

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yesterday we bade farewell to those colleagues of ours who were retiring from the membership of this House on the expiry of their term of office. Today, it is my pleasant duty to extend a warm welcome to all the newly elected and nominated Members, including those sitting Members who have been re-elected or re-nominated. In the system of parliamentary democracy that we have adopted under our Constitution, the two Houses of Parliament occupy the most important place in the management of the affairs of the vast millions of the people of our country. Indeed, it is Parliament that shapes the destiny of the nation and gives purposeful direction to it. Thus, there is a duty, and a responsibility, cast upon every person who is chosen or nominated a Member of Parliament to place himself at the service of the people to the best of his ability

Freedom of speech in Parliament is unfettered, so that Members may function and express themselves without fear or favour, and such speech, it will be readily agreed, is most effective when it is made with dignity and decorum. Strong viewpoints can be expressed with vigour and ability without any ill-will or bitterness. While we may all be prone to emotions, it will be a good rule to remember that even a good cause may sometimes suffer from bad advocacy.

I am happy to say that we in the Rajya Sabha have a rich tradition and a standard of conduct of which any Parliament can be proud. We have a duty not only to preserve this tradition but enhance its values. We have now a very vigorous opposition in the House and there is also a Leader of the Opposition. For the effective functioning of the parliamentary system, this is an essential concomitant. Constructive criticism by a responsible Opposition ensures the better functioning of Government. I have no doubt that we in this House shall continue to work together in the interest of those who have sent us here, and our highest concern always will be their welfare.

Once again I welcome the new Members.

REFERENCE TO NOTICE ON CALLING ATTENTION MOTION

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Sir, I rise on a point of order, an occasion for which never arose in the past because there was really no gap between the retirement of the old Members and the assumption of the new ones after the biennial elections. Sir, in this Calling Attention you will find some names but my name is excluded from it. I was one of those who gave notice of the Calling Attention. Presumably, Sir, my name has been dropped on the ground that I retired yesterday. That ground is not valid because, Sir, you admitted the Calling Attention notice yesterday when, in fact, I was a Member of the House. I ceased to be a Member of the House at 12 o'clock, midnight, yesterday and surely you did not accept the Calling Attention notice after midnight and before 11 A.M. today. That is why, Sir, at the time of your acceptance of the offer the contract was valid and I was a tenderer; I made that offer. I gave the notice at the time when I was a Member, at the time you accepted it I was a Member because yesterday you informed the Members of the House that this Calling Attention notice had been accepted. Therefore, at a material point of time, you being a jurist you understand, I was a Member. The question now arises in view of the fact that I ceased to be a Member between 12 midnight and 11 A.M. today whether my name should be dropped or whether there should have been an intelligent anticipation in this matter. Your office had been informed by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Returning Officer that I had been elected and I also made available a certificate of the Returning Officer that I had been elected which was submitted to your office. You should have, therefore, taken into account the paramount fact of my election and my continuance despite a little break in service between 12 midnight and 11 A.M. The Calling Attention, Sir, you knew very well would come up after the swearing in. By that time, according to the information available in your possession I would already be a Member again; there will be resurrection of mine.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal) : Do not get resurrected.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Resurrection does not take place in the heavens alone. Resurrection is an English word. It can take place anywhere, even in the ideas of a man. Having considered all this thing, I think it was incorrect on your part to have dropped my name. I am one of those, like the British King, who never dies.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA (Maharashtra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has raised a very valid point. There are several issues. One is even though we are elected and even though the oath is not taken, we are allowed to give notice of questions and Calling Attention, and all our names are printed even on the question Paper even prior to our taking the oath in this House. So this has been the practice of this House since long. Naturally, in this case when the notice is given already, and if the notice is given by Mr. Bhupesh Gupta after getting elected again, and if the notice is given by him in his capacity as a new Member, then naturally his name should be there. So we do not know whether he has given notice in the capacity of an old Member or a new Member. If the notice is given in the capacity as a new Member, then his name should appear. If it is given in the capacity of an old Member, it cannot appear.

श्री सूरज प्रसाद (बिहार) : मेरा प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर यह है कि यह कालिंग अटेंशन मैंने दस्तखत करा कर दिया था और उसमें मेरा नाम सबसे प्रथम था। आप लिस्ट देखिएगा तो मालूम होगा कि मेरा नाम चौथा स्टैंड करता है, इसलिए मैं आपसे आग्रह करूंगा कि यह कालिंग अटेंशन मुझे पेश करने की अनुमति दी जाये।

श्री सभापति : पहले मैं इनका प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर देख लूं, फिर आपका देखूंगा।

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मेरा प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर यह है कि श्री भूपेश गुप्त की जगह कभी खाली नहीं हुई। उन का चुनाव 28 को हो गया था। 28 तारीख को चुनाव होने के बाद भी यह शपथ ले सकते थे। जो लॉजिक है उसको

सुन लीजिए और इस बात पर बहुत ही सूक्ष्म दृष्टि से विचार होना चाहिए। भूपेश गुप्त मरे नहीं। भूपेश गुप्त अपनी जगह पर थे। उनका चुनाव 28 तारीख को हो गया था। चुनाव होने के बाद शपथ उनको 3 तारीख को दिलायी गयी; क्योंकि पुराने मेम्बरों का रिटायरमेंट 2 तारीख को होता है। तो 12 बजे वे पुराने मेम्बर नहीं रह गये, लेकिन चूंकि उनका चुनाव हो गया था और वे पुराने मेम्बर हैं और पुराने मेम्बर की हैसियत से पहले शपथ ले चुके हैं, तो मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि आपके कानून की दृष्टि से जो शपथ आज के 6 साल पहले या 18 साल पहले भूपेश जी ने ली थी वह समाप्त हो गयी क्या? मैं तो यह भी मानने के लिए तैयार हूं कि भूपेश जी को शपथ लेने की आवश्यकता ही नहीं थी; क्योंकि उनका चुनाव मेम्बर रहते हुए 28 तारीख को ही हो चुका था। तो जब यह पहले शपथ ले चुके थे वह इन-कॉन्टि-न्यूएशन थी। आज शपथ की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं थी। जो नया मेम्बर आये उसके लिए तो शपथ लेने की परंपरा है, आवश्यक भी है, लेकिन जो पुराने मेम्बर हैं और पहले शपथ ले चुके हैं और दुबारा चुन कर आ गये हैं, उनको शपथ लेने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं थी। मगर फिर भी उन्होंने अपनी शपथ ली। इसलिए मैं आपसे निवेदन करूंगा कि जो प्रश्न भूपेश जी ने उठाया है उस पर व्यवस्था देने के पूर्व आप अच्छी तरह से इन बारीक बातों को भी सोच लें और मैं उदाहरण दूं। मान लीजिए कि कोई मेम्बर है, जो सदन का मेम्बर है, उसका चुनाव दूसरी बार हो गया। उसके प्रश्न बराबर आते गये हैं और वह प्रश्न लिए गये हैं और यह उसको नहीं कहा गया है कि तुम फिर से नये प्रश्न भेजो; क्योंकि 2 तारीख को 12 बजे रात से तुम्हारी मेम्बरी डिस्कांटीन्यू हो गयी, आज सवेरे 11 बजे तक के लिए। तो जो प्वाइंट उन्होंने उठाया है वह यह है कि 2 अप्रैल को 12 बजे रात के बाद से आज सवेरे 11 बजे या साढ़े 11 बजे के बीच वह

[श्री राज नारायण]

मेम्बर थे या नहीं जबकि उनका चुनाव 28 तारीख को ही हो गया था और वे फिर दुबारा चुन लिये गये थे और उनका गज़ट में एनाउन्समेंट भी हो गया था। उनकी मेम्बरी है या नहीं और अगर उनकी मेम्बरी है, तो उनकी पूरा अधिकार है अपनी सदस्यता के अधिकार का उपभोग करने का। यही मेरा कहना है और इस पर आप विचार कर लें।

श्री निरंजन वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है और उसमें आप मेरी सहायता कीजिए। पहली बात तो यह है कि इस सदन की कार्यवाही में कौन-से सदस्य भाग ले सकते हैं? यदि किसी सदस्य ने जो चुना तो गया है, किन्तु जिसने शपथ न ली हो, क्या ऐसा सदस्य भी सदन की व्यवस्था और कार्यवाही में भाग ले सकता है?

दूसरी बात यह है कि कार्यवाही में नाम लिखने के बाद अगर दूसरे दिन ऐसा सदस्य गैरहाज़िर हो जाये और शपथ न ले सके तो उस कार्यवाही में उसका नाम लिखे रहने के परिणामस्वरूप उसका क्या नतीजा निकलेगा? यह दूसरी बात है। तो आप कृपा कर व्यवस्था देने समय इन दोनों बातों पर भी ध्यान देने का कष्ट कीजियेगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think that the notice which Mr. Bhupesh Gupta gave lapsed with the termination of his membership. At the time when this agenda started there was no notice by him.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You-admitted the notice when I was a Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, admission of notice is not material because the notice itself lapsed, and whatever I did, had to take effect from 11 o'clock to-day.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Not 11 o'clock, Sir. The first item on the agenda is oath-taking. After the oath, it takes effect. By the time oath is taken, I am a Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We started at 11 o'clock.....

श्री गोडे मुराहरि (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ, आप मुझे एक मिनट सुन लीजिए। मैं यह जानना चाहूँगा कि जो मेम्बर 28 तारीख को इलेक्ट हो जाता है और जिसका नोटिफिकेशन गज़ट में हो जाता है, उसका क्या कोई अधिकार नहीं है पहले दिन की कार्यवाही में भाग लेने का?

श्री सभापति : ओथ जब तक नहीं ली जायेगी तब तक उसको कोई अधिकार नहीं है।

श्री गोडे मुराहरि : ठीक है, लेकिन नोटिस तो वह दे सकता है। ओथ न ले तब तक उसका नाम आप नहीं पुकारेंगे।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, all the new Members have come (*Interruption*) Sir, some rights do accrue. I have not come here as a stranger. Even before the oath, we could enter the House and sign the paper. I am not entering the House as a stranger. Therefore, by this analogy, you cannot say that our rights do not arise at all till we have been sworn in. The fact that you have called us....

(*Interruption*)

MR. CHAIRMAN Do not argue after my ruling, please.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : (Andhra Pradesh) : Just one minute, Sir. The position is, it is true that it lapsed, as you very kindly just now said. But the moment they were elected, they have a right to give fresh notice. If he has given, after the elections on the 28th, another notice, then it is valid.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, one thing more I wish to say.

श्री राजनारायण : आज आप व्यवस्था मत दीजिए। आप सुन लीजिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN : I wish to point out that the notification of the new membership is dated the 3rd April, and the 3rd of April began after the earlier notice lapsed. Now, let us proceed with the business.

श्री सूरज प्रसाद : मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न यह था कि मैंने कालिंग अटेंशन दिया था

दस्तखत करा के जिसमें मेरा नाम प्रथम था। अभी मैं यह देख रहा हूँ कि जो लिस्ट पेश की गयी है, उसमें मेरा नाम चौथा है।

श्री सभापति : मैं आपकी बात समझ गया। बताता हूँ आपको। उसका कारण यह है कि आपके नाम के ऊपर जो तीन नाम हैं उन व्यक्तियों ने, उन मेम्बरों ने, पहले नोटिस दे रखा था, इसी सब्जेक्ट पर और उस प्रायोरिटी में नहीं आया था। तो यहां की यह प्रेक्टिस है कि जिन्होंने पहले नोटिस दे रखा है, उस सब्जेक्ट पर तो उनका नाम भी शामिल कर लेते हैं और चूकि उनके नोटिस पहले के हैं; इसलिए उनका नाम पहले आ गया।

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE (West Bengal) : On a point of order, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please, let us go on with the business.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, consistent with your ruling, please direct your Accounts Office not to draw my salary, allowance and everything between 12 last night and 11 this morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Then, how do I get it, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It started after 12 midnight.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : After your ruling, how do I get the money? I would not take wrong money because of the ruling you have given that between 12 last night and 11 A. M. to-day....

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. I corrected it by saying that the notification is dated the 3rd April which would start from midnight....

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : If it started at midnight, then I also start here with the Calling Attention.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, please sit down. You cannot send notice without taking oath. You cannot function without taking oath.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, आपकी व्यवस्था उचित नहीं है। कृपा कर आप उस पर पुनर्विचार करें। मैं हाथ जोड़ कर विनती कर रहा हूँ कि आप अपनी व्यवस्था मत दीजिए। नोटिस भेजने का अधिकार संविधान के मुताबिक कतई है। बिलकुल संसदीय प्रथा है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : But you cannot take part unless you take the oath. You might have given notice. But there is no new notice.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, I am not questioning your ruling. I do not agree with the ruling, but I accept it because it is your ruling.

SHRI RAJNARAIN : He has not given any ruling.

श्री गोडे मुराहरि : आप रूलिंग मत दीजिए; क्योंकि आपने जो यह कहा कि नोटिस नहीं दे सकते यह गलत होगा।

12 NOON

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, kindly instruct your Accounts Office not to make any payment to me for the period between the midnight last night and 11 o'clock this morning and to calculate how much should be deducted from my salary for those hours because I would not like to draw from the funds of the Exchequer of India when I was not a Member of the Rajya Sabha.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give a final ruling later. Will you allow the business to go on or not?

SHRI MOHAN LAL GAUTAM (Uttar Pradesh) : On a point of order, Sir. The point at issue is : When does the Membership start? Does the Membership start when the Returning Officer declares him elected or, does it start when it is notified in the Gazette or, does it start only when the Member has taken the oath? This is the issue before you and we would like you to give us a clear ruling on this point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give a considered ruling later.

SHRI A.P. CHATTERJEE : On a point of order, Sir, with regard to this Calling Attention Motion. You said that as far

[Shri A. P. Chatterjee]

as Mr. Suraj Prasad's name is concerned, it came fourth because the three Members whose names preceded his name, gave their notice earlier. Now, according to the Rules that are being followed in this House, the practice is that Calling-Attention Notices are considered by you in your Chamber at 10-30 everyday. The point as far as this Calling-Attention is concerned, if I remember aright, it was sent the day before yesterday or the day before that and it could have come up before you at 10-30 on a particular day. If those other three Members had given their notices, then, that notice, having not been considered by you at 10-30 on the preceding day or having been rejected by you at 10-30 on the preceding day, lapsed. And therefore, those three names could not come before Mr. Suraj Prasad. I am raising this question. Of course, I have got the greatest sympathy for the Secretariat. Sometimes the Secretariat, I should say with some amount of regret, bungles unwittingly—with no reflection on any member of the Secretariat—and an example of that bungling is this. As far as Mr. Suraj Prasad is concerned, I remember I signed on his paper, his was the first name that came for the Calling-Attention. After that was considered and that was accepted, I do not know why the three names of those who gave the earlier notice which was not considered along with that of Mr. Suraj Prasad and which could not be considered along with that of his at 10.30, came before his name.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give you a reply.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHAYAY (West Bengal) : May I draw your attention to this side also, Mr. Chairman ? I have been waiting here. Before you proceed to give your ruling, may I submit that a Member who has ceased to be a Member on the evening of 2nd April, cannot have any right or any constitutional obligation though he has again been elected, before he takes his oath or affirmation, whoever may be the Member. Membership is not a continuing process. So, the name which appears in the notice, even though it was sent long before the member's term expired, cannot have any validity today because he has not taken his oath. So, if a fresh notice, at least a shorter notice,

is given, that will be treated as a new notice, not as an old one.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will consider that.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्, कोई व्यक्ति इस सदन का सदस्य है या नहीं इस बात की घोषणा रिटनिंग आफिसर करता है, पीपुल्स रिप्रेजेंटेशन ऐक्ट के अनुसार केवल रिटनिंग आफिसर को अख्तियार है कि वह घोषणा करे कि कौन इस सदन का सदस्य है या नहीं। 28 तारीख को ही यह घोषणा हो गई कि गुप्ता जी सदन के सदस्य हैं और वह सदस्य की हैसियत से सारे अधिकार बरत सकते हैं . . .

श्री सभापति : आपतो उसी बात को साफ कर रहे हैं ।

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : . . . अलावा इसके कि सदन में कार्यवाही में हिस्सा लें वह सदस्य की हैसियत से सारे अधिकार बरत सकते हैं ।

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : Membership never depends upon that. It depends upon the declaration.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : इसलिए नोटिस देने का अधिकार गुप्ता जी को था उस वक्त से जब से कि रिटनिंग आफिसर ने घोषण कर दी ।

श्री सभापति : मगर उनका नया नोटिस नहीं आया ।

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : नया नोटिस देने की आवश्यकता नहीं है ।

श्री सभापति : अच्छा, मैंने कहा न कि मैं इस पर रुलिंग दूंगा ।

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, श्याम लाल जी ने पीपुल्स रिप्रेजेंटेशन ऐक्ट के मुताबिक जो है वह बताया है कि जब रिटनिंग आफिसर घोषणा कर देता है, इलेक्टेड कैडीडेट की तो वह मेम्बर हो जाता है . . .

श्री सभापति : मैंने कहा न कि कंसिडर्ड रुलिंग इस सबजेक्ट पर दूंगा . . .

श्री राजनारायण : . . . ऐक्ट में जो है वह बताया । यह सवाल उत्तर प्रदेश में उठा है . . .

श्री सभापति : मैंने कहा कि देखूंगा; क्योंकि मुझे कानून में यह याद है कि जब नोटिफिकेशन होता है तब मेम्बरशिप होती है, मैं याद से कह रहा हूं, मैं इसको देख कर बताऊंगा, मैंने कहा न कि मैं कंसिडर करके रूलिंग दूंगा ।

So, now let me proceed with the business.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : You kindly give your ruling after consulting all your legal advisers. But let me say this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. Please sit down. Let us proceed with the business. On this very point I do not wish to hear any more.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : No, Sir, not on that point. I want to say about the order of the names for the Calling-Attention. When the names were given earlier and if they were not considered, the Members should have been intimated that their Calling Attention has not been admitted and that their names. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, please sit down now. I will see it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, I request you to consider the whole matter because it has great implications. Suppose my name appears in the list of business in the morning—our Question Hour starts at 11 o'clock—and I die at 9 o'clock..

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. You will not die at 9 o'clock. Please listen to me. Please sit down first....

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI S. N. MISHRA) : Sir, I would like to make a submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Just listen to me first. I have already stated that this matter of practice in relation to the priority of names will also be considered by me and in case I find that the present practice is not correct, I shall announce what the practice should be so that honourable Members may not remain in doubt. On

the other point, I have already informed the House that I will examine it and give my considered opinion later. And I appeal to honourable Members not to pursue this matter any further because I have already stated that I will give a considered opinion later after taking all the things which have been very fully and clearly expressed before me, into consideration.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : You have been a jurist. You can give a ruling immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, you have not to say that. When I have already said I will consider the whole thing, you cannot call upon me to give a ruling immediately. It is most improper.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : Sir, with regard to the flexibility that you have been pleased to show regarding the admission of a Calling-Attention Motion I must say that I disagree with you with all humility..

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : But he has not yet given his ruling.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not said anything.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : But even so, although we would like you to be flexible on many occasions, I really do not find any error having been committed in regard to this Calling-Attention Motion. If any honourable Member takes the trouble of tabling a Motion earlier, he must get his due for that. He must get his due for that and it is not because of the fact that the name of a particular Member of my party appears on the list. If any other Member who is insisting that his name should have headed the list of Members on the list, if he happens to be the first person who has submitted the Calling-Attention Motion, I would have heartily welcomed it and I would not have had any kind of protest against that. So, with regard to that I would request you not to be so flexible; otherwise, the chances of a particular Member would be jeopardised.

Then, Sir, the second matter is very important and you will have to go into it very carefully. I would like to submit that you have to consider another aspect of it whether the membership, as has been

[Shri S. N. Mishra]

pointed out by my friend, Shri Mohan Lal Gautam, commences after the declaration of the result or after taking the oath—also the Notification. So there are three aspects of it. The attributes of membership and the rights and obligations of membership commence only after taking the oath. You will therefore have to go into this matter with much greater care.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should not tell me all these things.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : Sir, I am only presumptuous enough to say it to you because sometimes I find that there is flexibility shown which is misplaced.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

SHRI BAHARUL ISLAM (Assam) : Sir, a Member can participate in the activities of the House only after he takes the oath. Otherwise he cannot participate. Therefore Mr. Bhupesh Gupta's Calling Attention Notice was not admitted by the Chairman, because its admission would mean that he would participate in the activities of the House. But he has not yet taken his oath and membership will continue from midnight only....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you are repeating the same thing. Please sit down.

श्री सूरज प्रसाद : मेरा प्वाइन्ट आफ आर्डर है कि जो कॉलिंग अटेंशन मंजूर किया गया उसमें मेरा नाम पहले था, इसलिये मेरा नाम पहले होना चाहिये ।

श्री सभापति : इसमें कोई सब्सटेंस नहीं है । मुझे अख्तियार है कि किसका नाम पहले आये, जिसको चाहें पहले बुला लूं ।

MEMBER SWORN

Shrimati Maragatham Chandrasekhar (Nominated).

श्री गोडे मुराहरी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है । आपने कॉलिंग अटेंशन के लिये बुला लिया था । उसके बाद ओथ लेने का क्या सवाल होता है ।

श्री सभापति : मुझे मालूम हुआ कि एक मेम्बर और बाकी रह गई थीं । मैंने

उनको भी ओथ लेने के लिये बुला लिया । अब कॉलिंग अटेंशन ले रहा हूं ।

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE ARMED POLICE FORCES OF UTTAR PRADESH AND BIHAR IN UMARPUR DIARA ON THE U. P. BIHAR BORDER.

श्री गनेशी लाल चौधरी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपकी आज्ञा से उत्तर प्रदेश-बिहार सीमा पर उमरपुर दियारा में उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार की सशस्त्र पुलिस के बीच सामना होने के समाचार और विवाद-ग्रस्त रबी की फसल को काटने के सम्बन्ध में उस क्षेत्र के बटाईदारों की जान-माल के लिये खतरे की ओर गृह-कार्य मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूं ।

गृह-कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल) : इस समय गंगा नदी की गहरी धारा उत्तर प्रदेश के बलिया ज़िले तथा बिहार के शाहाबाद ज़िले के बीच की सीमा है । इस क्षेत्र में नदी का बहाव वर्ष-प्रति-वर्ष बदलता रहता है जिसके परिणामस्वरूप नदी की गहरी धारा भी समय-समय पर बदलती रहती है । वर्षा ऋतु के पश्चात् जब नदी का पानी कम हो जाता है, तो कुछ स्थानों पर वह एक से अधिक धाराओं में बहने लगता है और यदि वहां यह संदेह उत्पन्न हो जाये कि उनमें कौन-सी गहरी धारा मानी जाये, तो दोनों राज्यों के अधिकारियों को संबंधित नियमों के अनुसार जांच करनी पड़ती है ।

प्राप्त सूचनाओं के अनुसार गहरी धारा के वास्तविक स्थान के बारे में कुछ संदेह उत्पन्न हो गये थे; क्योंकि गत वर्षा ऋतु के बाद नदी के बहाव के साथ-साथ कुछेक स्थानों पर यह धारा बह निकली थी । दोनों राज्य सरकारों ने संबंधित आयुक्तों को इस गहरी धारा को निश्चित करने हेतु शीघ्र आपस में बैठक करने के लिये कहा है । इस कार्य को शीघ्र कराने तथा इस क्षेत्र में फसल के कटाई से