

Does he have the permission of the House for remaining absent from 12th to 30th March, 2012 of the current Session of the Rajya Sabha?

(No hon. Member dissented)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Permission to remain absent is granted.

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### MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We will not take up Zero Hour issues.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal) : Sir, my colleague, Shri Sitaram Yechury had mentioned in the Question Hour that serious horse trading is going on the occasion of the Rajya Sabha elections in one State.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : What do I do?

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, I want to draw your attention to seriously consider it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is a matter which is with the Election Commission. What is it that we can do?

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : It is going on. It is coming in the Press. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्रा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : जिस तरह से यह मीडिया में दिखा रहे हैं ...*(व्यवधान)*... इसे देखना चाहिए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Mr. Sitaram Yechury has already raised that in the Question Hour.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has raised it. But what is it that the House can do? The Election Commission is an independent body.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : I think that should be countermanded and the House should express this. The House should take it up and also countermand it. Otherwise, these tainted people will come to this House. Tainted people will come to this House.

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राजीव शुक्ल) : It is under the domain of the Election Commission. यह इलेक्शन कमिशन के डोमेन में है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA : Mr. Rajeev Shukla is opposing this also!

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : I think the House has definite reason to feel seriously concerned about this. The House has got definite reason to feel seriously concerned about this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The matter is not before us. There is no notice.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : It is coming in the Press. Somebody is caught with Rs. 2 crores. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : What do you want?

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam) : Sir, I am associating myself with the concern expressed by Shri Tapan Kumar Sen. If this Member is elected, he is going to come to his House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is under the jurisdiction of the Election Commission. What is it that I can do?

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal) : But the sense of the House should be communicated to the Election Commission. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : What is the sense of the House that can be communicated? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : The Election Commission is already seized of the matter. The sense of the House should be communicated to the Election Commission. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : In what forum?

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : It is to countermand the Election.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Whatever you are talking is seen by our country. That is the sentiment. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, we have been talking so much about tainting.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Dr. Maitreyan, election is under the jurisdiction of the Election Commission.

DR. V. MAITREYAN : We are expressing our concern.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have expressed it. That is the concern. Now why are you talking about it?

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, this Member, after election, is coming to this House. This is our concern.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Don't say that. Who is coming or who is not coming is not in our hands.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (Punjab) : Sir, when the Member comes to this House, then, the issue can be referred to the Ethics Committee.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : When it is referred to the Ethics Committee, then, it can be looked into.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Sir, this thing comes purely under the domain of the Election Commission, but if you direct, I can definitely bring to the notice of the Home Minister the feelings of the members of the House.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let us take up the Zero Hour mentions. Now, Smt. Jharna Das Baidya - absent. Shri Bandyopadhyay.

#### **Nation-wide strike by goldsmiths**

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY (West Bengal) : Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of this House a very serious situation arising due to strike by goldsmiths and artisans in the country. Roughly, Sri, 1.5 crore people are involved. They are basically workmen; I am not talking of big business people. These workmen, unfortunately, have to resort to strike, because there is a problem.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We had discussed this issue in the House.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, let me say and finish, it. Then you can say yours comments.

There is an excise hike of 4 per cent which will adversely affect this particular group of people. Moreover, Sir, with the impact of increase of taxes with the effect of the rise of customs and excise duty, the price of gold in India would go up. Thus, there would be difference in the price with the international gold price which would encourage smuggling. In view of this, I feel, the Government has not been able to intercede or pro-actively intervene to create a situation in which the problem can be resolved.

We know that the hon. Finance Minister did make some concession in his reply to budget. But the fact is, in spite of that, the situation continues to be grim. Therefore, the hon. Finance Minister's concessions are too little and too late to resolve the issue. Under the circumstance, I request, through you, the Government that it should immediately intercede, call the representatives of the workmen and try to find a solution so that the penury of penury of these people does not increase. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The Minister wants to respond.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA) : Sir, I have heard what the hon. Member has said.