defence Ministry and the Home Ministry regarding a reported circular issued by

the Army Command withdrawing the practice of allowing Muslim Defence employees from going to Friday prayers. The permission to go to Friday prayer is a practice followed for centuries both before and after Independence. In fact, the Army has a tradition of not only allowing its personnel of different faiths to offer prayers as per their faith, but also has constructed in cantonment areas mandirs, mosques, churches and gurdwaras for facilitating the offering of prayers by the defence Personnel according to their faith. I am surprised to note that this reported circular has the concurrence of the Home Ministry. I urge upon the Home Minister and the Defence Minister to withdraw this reported circular and not to hurt the sentiments of different communities.

Madam, it is a convention even in the Rajya Sabha to adjourn half-an-hour earlier to facilitate the Muslim Members of this House to go to Friday prayer. When certain healthy conventions were followed from time immemorial in the interest of maintaining harmonious relations between various communities, they should not be broken even if it is an unwritten practice. Such a hasty decision will create agitation, suspicion and anger in one such Indian society. India is a multi-lingual and multi-religious society and the Government should respect the sentiments of all the sections of the society. I am sure that the Defence Minister and the Home Minister will take note of this and withdraw this circular.

**श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया (बिहार):** महोदय, खान साहब ने जो मुद्दा उठाया है, मैं उसके समर्थन में खड़ा हुआ हूँ। हमारी फौज की एक परम्परा है जब राजपुताना रेजीमेंट को लड़ाई के लिए चार्ज किया जाता है तो राजपुताना इतिहास और महाराणा प्रताप की वीर गाथाओं को सुना कर, रानी झांसी की वीर गाथाओं को सुना कर लड़ाई के लिए चार्ज किया जाता है। मराठा रेजीमेंट को जब लड़ाई के लिए चार्ज करना होता है तो उनको वीर शिवाजी की गाथाएं सुनाई जाती हैं। इसी तरह से सिख रेजीमेंट को जब लड़ाई के लिए चार्ज किया जाता है तो गुरु गोविन्द सिंह की कुर्बानियां सामने

रखी जाती है। आपने देखा होगा लड़ाई के मैदान में हर हर महादेव, बोले सो निहाल-सत श्री अकाल के नारों से हम लोगों ने दुश्मनों का सामना किया है। उसी तरह से कैप्टन हमीद ने हमारे देश के लिए अल्लाह हू अकबर और या अली का नाम ले कर अपने देश के दुश्मनों का सामना किया है। मैं समझता हूँ कि आर्म्ड फोर्सेज में डिसिप्लिन रखने के लिए देश प्रेम और देश भक्ति को बरकरार रखने के लिए यह परम्परा युगों-युगान्तरों से चली आई है। यह परम्परा चलती है इसी कारण से कैंटोनमेंट में, आर्मी कैम्पों में और पुलिस फोर्सेज के कैम्पों में धर्म का पालन करने के लिए मन्दिर, मस्जिद, गुरुद्वारे और गिरजाघर बनाए जाते हैं। आर्मी में जो किट दी जाती थी उसमें धार्मिक ग्रन्थ भी दिये जाते थे और आज भी उन परम्पराओं का पालन किया जा रहा है। मैंने इतिहास की एक पुस्तक में पढ़ते हुए पाया कि लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जी ने कभी एक ऐसा आर्डर निकाला था जिसमें उन्होंने कहा था कि इयूटी आर्व्स में वह प्रेयर के लिए नहीं जा सकते हैं। इयूटी में देश की रक्षा की जरूरत पड़ती है, इयूटी में देश प्रेम और देश भक्ति की जरूरत पड़ती है। मैं समझता हूँ कि ऐसा कोई अन्याय भी नहीं है जबकि पूरे देश में कुछ शक्तियाँ मिल कर धर्म के नाम पर देश को कमजोर करने की कोशिश कर रही है। धर्म के नाम पर देश को विभाजित करने की कोशिश कर रही है। उसी वक्त इस आर्डर को इम्पोज करने की कोशिश जिस दफ्तर से हो रही है और जो अफसर करने को कोशिश कर रहा है, मैं समझता हूँ कि वह गलत है। ऐसा आर्डर यदि कोई है कि इयूटी आर्व्स में वह अपनी धार्मिक प्रेयर नहीं कर सकते हैं, उसको विदड़ करना चाहिए।

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, may I speak a word on it? I also come from the Forces. The Forces are considered to be having one of the most secular spirit that has been left in the nation today. In the Gorkha Regiment and in the Madras Sappers I frankly do not know when they are sent to charge what God's name they take. I know when my soldiers leave the station to go for war, they go for the flag and for the nation first. Hence the motto of the Service is service before self. God is found in your heart. I may be a Hindu

But I do not need a certificate certifying that I am a Hindu. One's religion is personal. One's attitude to the nation should be service before self. This is no disrespect to anybody's religion. I do not have a religion of my own. For us the flag is the temple. For us the flag is the place of worship. For us the flag is the masjid or whatever is recognised by legacy. I am not practising जो मैं रोज दिया लगाती हूँ। I am no less a Hindu than others. The nation is being divided on communal lines. What is wrong with the concept of 'duty before self'? Has God told us to leave our duties and come and worship? Which religion has dictated this principle? Let us not get carried away. Let us have a realistic vision about it. Don't add fuel to the fire in this House. I want to tell hon. Members, whether we belong to a majority group or a minority group or Buddhist group or a Parsi group, our concept should be duty before self. Parsis do not go and pray taking time off from their duties.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: But their religious sentiments have to be respected. Kindly don't say like that.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Mr. Narayanasamy, don't interrupt for the sake of interrupting. Please, let me complete. This is very unfortunate.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Don't say things like that.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I do not know when he has become a spokesman of such religious belief. I am only saying that the nation is above every thing. The beauty of this country is that it reflects every religion in its flag. It is the flag that is above everyone, above every Indian. We can be Christians here and in other countries. We can be Muslims here and in other countries. But you can be an Indian only under this flag. For us the flag is supreme. Nobody can take your religion away. The way you are born, the way you are dying, the

way we celebrate our festivals and our culture, are all part of this country. I will celebrate the festival with the other people.

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया: क्या महाराणा प्रताप जी, शिवाजी आदि ने विदेश के लिए लड़ाई की थी... (व्यवधान)

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी: हम तो वही कह रहे हैं कि बेशक अपने-अपने भजहब का पलान करें...

(व्यवधान)

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया: ...उसमें लिखा गया है। वही भाषा बोल रहे हैं... (व्यवधान)

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी: मैडम, तो राज्य सभा में डिक्लेयर कर दीजिए। मंगल को बी० जे० पी० कहेगी बंद कर दीजिए

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Tomorrow BJP will ask the House to be adjourned on Tuesday early in order to go and perform Hanuman pooja.

उपसभापति: रेणुका जी बैठ जाइये.. (व्यवधान)  
आप भी बैठ जाइये।

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी: यह गलत बात है... (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति: अहलुवालिया जी, आप भी बैठिए ... (व्यवधान)

I am not allowing any more discussion. Please sit down.

नारायणसामी जी, बैठिए .. (व्यवधान)

May I request everybody to sit down? आप भी बैठिए...

(Interruptions) ...I am not allowing anybody. Please sit down.

श्रीमती सुष्मा स्वराज (हरियाणा): उनको बोलने नहीं दिया जा रहा है।

उपसभापति: उन्होंने बोल दिया है। उनको बोलने दिया है। मैंने इजाजत दी है। वे बोलने की इजाजत नहीं देते।

Every Member has his own opinion. Every Member has his own sentiments. This House is a mixture of different opinions. One opinion cannot be the opinion of everybody. So, opinions have been expressed by both sides on the floor of the House. It is their freedom to express it. It is for the Government to look into the matter and decide what

they want to do... (Interruptions)... No. That matter is closed. I do not want to open it. I am not allowing... (Interruptions)... Since you are a new Member in this House, I must tell you that once the Chair gives her opinion, that matter is treated as closed. So, please take note of it. I do not want any further discussion on it; otherwise, I would have allowed Shrimati Sushma Swaraj. I did not allow Mr. Narayanasamy also. I would like to know whether you want to be a duly Member or an unruly Member. इसलिए आप चुपचाप हो जाइये। (व्यवधान)

SHRI K.R. MALKANI (Delhi):  
Madam, Deputy  
Chairman... (interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing anybody.  
Mr. Balanandan.

Strike by Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board Employees

SHRI E. BALANANDAN (Kerala):  
Madam Deputy Chairman, from the midnight of 15th June, 1994, one lakh employees including engineers of the UPSEB are going on a strike. I do not want to go into all their demands. There may be some small economic demands. The major demand they are raising is this. In Uttar Pradesh, people are now getting electricity at Rs. 1.23 per unit. The Government of U.P. is now going to privatise electricity generation, distribution, etc. The result would be that power, which is available to the people of U.P. at Rs. 1.23 per unit, will be available to them, after privatisation, only at Rs. 5/- per unit. The Electricity Board engineers and workers are going on strike not for their economic demands. About 1,25,000 employees are going on strike; 1,25,000 workers and engineers. The Government of U.P. is thinking of banning the strike. It thinks that it can use the police and stop the strike.

Madam, I may submit that electricity is a thing which we can use for thousands of purposes. But while using electricity, if it is not properly handled, it will have a fatal effect. The question today is whether the electricity workers are