

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 24th March, 1971/the 4th
Chaitra 1893 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MINISTERS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA) : Mr.
Chairman, Sir, I introduce Sardar Swaran
Singh, my most respected colleague, the
Minister of External Affairs, Prof. Sher
Singh, the Minister of Communications,
and the Deputy Minister in the Ministry
of Health and Family Planning, Mr. A.K.
Kisku.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Calling Attention.

REFERENCE TO BALLOT PAPERS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN FOUND AT CHANDIGARH

डा० भाई महावीर (दिल्ली) : श्रीमन्, आज की
बहस शुरू करने से पहले मैं आपकी इजाजत
चाहता हूँ। मैं एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय की तरफ
सदन का ध्यान खींचना चाहता हूँ। आज के
समाचार-पत्र में भी यह दिया है और यह कोई
मामूली विषय नहीं है जिसको कोई दबाने की
कोशिश करे। आज के समाचार पत्र में दिया
है कि चंडीगढ़ में नौक वोट पेपर्स पाए गए।
यह सवाल ऐसा है जिसके ऊपर सारे देश के
सारे लोकतन्त्र के प्रविष्य पर असर पड़ना है...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am considering
this matter. I do not allow it.

डा० भाई महावीर : आप अलाऊ नहीं करते
हैं तो हम इस तरह से हाउस का काम नहीं
चलाने देंगे। श्रीमन् ये व्हाइट पेपर्स हैं जो हजारों
और लाखों में वहाँ पर बोरियों में भर कर रखे
हैं। ये कहाँ से आए, यह न इलेक्शन कमीशन
बता सकता है न कोई बता सकता है और कल
इसके बारे में सरका ध्यान नहीं देती तो...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. I do not
allow it.

डा० भाई महावीर : श्रीमन्, कल भडारी जी
ने...

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
(SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY) :
May I make a submission ?

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra) :
On a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, what is your
point of order?

डा० भाई महावीर : यह एक पार्टी के खिलाफ
नहीं है। ये यहाँ पर कुछ बेलट पेपर्स हैं, मैं
जानना चाहता हूँ...

What are these ? We place them here
on the Table so that the country knows and
the House knows what is going on.

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI : On a point
of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point
of order ?

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI : My point
of order is this. Dr. Bhai Mahavir, the Jan
Sangh Member, has brought some sheef
of papers. I do not know what they are.
They are actually trash . . .

(Interruption) I am making a point of
order . . .

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD
SINHA (Bihar) : All that he has said should
be expunged.

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI : . . . It is
reported in the press, and it is a fact, that
during elections in Delhi when some people
went to cast their vote the Jan Sangh people
who were posted on the booths would not
allow them in. But if he said that he was
going to vote for the Jan Sangh he was
admitted in . . . (Interruption). When the
new list of voters came the Jan Sangh people
said that they would not allow them to vote
because their names were not there but
when he said that he was going to vote for

[Shri A. G. Kulkarni]
the Jan Sangh he was admitted ...
(*Interruption*)... Let there be an enquiry ...

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : We are prepared to face whatever enquiry Mr. Kulkarni wants. Let there be a Commission of Enquiry . . . (*Interruption*)

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa) : Sir, nothing would be lost if you kindly assure the Members that the Government would be coming out with a statement. A matter of this kind cannot be brushed aside . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Without my permission nothing can be mentioned. Nothing will be recorded.

(*Shri Lokanath Misra continued speaking*)

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY : Sir, this is a matter of grave import.

MR. CHAIRMAN : (*To be reporters*) All right, you may record it.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : Sir, may I make a submission with your permission? This is a very serious matter. Sir, this bundle came to me only this morning.

SHRI MAHITOSH PURAKAYASTHA (Assam) : On a point of order, Sir. Has he got your permission? He has not been permitted by you.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : I do not want to indulge in things which will affect the dignity of the Chair. Sir, I would not have raised the issue if it had not been very serious. I have got a bundle of ballot papers. (*Interruptions*) Why don't you have patience? I am addressing the Chair and I would like to make a few submissions. After all, we are all concerned, I think including the other side, in the proper conduct of the elections. We believe in free and fair elections. Therefore, in this background . . .

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : This matter is being raised without the permission of the Chair.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : I got these ballot papers in the morning from Punjab, and my information is that these ballot papers were found in Government godowns. I have got only a sample.

There is a sack of ballot papers.

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : What is the proof that they were found in Government godowns? These are all allegations. Mr. Chairman, I am on a point of order.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : There is no point of order. I have not made any submission . . .

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : I am rising on a point of order. Mr. Chairman, will you please listen to me? (*Interruptions*) The wholesome practice of this House is that any Member who wants to raise an issue which is not on the Order Paper brings it first to your notice in your Chamber. This matter has not been brought to your notice. (*Interruptions*) The time of the House is being wasted. The dignity of the House has been marred by the placing of some rubbish papers on the table of the Chamber. They should be removed.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : Sir, if you are kind enough to look into these ballot papers, you will find that they are regular ballot papers for the election. They are not dummy papers. The serial numbers are there.

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : They can be printed by anybody.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : The name of the constituency is printed, the symbol is printed and the names are printed. These ballot papers were found in Government godowns. (*Interruptions*) They are not in tens or hundreds; they are in thousands.

AN HON. MEMBER : In lakhs.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : Huge bundles have been found in Govern-

ment godowns and a Government employee there sold these ballot papers . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Gurupadaswamy . . .

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : May I finish, Sir ? These ballot papers were sold by a Government employee to a street hawker, a waste-paper purchaser there, and they were passed on to us. Now these ballot papers are the ballot papers given for election purposes in those constituencies. Now, my specific point is, if it is a fact . . .

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh) : It is not a fact.

SHRI LOKANATH MISHRA : How do you know ?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : That is why I am raising the issue. If it is a fact, then it will vitiate the whole election. And it will cast a grave reflection on the mode of election itself. Therefore, my submission to you is this : We are all interested in seeing that the elections are fair and proper and if these things are established, it will vitiate the whole election. In view of this, I demand that you should direct the Government to make an inquiry in the first instance to find out what is what and if these facts are proved, it will call for a judicial inquiry and that will set in motion the judicial process. Therefore, as custodian of this House, I would like you to consider this in all its aspects and direct the Government to make an inquiry and come before the House with a statement. If they are genuine ballot papers, then it should be the concern of the House and it should be the concern of the Chair to see that a high level judicial inquiry is held to probe into the whole matter . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me go on with the business now.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY : What is the feeling of the Chair on this?

(Interruptions)

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI (Uttar Pradesh) : I would like to make this submission. This is a very serious matter. It is not a light matter to be dismissed like this. If these are really true ballot papers that were issued in the constituency then the entire election will get vitiated. The entire functioning of the Parliament will come to a standstill. I would like the Government to make sure whether these are proper ballot papers or not. It may be that they are just printed and passed on to some people. I would like the Government to make an inquiry and find out the veracity of these ballot papers. If they are genuine, then it is a very serious matter and Government should come to this House with a statement on this . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEV DATT PURI (Haryana) : If there is the slightest iota of truth in the allegation that is being made, the proper forum to go into that will be the Election Commission which will set in motion judicial proceedings. You should not, therefore, allow this matter to be raised here . . .

(Interruptions)

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : What has been decided about this ?

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY : Government may be having some information about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You wanted to mention something and you have mentioned it.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY : Government should make an inquiry and make a statement.

SHRI N.G. GORAY (Maharashtra) : If you are not giving permission, you meet the leaders of opposition at least in your Chamber.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shall we spend the whole time on this?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI (Uttar Pradesh) : This item not being in today's agenda, I can well understand the objections raised by the Treasury Benches. But will you please see the importance of it and allow this to be the first item in tomorrow's agenda as a Calling Attention?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. I am not permitting....(Interruptions).

Please sit down. I am not permitting any further discussion . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Delhi) : There is one pertinent fact . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not permitting you, Mr. Advani . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : I may point out that the Election Commission itself was intrigued as to how this all happened...

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Please sit down now.... (Interruptions)

Mr. Advani, please sit down now . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : The Election Commission itself was intrigued . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down now.... (Interruptions). I will adjourn the House. If you carry on like this, I will have to adjourn the House . . .

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : You ask the Government to make a statement . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have listened to you patiently, and still you are . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY : Please ask the Government to make enquiries and make a statement . . .

(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no. . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal) : An inquiry should be made and a report made to the House . . .

(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : You ask the Government to make a statement.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY : If you give a direction to the Government, I don't see any reason, Mr. Chairman, why the Government should not come forward with a statement. Ask them to make a statement . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : This is not a party question. The whole thing should be probed into. The entire matter should be placed before the House.

(Interruptions)

Shri M.S. GURUPADASWAMY : Let the Government take their own time and come forward with a statement in the House. We have no objection. We are equally concerned with the business of the House. But this is a more serious matter. Therefore I beg of you to ask the Government to make a statement.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Sir . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I don't want to have a debate on this today.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, on a point of order. Firstly, Sir . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI PITAMBER DASS (Uttar Pradesh): If you allow me...

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, I am on a point of order . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Just for a moment.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : I co-operate with you.

श्री पीताम्बर दास : मैं आप की इजाजत से एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ और वह यह है कि मैं इस मवाल में तो नहीं जाना चाहता कि यह बैलेट पेपर्स जाली है, असली है, चोरी से आये या कैसे आये . . .

श्री गोडे मुराहरि : या केमिकल पेपर्स हैं। इस का इन्जामिनेशन हो।

श्री पीताम्बर दास : केवल इतनी बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज पेपर में भ्रम आया है और कुछ मेम्बर्स ने भी यह बात बताई है कि दो, चार नहीं, हजारों पेपर्स चण्डीगढ़ में एक दूकान में पाये गये हैं। मेरी इन्फार्मेशन यह है कि करीबन 60 या 70 लोग जनता के उस दूकान के चारों तरफ गार्ड कर रहे हैं ताकि वहाँ पेपर्स कहीं चले न जाय। आज वहाँ यह स्थिति है कि वे लोग दूकान को पीसफुल्ली गार्ड कर रहे हैं और जिस की दूकान है वह भी शांति के साथ बैठा हुआ है। वह कहता है कि ठीक है आप पता कर लो और जब कोई मुझ से पूछेगा तो मैं बता दूंगा कि यह कहा से आये और उस समय दूध का दूध और पानी का पानी हो जायगा लेकिन अगर हम ने इस मामले में ढील दी तो कल या परसों कुछ दूसरे एलीमेंट उस को शह दे सकते हैं, कुछ एलीमेंट गार्ड करने वालों को भी शह दे सकते हैं और जो आप पीपुल्स स्थिति दिखायी रही है वह कल गायलेट टर्न ले सकती है। क्योंकि एलेक्शन का मामला ऐसा है कि जिस में टेपर्स फ्रेंड है। हम उन को कूल डाउन करने की कोशिश करते रहे हैं।

श्री अर्जुन अरोड़ा : आप लोगों का मोरेल बढ़ा डाउन है।

श्री पीताम्बर दास : मिस्टर अर्जुन अरोड़ा, हर एक स्थिति में ऐसी बात मत कहो। Just look at the gravity of the situation.

मैं यह बात कह रहा था कि आज सेच्युयेशन बड़ी पीसफुल है। टेपर्स फ्रेंड हैं तो हम को कोशिश करनी चाहिए तु वन देम डाउन। इस लिए इस की अरजेंसी है। अब यह मामला हम लोगों के सामने है। मैं अपील करना चाहता हूँ कि इस की सच्चाई बाद में प्रकट होती रहेगी, लेकिन आज उन को सील कर लिया जाय। उस की इन्क्वायरी बाद में होती रहेगी।

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI : Sir, the number itself is on the backside of the ballot paper.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not decide these matters here.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, give me only one minute.

Sir, I welcome this suggestion of Dr. Mahavir that let the Supreme Court decide the issue. He should know that there is the provision of Election Petition and appeal against the Tribunal's Award can go to the Supreme Court. Dr. Mahavir and his friends have the option to go to a court of law and ultimately get a verdict of the Supreme Court as far as the fairness or otherwise of the Election is concerned.

These friends are deceiving only themselves when they say that the elections were not fair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not want any debate.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, a very serious thing has been said by Mr. Pitamber Das which is an incitement to violence. He said that if the Government does not do anything today, people in Chandigarh, the defeated Jan Sangh people in Chandigarh, may resort to violence. Sir, I take objection to Mr. Pitamber Das using the floor of this House to indirectly incite his supporters at Chandigarh and elsewhere to resort to violence. That proves that it is Jan Sangh and even people like Mr. Pitamber Das who are soft-spoken and learned, who are inciting the people to which leads to communal and other disturbances.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a place for this. Adopt legal procedure if you want.

श्री लाल आडवानी : सभापति जी, आप की अनुमति के बिना जो बोल रहे हैं वह तो बोल सकते हैं, लेकिन मैं आप से अनुमति माग रहा हूँ इस लिए आप मुझे मान कर रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. I have given you fullest opportunity.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : I have been seeking your permission and only because I have been seeking your permission, I am

[Shri Lal K. Advani]

being penalised and Members from that side, without their asking for permission are speaking.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, you finish now.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Sir, this morning, after reading the reports, I had occasion to talk to the Deputy Election Commissioner, Mr. Jacob. We have not raised it without first verifying from the Election Commission about these ballot papers and he himself could not explain. Under the law, this is not a question of potition. Under the Representation of the People Act, it is incumbent, it is obligatory for the Government to maintain the safe custody of ballot papers. And those ballot papers are kept to be sealed and have to be destroyed only after a particular time. They cannot be sold as rubbish as they have been sold now. As Presiding Officer you are very right in saying...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please finish now. अब आप खत्म करिये, आपने एक मिनट के लिये कहा था।

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : You are very correct in saying that you are not to sit in judgement on this issue. But my submission is that when a large section of the House feels agitated and concerned about an issue it is the duty of the Presiding Officer to call upon the Government to explain its position. The minimum that you can do is to ask the Government to explain the position as to why this has happened. This is the minimum you must do today.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now no more please.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Just one minute, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. This will be the last.

SHRI N.G. GORAY : Sir, why do you not allow me ? I have been waiting for a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the Members want to take the whole day on this issue only, all right, I will go and sit in my Chamber. (Interruptions) The same things are being repeated.

SHRI N.G. GORAY : I never stand to obstruct the proceedings of the House. I am trying to help you.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) : यहाँ प्रजातन्त्र है और प्रजातन्त्र को कायम रखना है, प्रजातन्त्र को कायम रखने में आपको मदद करनी चाहिये।

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, the first thing is if they want to raise a very important issue like bogus ballot papers without your permission, nothing should be allowed to go on record. If you had not given permission, these things should not be allowed to go on record. These defeated parties, which have been routed in the election, want to use this House as a forum to propagate false things . . .

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : इसमें प्रमाण की क्या बात है। बैलेट पेपर कहाँ से आया है, आप इसका जवाब दीजिये।

श्री लाल आडवाणी : आप इसका जवाब दीजिये।

श्री कृष्ण कान्त : मैंने आपको मुन लिया है, आप हमें क्यों नहीं मुनने ?

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : आप तो हल्ला करने वालों में थे।

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : If what the Opposition says is correct, then the best course for them is to go to your Chamber, convince you about the authenticity of what they are saying, and then if you permit the matter to be raised here, they can do so, because. . .

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : इतने सारे बोगस बैलेट पेपर्स हैं और उनसे भी सैटिमफाइड नहीं हैं, संतुष्ट नहीं है।

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : on the back of the ballot papers which they have brought here if you see the numbers and other things are of two types for the same constituency. The number here is written so and so and the figures are different. All this shows that they are fictitious ballot papers and the Opposition wants to use this House as a forum for propagating false things.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now let us proceed with the business.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, whatever has happened today should not go on record because in their defeatist mentality they want to utilise this House for propagating false things. So whatever they have said should not be allowed to go on record. I want to know from them as to how, if everything was bogus, Mr. Morarji Desai got elected to the Lok Sabha. I want to know how the Maharani of Gwalior and Rajkumar Bajpayee got elected to the Lok Sabha.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now please sit down.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : So, Sir, the Government should not take note of whatever they have said because it is all fictitious and bogus. Till they have satisfied you and till you permit them, nothing should be allowed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Let us proceed with the business.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY : Sir, what is your decision ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not going to give any verdict.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY : Why not ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not satisfied that I have any power in election matters to give any direction.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY : I am very sorry

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called the Minister. Please sit down. I have told you that I am not satisfied. I have no power to issue any direction to the Election Commission. They know their responsibilities.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY : I have to say that the Chair is not responding to our request. We are very sorry and we cannot stay in this House and seeing this attitude of the Chair, we are walking out.

(Some hon. Members walked out of the Chamber)

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI : I request you to allow the Government to make a statement. You are not responding.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us see what he says.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI : He is going to say about the Calling Attention.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : I was going to say something about it but if they do not want to hear, it is all right.

I have been listening painfully to this presentation of their grievance. It is surprising that the whole background is forgotten that the counting in Punjab and elsewhere started on the 10th and most of the results were formally declared on the 11th. After 13 days they flaunt certain pieces of paper which they say are valid papers and they are asking the Government to make enquiries. It should be clearly understood that the whole conduct of elections is controlled by the Chief Election Commissioner and if they have any matter to raise, it is for them to go rather to the Election Commissioner and start proceedings by way of election petition and the rest.

The basic thing which has to be remembered in this connection is that these pieces of paper that are just shown about here purport to be about from Taran Taran or may be other places in Punjab. It has to

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

be remembered that the Punjab Administration is not a Congress Administration. It is an Akali Administration. They are supposed to be in charge of all these papers. I do not see what is the relevance or merit in raising the point except to say something in order to boost the sagging morals of their own people, having been defeated at the polls. They are inventing one reason or the other to bolster up the morale of their supporters. In this matter, therefore, there is nothing for us to enquire into. The results were declared on the 12th. None raised any objection at the time of counting. Certain procedures are laid down in the matter of counting and the rest and anything that is just thrown about is just waste paper. We refuse to look at it. That is the hard reality.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI : The Government should make proper enquiries and if it is found to be false, they should come and say that the ballot papers are fictitious.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Uttar Pradesh) : It is a wrong way of dealing with such problems. You allow the Opposition to raise their point and after that you tell us to keep quit about it because the Government has nothing to do with the election procedure. That is for the Election Commission and they should go to the Election Commission. You go to the Election Commission. The Election Commission is totally autonomous. They can take any view about it. These people are frustrated, dejected people, we have got every sympathy for them.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : The question is not whether the Government is concerned but this Parliament is certainly concerned with the elections.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : This is peculiar logic. We do not know what are the circumstances. Now that they have been routed they are demanding all sorts of things. Before the counting no doubt was raised by these people. At the

time of counting no doubts were raised but after the total result has been announced these people have entertained all kinds of doubts that chemicals have been used and my friend, Mr. Godey Murahari . . .

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI : I do not subscribe to that but do make enquiry into this.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I do not know whether he is a follower or disciple or leader, but . . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Mr. Chandra Shekhar is wrong. One of his leaders, Dr. Hare Krushna Mahatab, has lodged a FIR in the police station two days back and has deposited ten of these ballot papers saying that false ballot papers have been circulated.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Chairman, about individual cases I do not know. And I shall never recognise Dr. Hare Krushna Mahatab as my leader. He may be their leader, I do not know.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : But facts are otherwise.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Individual cases may be there, whether it is Dr. Hare Krushna Mahatab or Mr. Singh Deo or Mr. Rajnarain or Mr. Morarji Desai, for every body the doors of the Election Commission are open and we have nothing to do with it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right ; now let us go on.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI : Sir, in view of the unhelpful attitude we shall also stage a walk-out.

(Some hon. Members left the Chamber)

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Sir, I am really sorry that this question is being treated as if it was between those who are victorious and those who were defeated. I belong to a party which was defeated but I have no grudge against those who became victorious. The whole point is whether the presentation of so many papers in thousands does not

raise a *prima facie* case which should be investigated and which should be gone into. To say that this is bogus, this is propaganda by defeated parties just to create doubts in the minds of the people, I think, does not solve the issue.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : They are not ballot papers. A man like my friend, Mr. Goray, should know that no ballot paper is valid unless and until it is signed by the Returning Officer. I do not know how you can say it is a ballot paper unless it is signed by the proper authority.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : I want to point out only this. You say, go to the Election Commission. All right; we go to the Election Commission, but does it mean that this Parliament cannot take any cognisance of this when thousands of gunny bags of such papers are presented here? I want to raise this question as to whether or not this Parliament has at least the authority to say that this is something that needs to be investigated. I am not saying that because I am defeated or because Mr. Chandra Shekhar's party has come out victorious. Every time you say, because you are defeated you are saying all these things. It is all right that we are defeated but can we not . . .

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : If you are satisfied that they are genuine papers only then it can be taken up.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : I do not know.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : You do not know and you are talking about it. I say no ballot paper can be treated as genuine unless and until it is signed by the Presiding Officer and this is known to everybody. Not a single paper is signed by any Presiding Officer and yet a hue and cry is being raised in the House. I do not understand this at all. *Prima facie* it is wrong, it is bogus, it is invalid and there is no seriousness in it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall now take up Calling Attention.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : One thing I have to submit in all humility. They may be bogus, they may be . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. Let us get on with the business.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : . . . anything but should not the Government undertake to hold an enquiry to clear it up? ✓

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED DECISIONS OF THE U.K. GOVERNMENT TO SELL HELICOPTERS AND OTHER WEAPONS TO SOUTH AFRICA

SHRI M. K. MOHTA (Rajasthan) : Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the reported decision of the U.K. Government to sell helicopters and other weapons to South Africa even before the Eight Member Study Group, appointed at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference held recently at Singapore, had undertaken any study on the subject.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, all aspects of the situation arising out of the proposed supply of arms by Britain to South Africa were considered at great length at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference held in Singapore in January, 1971. The debate at one stage threatened to break up the Commonwealth. In this context, it was decided to set up a Study Group of 8 Members, consisting of Canada, Jamaica, U.K., Nigeria, Kenya, India, Malaysia and Australia. The Study Group was to consider the factors affecting the security of the maritime trade routes in the South Atlantic and the Indian Ocean, and report back to the Heads of Government. India accepted membership of the Study Group on the understanding that the question would be considered in relation to its impact on the Commonwealth. Although Britain, like other members of the Commonwealth, had the right to take such action as was