

[مولانا عبید اللہ خان اعظمی]
تھریک آزادی سے لگا دیلکے - اور
سوفروشی کی تمنا اب ہماری دل
میں ہے، دیکھنا ہے زور گنگا بازوئے
قباثل میں ہے - اس طرح کے
نہ بصورت اسعار اسی زبان کی دین
اور پیداوار ہیں - جنہوں نے ملک
کو بھی آزادی دلائی اور ہندوستان
کی تھریک میں خوبصورتی اور چار
چاند لگانے کا کام کیا -

میں سرکار سے گزارش کروں گا -
آپ کے توسط سے کہ پہلی فرصت
میں گجرات کمیشن کی رپورٹ لاگو
کریے آپ سینی فیستو میں لٹے ہوئے
اس وعدے کو پورا کرے جس وعدے
کے تحت اردو والوں نے اس سرکار کے
ساتھ پیمانہ امیدیوں باندھے ہوئے اسے
مضبوط کرنے کا موقع دیا تھا - شکریہ -

Need to set up a Joint Parliamentary
Committee to probe into refund of...
excise and customs duties

SHRI R. K. DHAWAN (Andhra Pradesh): I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. At the outset I would wish to say that when I speak on this issue I don't have any prejudice against the officers, who had taken the decision to make the refunds because, as far as I know, they were under orders to do so. Nor do I have any prejudice against the parties to whom the refunds have been made, because they have been successful in managing the affairs in such a manner to get the money refunded.

The hon. Finance Minister made a statement last month on the 7th of September on the floor of this august House about the refund cases of excise and customs duties. In fact all of us know that crores or rupees are involved in these transactions. The manner and the haste in which the Finance Ministry acted to make the refunds left us in no doubt that there was something fishy behind the whole show. As far as my knowledge goes

kickbacks were involved in it. After the Finance Minister, Mr. Madhu Dandavate made the statement I had asked three or four specific clarifications. The Minister did not give proper answers to some of these clarifications and in the case of those points to which he replied, he gave very evasive or unsatisfactory replies. While trying to confuse the whole issue. While confusing the issue, he himself got confused and led himself into such a mess that it was very difficult for him to tell the truth to this hon. House. The point is that when an hon. Minister gives an assurance on the floor of this august House, is it not his duty to fulfil it? I would just read what the Finance Minister, Mr. Madhu Dandavate has said: "Sir, I will collect all the circulars and the messages and I will lay them on the Table of the House." He was asked further questions and he goes on to say "I will collect all the circulars and letters and place them on the Table of the House but there is a procedure for it. I shall have to authenticate it. All the available telex messages, I shall have to authenticate and lay them on the Table of the House." Then, he further goes on to say "I will collect all the relevant documents, telex messages and circulars and will lay them on the Table of the House." The Vice-Chairman was pleased to observe "Very good, that is enough." So the matter ended there. The Finance Minister promised to lay them on the Table of the House. But so far as my knowledge goes till date he has not laid anything on the Table of the House. Therefore, I request you that he should be asked to place all the papers on the Table of the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): The Minister will take note of it.

SHRI R. K. DHAWAN: The second submission which I want to make is that the Minister has failed to give replies to certain points raised by me. What is the way out to get replies from him? The only answer that comes to my mind is that a Joint

Committee of both the Houses of Parliament should be appointed to go into two aspects.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Mr. Dhawan, there is a procedure for it. As you know, you can move a resolution.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): You can bring this matter before the Chairman of the Assurances Committee.

SHRI R. K. DHAWAN: The Minister has promised that he will make an enquiry but nothing has happened. So what is the way out? I would suggest that a Joint Parliamentary Committee be appointed. *(Interruptions)*. . . Are you not interested in finding out the truth? Are there skeletons in your cupboard? Why are you worried? Are you involved in this issue?

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Don't say like this. Dhawan, your antecedents are known to everybody. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. K. DHAWAN: Why are you interrupting me like this? I have told you I have no prejudice against anybody. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (Bihar): Are you a Minister?

SHRI R. K. DHAWAN: Are you also involved in this kickback. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Are you a Minister? Why are you interfering?

SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE (Gujarat): I am on a point of order.

SHRI MADAN BHATIA (Nominated): This is a matter for the Government to deal with. I do not understand why. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. K. DHAWAN: When I am demanding for an enquiry, why is he worried? Mr. Vice-Chairman, I am requesting the Government, through you, to appoint a Joint Committee of Parliament to go into two issues: who are involved in this kickback. *(Interruptions)*....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Please conclude.

SHRI R. K. DHAWAN: Why does the Minister find himself in a mess? Whom are they trying to defend? *(Interruptions)*. The Finance Minister finds himself in a mess because he has something to hide and it always happens, it is a principle of life that whenever a person tries to hide the truth, he finds himself in a mess. He finds himself in a mess and the House should know about it. What is the way out? While replying to the clarifications, the Minister had contradicted himself a number of times. How do we come to the conclusion? So the best course is, I suggest, a Joint Parliamentary Committee should be appointed which should go into the whole question to find out whether any kickbacks were involved or not, why such a hasty decision was taken, who were the people who were at the back of this and at whose behest, these instructions were issued. All these papers should be placed before the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): All right. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI MADAN BHATTIA: Sir, it is a very serious matter. This is a matter. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. M. JACOB (Kerala): They should have fulfilled the promise at least in this special Session. What is the use of our sitting now? *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI MADAN BHATTIA: It is a fraud upon the public exchequer and we support the demand for constitution of a Joint Parliamentary Committee. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Mr. Bhatia, you know the procedure. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: There is no objection raising it. This is an illegal act. *(Interruptions)*.

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, यह जो प्रश्न आया है, जिस तरह से यह डिमांड हुई है कि ज्वॉइंट कमेटी बनाई जाए तो मैं यह कहना

[श्री राम नरेश यादव]

चाहता हूँ कि प्रश्न की गंभीरता को देखते हुए और इसमें जो धनराशि इन्वाल्व है, उसका ध्यान रखते हुए और संबंधित मंत्री ने जो वक्तव्य दिया था उसमें कई बार विरोधाभास रहा है, इन सभी बातों को ध्यान रखते हुए समस्या का हल केवल यही है कि एक ज्वाइंट पार्लियामेंटरी कमेटी गठित की जाए ताकि सभी तथ्य सदन के सामने आ सकें।

SHRI MADAN BHATIA: Sir, I would like to add this. Because the instruction went from the Prime Minister's office for payment of this money to the various industrialists amounting to hundreds of crores of rupees, who were responsible for sending these instructions, who is involved, who got the kickbacks, all these matters require investigation by a Joint Parliamentary Committee and I strongly support this demand because it is a fraud on the public exchequer, it is a fraud on the consumers whose money has been handed over to the industrialists for which they were not entitled (*Interruptions*).

SHRI R. K. DHAWAN: Why don't they come out with the truth? When they were on this side, every day, they were insisting for an enquiry. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): You have expressed yourself and I hope that the Government will take note of it. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Two Ministers are sitting here. Why they are not reacting? Why they are not coming out with the assurance to the House? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You should agree for the setting up of the JPC. (*Interruptions*). This Government is hiding the truth. Crores of rupees are involved. The Prime Minister, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, is responsible for this. This Government is hiding the truth. (*Interruption*).

SHRI R. K. DHAWAN: They do not want to enquire. They have taken the kickbacks. They do not want to

enquire. (*Interruptions*). In protest, we are walking out.

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

Rehabilitation of Indians returning from the Gulf

SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM (Kerala): Sir, on 2nd August of this year the Iraqi army attacked Kuwait and took over the administration of that country resulting in the uprooting of lakhs of foreigners including the Indians. The initial silence and inaction on the part of the Government of India was indeed regrettable. It caused a lot of hardship to our citizens who left Kuwait. It is a *suo due* to this reason that even after two months only 60 per cent people could be evacuated. I appreciate the present efforts made by the Government.

Now the rehabilitation of these persons who have been evacuated should be taken up without delay on a war-footing.

The matter of prime importance is the education of their children. Most of them were in Indian schools with CBSE syllabus. The Government should give adequate instructions to existing schools and, if need be, start additional school for these children.

The Government should also extend facilities like telephone connection, cooking gas etc. on priority to these people. Here are several persons who have brought their personal belongings including cars. Some Indians have managed to flee in their cars to Jordan and Turkey. A few of them have even driven all the way to India. Taking a view on compassionate grounds, instructions may be issued to all concerned to waive all the import/customs duties for bringing their cars and other belongings.

The Kuwaiti Dinar in their possession should be accepted in total and no limit on the amount should be accepted.

The Kerala Government has submitted a scheme for the rehabilitation and employment of the Gulf returnees. This should be considered and adequate funds should be released for this project. The Centre should bear in mind that these Gulf returnees have repatriated several