

RE Question of Privilege

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): Madam Deputy Chairman, I have given a notice of privilege against Shri Gopalsamy for having threatened me in the corridor. ... (Interruptions)... The matter is very serious because of the murder of the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka. He claimed responsibility for murdering the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister. Therefore, I have given the notice on two grounds. One....

....(Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Chairman has asked for comments. Please listen to me, Mr. Subramanian Swamy. The Chairman has received notices of privilege from you and from him....

... (Interruptions)....

Order. Order. ... (Interruptions) ...
Order. (Interruptions).... I say:
order, order, order.

... (Interruptions)....

SHRI R. T. GOPALAN (Tamil Nadu): He was in the lobby.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: He is chickening out of the charge he made. He should have the courage to say it in the House. (Interruption).... I press the motion. (Interruptions)....

श्री सुरेशजीत सिंह ग्रहलुवालिया :
(बिहार) इस घटना का चमकीला गवाह तो मैं हूँ । ... (व्यवधान)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are two notices of privilege issued by two Swamys, Shri Subramanian Swamy and Shri Gopalsamy, and they sent the privilege motions to the Chairman. The Chairman has asked for comments. When the comments

are received, and whatever the Chairman says, I will inform the House. Now I call the Prime Minister.

....(Interruptions)....

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: He cannot run away from the charges. He cannot run away from the debate.

....(Interruptions)....

Is he backing out? Is he chickening out? Has he got the guts to say it again in the House? Is he chickening out? (Interruptions).... He claimed responsibility for murdering the Minister of Sri Lankan Government. And he now wants to murder a Minister of this Government. (Interruption).... Is he chickening out?

श्री सुरेशजीत सिंह ग्रहलुवालिया :
इस घटना का चमकीला गवाह तो मैं हूँ ।
... (व्यवधान)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If the Members are... (Interruptions)... Please, order. (Interruptions).... If the two aggrieved parties are going to settle the matter like this there is no need to send a Privilege Motion to the Chairman. If you want to settle it between you, then there is no need to send a Privilege Motion. (Interruptions).... Please sit down (Interruptions).... Please sit down. (Interruptions) All these are not going on record ... (Interruptions) ... This is not going on record (Interruptions).... All these are not going on record (Interruptions).... Let some order come in the House. (Interruptions).... Please (Interruptions).... Order ... (Interruptions)....

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, let the Chairman call both the Members. (Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to call the Prime Minister.(Interruptions)... Please sit down. (Interruptions).... Sit down. (Interruptions).... I cannot hear anybody. (Interruptions).... keep quiet (Interruptions) Sit down, sit down... ..(Interruptions).... Cool it, cool it. (Interruptions).... Yesterday (Interruptions).... Please sit down.(Interruptions).... Mr. Subramanian Swamy, you are a senior Member. Please be serious.(Interruptions).... Sit down(Interruptions).... I said that the matter is before the Chairman. Both the Privilege Motions have been received by him. Let him give whatever comments he wants to give.(Interruptions).... If you want to settle it by your strength, then why do you send the Privilege Motions?(Interruptions)....

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Madam, nothing is settled.(Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, I won't permit.(Interruptions)....

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: He should have the guts to say it in open. Otherwise he is a*(Interruptions).... He does not have the guts to say it in open(Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Subramanian Swamy, please. You are a senior Member of this House. I would not like you to behave in a way which will create more trouble in the House. Do you want to create a threat over there?(Interruptions).... No, please(Interruptions).... I won't permit(Interruptions).... Doesn't matter(Interruptions).... OkayGo and you settle.(Interruptions).... Mr. Subramanian Swamy, if you feel that the Chairman cannot protect you with your Privilege Motion, you settle it yourself. But, this is not the proper way that you threaten people in this

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

House. Don't threaten. And you should not also threaten in this House (Interruptions) Nobody should threaten anybody. Please sit down... (Interruptions)... No threatening As long as I am in the Chair.(Interruptions)....

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I request you, let both the Members be invited by the Chairman(Interruptions)... Let the Chairman hear both these Members and let him take a decision on this issue.(Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please(Interruptions).

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Madam, that the life of Shri Subramanian Swamy is precious to us and the life of Shri Gopalsamy is also precious to us(Interruptions)....

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह बहलुवालिया :
उपसभापति महोदया, मैं इस का चम्मदीद
गवाह हूँ। मैं इस घटना का चम्मदीद गवाह
हूँ, मुझे भी बुलाया जाए, मैं बताऊंगा।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I said please(Interruptions).... Please sit down. (Interruptions)....

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): Madam Deputy Chairman,(Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That matter is closed. I have identified the Prime Minister(Interruptions)... .. Hear what he says (Interruptions).... Please sit down.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Madam Deputy Chairman, I shall request you and the hon. House, whatever Mr. Subramanian Swamy had said, it is a serious matter and I shall appeal to my friend, Mr. Gopalsamy that at least this impression should not go that any hon. Member of this House claimed that he was responsible for the murder of Wijeratne.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): You have not heard us fully. How can you pass a judgment?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Tamil Nadu): Without going into the matter how can the Prime Minister pass a judgment like that?

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Mr. Prime Minister, now you know your Cabinet colleague, how he behaves and how he threatens people.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: My limited request is let both Mr. Subramanian Swamy and Mr. Gopalsamy say that there is nothing like this about the murder of Wijeratne. That is my limited request.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Will you hear me for a minute? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): All of us should be allowed to make comments.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: The Prime Minister should not try to cover up his Cabinet colleague.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Let the Chairman call both the Members and hear them.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The Prime Minister cast aspersions on me. I should be allowed to make my submission.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Why should the Prime Minister bring in the name of Wijeratne, who is no more in this world? He is casting aspersions.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The Prime Minister should not make such comments. It is for the Chair to decide. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu): It is not good for the

country, it is not good for themselves. This House this country, won't allow such things. We don't allow the murder of anybody.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam, I seek your protection ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal) The Prime Minister should not have made such observations when the entire matter has been referred to the Chairman and the Chairman has yet to give his verdict.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All of you, please sit down. Let me hear the Prime Minister fully...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: The issue was referred to the Chairman under the rules of the House.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I am very sorry if any of my suggestions has offended anybody. But I still hope that the honourable Members will think coolly, whether from this side or from that side; this type of impression should not go outside. If you don't want to (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: You are creating the impression.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Nothing happened in this House. Something is reported to have happened outside and you cannot take cognizance of it here.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The matter is with the Chairman. (*Interruptions*) The matter is before the Chairman.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): The Prime Minister should not have commented like this.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: It is for the Chairman to decide on it. The Prime Minister has nothing to say on it. He should not have said anything on it.

(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Subramanian Swamy, I would request you, please don't get provoked. If I permit you to speak, justice demands that I allow Mr. Gopalsamy to speak.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: have to say(Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I won't permit you. And if you speak without my permission, that is a different matter. I cannot permit you because the matter is before the Chairman. (Interruptions) Please sit down. Let me handle it. (Interruptions) Mr. Subramanian Swamy, you have been a senior Member of this House. You have raised many issues of privilege(Interruptions) Please don't interrupt. All of you, please sit down.

Mr. Subramanian Swamy, you have raised many issues of privilege. You know the procedure of this House. The Chairman has asked for his comments. I announced in the beginning that your privilege issue and that of Mr. Gopalsamy are before the Chairman. Now I do not think it is becoming of Members on any side of the House to level allegations against each other. If you have faith in the Chairman, then it is fine. If you have no faith in the Chairman and the parliamentary procedure or the Privileges Committee, you settle it yourselves. You need not come to the House to settle it. You can do it whenever you like(Interruptions)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam(Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the Prime Minister will speak(Interruptions).... Not on this issue(Interruptions).... Mr. Gopalsamy, please sit down. It is not on this issue(Interruptions).... Now forget about what the Prime Minister said. Cool down(Interruptions).... Forget whatever he said. Let the Prime Minister speak on

some other issue with which everybody is concerned(Interruptions)....

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Kindly permit me, Madam(Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gopalsamy, please sit down(Interruptions).... You know the rules(Interruptions).... Please keep quite... (Interruptions)... Keep quite. I said... (Interruptions)... The privilege issue is being taken care of... (Interruptions)... I have given my ruling... (Interruptions)... Please sit down. I request you humbly to sit down... (Interruptions)....

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam... (Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down(Interruptions).... I have not identified you(Interruptions).... Take your seat... Let me hear what Mr. Gopalsamy has to say(Interruptions).... It is not about the privilege motion.(Interruptions).... Please take your seat(Interruptions).... Let me handle the House(Interruptions).... I asked you to forget what the Prime Minister said(Interruptions).... If you feel that the comment of the Prime Minister comes under the privilege question, you can give notice for privilege. Now, please sit down... (Interruptions)....

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: He has cast aspersions on me(Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If he has cast aspersions on you, you can give notice of a privilege motion... (Interruptions)....

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: He has cast aspersions on me by referring to the murder of Shri Ranjan Wijeratne

[Shri V. Gopalsamy]

....(Interruptions).... Shri Subramanian Swamy has accused us (Interruptions).... He said that it is we who killed Shri Ranjan Wijeratne(Interruptions).... This is what happened (Interruptions) This is how he threatened us... (Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can give a privilege notice against him(Interruptions).... If you feel that a comment made in this House comes under the privilege motion, you can give a privilege notice(Interruptions).... You have the protection of the House(Interruptions).... You can give a privilege notice and the Chairman will look into it. If you make the House a battle-ground, then it becomes difficult(Interruptions).... Let the Prime Minister speak(Interruptions).... I give my assurance. After the Prime Minister makes his statement, I will permit each one of you to speak(Interruptions).... I will abide by my commitment.... (Interruptions).... I will allow (Interruptions)....

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Re. Surveillance at the residence of Shri Rajiv Gandhi by the Haryana Police.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): I am not making a statement. I am only reacting to what the Members said because I don't have a prepared statement before me.

Yesterday, in the other House, a question was raised that two persons were found in the vicinity of the residence of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Those two persons were picked up by the Delhi Police. The hon. Members should remember this fact. There is some restaurant. I have not seen that. They were visiting that restaurant for quite

some time, for two or three days. The Delhi Police men who are posted there to look after the security of the former Prime Minister, caught hold of them, questioned them and asked them why they were loitering in that area for the last two days. They indicated that they are the members of the Haryana Police. They showed their identity cards that they are men of Intelligence for the Haryana Police. They were apprehended. They were interrogated. The preliminary report is that they said that they were instructed by the officers concerned, their officers, to have a vigil on the house of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. They have been questioned and they said that a particular Inspector gave this order to them. That Inspector is on leave, has not been available. (Interruptions)

The Director-General of Police, Haryana, says that he has not given any instructions of this type.

No sooner the matter came to my knowledge, I immediately ordered an inquiry. The Delhi Police is investigating into the matter. Other Intelligence agencies of the Police are also looking into the matter. We are trying to find out who are the people responsible for this unethical, illegal and totally undemocratic action. I condemn it, I condemned it yesterday in the House. I assure the hon House and the hon. Members that there is no effort on our side to cover up this incident. I categorically say that the Government of India has no hand or had no knowledge. The U.P. Police(Interruptions) The Delhi Police took action and this itself indicates that the Government of India is against any such manoeuvre or manipulation that has been ordered by anybody. I assure you, Madam Deputy Chairman, and this House that a serious view has been taken by the Government of India. No sooner we get a full report, we shall be able to take action against those who are responsible for this totally unethical and illegal order. That is all I can say.