

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, that is why, I demand from the Government, if not today — Sir, the Minister is here.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have the Minister; otherwise, the House would not run!

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, today, and if not today, tomorrow, let them take the House into confidence. Stop the State... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Government is listening to whatever you are saying. It is for them to react. *(Interruptions)* Please conclude.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Then come to a conclusion. Bring back normalcy to the State. That is my request.

**Revelations about the terrorist David Headley's antecedents and status of FBI's cooperation with the Indian intelligence agencies**

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, in a series of shocking reports emanating in the US, it is revealed that David Headley, who has been charged with conspiracy in the Mumbai terrorist attacks, was an undercover agent working for the US Drug Enforcement Administration, the DEA since 1999. Reports state that David Headley, whose real name was Daood Saleem Gilani was arrested in February, 1997 in New York for conspiring to import heroin into the US. However, since he started cooperating with the DEA, he was released and allowed to travel to Pakistan to conduct undercover surveillance operations on drug gangs in Afghanistan and Pakistan. A drug smuggler was turned into a US agent.

Reports have elaborated how Gilani started making frequent trips between Pakistan and the US since 1999. Even the change of his name from Daood Gilani to David Headley was obviously done to make his travelling easier and was known to the US agencies who were protecting him.

As has been the case with several such American double agents in the past, most famously, Osama Bin Laden, who had started his career as a CIA operative, David Headley too, reportedly, started working for the *Lashkar*. Investigations have revealed that David Headley had made multiple visits to India in 2008. It was on these trips, Sir, that the drug smuggler-turned-US agent-turned *Lashkar* terrorist surveyed sites in our cities, sites in Mumbai, and, reportedly, the information he gathered was considered crucial in the Mumbai 26/11 attacks.

Shockingly enough, he even visited India in April, 2009, after the Mumbai terror attacks. The FBI was evidently aware of David Headley's antecedents and had put him under surveillance well before the Mumbai terror attacks which took place in November, 2008. But why were the Indian intelligence agencies unaware of David Headley's visits to India. Sir, it is our cities, our people, our nation, which was targeted. We want to know: Did the FBI pass on the real time intelligence to the Indian intelligence agencies? That is the crucial question here. Were we informed; is this the type of US cooperation which is being extended to us.

Secondly, why are the Indian investigators being denied access to David Headley, when the FBI was allowed to question Ajmal Kasab who is in Indian custody? Is it because it will expose the under-belly of the US covert operations, which has a record of creating Frankenstein, like Osama Bin Laden. Did our Prime Minister raise the issue when he met the US President in Washington? What steps are being taken by the Indian Government to ensure that the Indian investigators question David Headley at the earliest?

Sir, these are very crucial issues which have an impact on our national security and we demand that the Government of India clarify these issues. Thank you.

SHRI AMAR SINGH (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shrimati Brinda Karat.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Shrimati Brinda Karat.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with this important issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes. All of you associate.

**Department of Personnel and Training's O.M. on de-reservation of vacant posts belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs as reported in newspaper**

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I rise to express my anguish over the reported O.M. issued by the DoPT on deserving the posts meant for SCs, STs and OBCs after the so-called prolonged vacancy in exceptional cases, and, the idea that the two weeks' time will be given to the SC, ST Commission or the Ministry of Social Justice for responding. Sir, it is very manipulative. I am very sorry to say that we have been asking the Government to bring forward the Reservation Act so that such manipulative tactics do not take place. Sir, it can be easily manipulated. You are thereby giving rise to such manipulations. I can understand, the SCs and STs not being available here and there, but, Sir, hundred per cent OBCs are available. We have experienced it, Sir. Even in the case of SCs and STs, what are the efforts made by the Government to train them, to search the candidates, or, to advertise the posts. We have reviewed this position. Sir, we are grateful towards the Government for saying that a series of attempts should be made to fill up the backlog but, Sir, it is a backdoor method to delay the legitimate opportunities. We are afraid that it would be highly misused. We would like the Government to immediately withdraw it, otherwise, there is going to be a widespread unrest amongst Dalits, SCs, STs and OBCs across the country. Secondly, Sir, (*Interruptions*) I have time.