

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra) : I congratulate the Hon. Member for occupying the Chair for the first time. I wish him all success in the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI): Thank you very much. I assure you that I will try my best in my humble way to run this House. I feel it my privilege to be here. I hope, as the Deputy Chairman has said, you would try to extend all your co-operation to me from your side. From my side I assure you to do my best.

Thank you very much.

Now I request Mr. Indet Kumar Gujral.

Policies announced by the Minister of Energy to totally follow the World Bank Conditionalities about Tariff, etc.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL (Bihar) : Sir, I am rising to raise a point of grave national interest regarding the way in which national interest is being flouted.

The hon. Minister of Power. Mr. Kalp Nath Rai, told the World Bank President in his presence in a TV interview which was broadcast in a programme by the Zee TV on Tuesday, that his Department had accepted all the conditionalities of the Bank and that all-out efforts would be made to ensure their implementation. I quote him now :

"In the urban sector, you know, we are trying to implement all the policies of the World Bank. All the conditionalities you have put, we are accepting. As the Minister of Power I have spoken on this for a long time."

Then he continues :

"I have said that agriculture tariff must be minimum 50 paise. Cost-based and efficiency-based power tariff - should be applicable. Now we have accepted the presence of private sector. We have amended

the law by amending the electricity law in the Parliament."

He continues, and again I quote :

"Private sector participation has been allowed because we are accepting your World Bank's policies."

Very interesting he says that. Significantly, this programme, Sir, was Broadcast twice through the international hook-up. As a continuation of that, the Government has taken a very unusual step. They have done one thing. They have decided that they are going to privatise electricity distribution in Delhi. Tenders have been called. A task force for this purpose has been set up. The names of the members of the task force have been given. They are now examining how they should transfer the distribution work. All this is being done, while this House is not being taken; in confidence. I don't want to use harsh words. But, I think, sometimes one gets a bad impression, where it is liquidation of P.S.U. shares or it is liquidation of the policies. My hon. friend, Mr. Finance Minister, is here. He has all the time been telling us that the conditionalities, all the conditions, all the dictates of the World Bank are not being followed. Here is a Minister's statement on record, made in the presence of the World Bank President, which has been broadcast twice. It is very interesting. The commentator said that even the President of the World was feeling embarrassed by the way the Minister was trying to tell him, "We for you say. Sir what more do you do?"

I don't think that this country has been more humiliated--! don't think this country has been ever put in pocket of foreigners—than this state. I would request the hon. Minister—here—to react or call Mr. Kalp Nath k. to tell us what he said, why he said it and why he humiliated this country.

Thank you

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, we all associate ourselves with the very important special mention that Gujralji has made. I think the Government should come forward with an

official statement. The statement of Mr. Kalp Nath Rai cannot be dismissed as a statement of an individual Minister. It is supposed to be the position of the Government. Will the Finance Minister rise and tell the House whether it is the same as the viewpoint of the Government ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI): Mr. Minister, are you reacting ?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Let him react.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH) : Sir, as far as the position of the Govt, is concerned whether it is the power sector or any other sector, we are implementing policies and programmes which are in national interest. We are getting some money from the World Bank for the power sector. It is well-known that the power sector in our country is not doing well. Therefore, the World Bank is not keen to lend more money. Now, in this process, if there are certain conditionalities, I don't accept that it is against our national interest for us to improve the working of our power system, that it is against our national interest to see that there are cost-based tariffs and that the losses, whether they are in the agricultural sector or other sectors, are made good. If this is all that the Minister has said, I don't think there is anything with that. But, I...

SHRI KUMAR GUJRAL : I stated that my hon. friend, the Minister, has tried to reply to it. Not making a statement out of air, quoting the Minister and I have quote and unquote statements, where has humiliated the country. I quite agree with you and I agree with the Minister that we should try to make our public sector as well as the energy sector more efficient, but that does not mean selling the country. That does not mean accepting the conditionalities of others. That does not mean humiliating the country. These are two different things altogether. And I strongly feel that the hon. Minister of Energy in making the statement that he has made has exhibited irresponsibility, has not ser-

ved the national interest and, I think, this House has a right to call him and ask him to clarify why and in what circumstances in the presence of the World Bank President, he humiliated us. Even the hon. Minister who has been following this course has not done this. He has not made any such statement. He has always at least tried to provide the cover in name of national interest. And that has been a good cover for him and for the rest of those who belong to his school of thinking. I don't. But even those who belong to his school of thinking must be feeling very upset and humiliated because of the way the hon. Minister of Energy has made these statements.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI (Gujarat) : Sir, I would like to make just one point in association. The moot point, the conditionality which affects the consumers' in India should have been discussed with the people of India through this hon. House and the other hon. House, before talking to a foreign agency. That is really the difference. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : I now request Mr. Pracada Kotaiah.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, this is too important to... *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : I have now switched to another Special Mention. This was just a Special Mention. I think, if you want to discuss it separately, you give a notice to the Chairman.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Kalp Nath Rai should come forward with an explanation or he must be dismissed from the Government.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : No. Mr. Reddy, I will not allow you.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The dignity of the country has been promised with.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : I have identified Mr. Kotaiah.