

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, 18th July, 2014/27th Ashadha, 1936 (Saka)

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

REFERENCE TO VICTIMS OF MALAYSIAN PLANE CRASH

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you are aware, a Malaysian passenger aircraft crashed while flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur on the 17th of July, 2014 in which all the 298 passengers including the crew were reportedly killed.

The death of so many passengers and crew is indeed tragic and sad. I am sure the whole House will join me in sending our heartfelt sympathy and deepest condolences to the people who have lost their near and dear ones in the crash.

I request hon. Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of those who lost their lives in this tragedy.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No.161 ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, मेरा पहला सवाल है, लेकिन जिस तरह से गाजा पट्टी पर हमला हो रहा है और निर्दोष लोग मारे जा रहे हैं, पहले उस पर चर्चा होनी चाहिए।
...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, we all stood in condoling the death of these 298 people in the Malaysian aircraft incident. Very correct, Sir, we all supported you on that. But I wish you made a similar reference to the innocent people dying in Gaza today. ...*(Interruptions)*... I don't know why that has been missed out. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, in right earnest, the United Nations has also done it, and we are a member of the United Nations. They have also said that 75 per cent of those killed in Gaza are civilians, 46 per cent are children, 12 per cent of them are below 5 years of age. This definitely merits a humanitarian consideration, at least. Forget all the politics of it. I think, condoling these deaths, a reference must be made by the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Listen. ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are going to get an opportunity for that because we, are going to discuss the very same issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yesterday, the Business Advisory Committee has taken a decision regarding the discussion of the very same issue and

there we will be able to express our condolences. So, I think, the discussion has to take place. What is the position of the Government about the discussion? ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen to the Government, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): Sir, I fully appreciate the concerns raised by our senior colleague Shri Sitaram Yechury in making a reference from the Chair to condole the deaths. That is an issue between him and the Chair. As far as the BAC and the discussion on the Gaza issue is concerned, the Government made it very clear in yesterday's BAC that we are ready for discussion on Monday. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are ready for discussion on Monday. ...*(Interruptions)*... and Sharad Yadavji suggested whether it can be taken up on Friday, means today. I told him, let me talk to the Minister and come back to him. Within half an hour, I came back and told him that we were ready for Monday at 12 o'clock. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): In case the Government is not ready to discuss it on Friday, then it will not be possible for the Opposition to cooperate with the Government.

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी : उपसभापति महोदय, मेरा पहला सवाल बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है, लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी मैं चाहूंगा कि इस अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महत्व के मुद्दे पर, जहां निर्दोष लोग मारे जा रहे हों, पहले चर्चा होनी चाहिए। इसलिए मेरा अनुरोध है कि जिस तरह से वहां मासूम बच्चे और आम नागरिक मारे जा रहे हैं, पहले उस पर सरकार चर्चा कराए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... महोदय, मैं समझ नहीं पा रहा हूँ कि सरकार इस मुद्दे पर चर्चा से क्यों भाग रही है? सरकार निर्दोषों की हत्या के सवाल पर अपना चेहरा क्यों छिपा रही है?...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, with your permission, I beg to move under Rule 267...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, I have not permitted. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have to permit that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, I beg to move, under Rule 267, to suspend Rule 38. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; wait. Even for that, I have to permit. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Rajeeve, even for moving that, you need my permission.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: That is why, I beg to move, under Rule 267, to suspend Rule 38.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not permitted. ...*(Interruptions)*... Wait, I am only asking you ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down.

Now, what I want to know is that the Government has already made it clear that they are ready for a discussion and they have assured the House that discussion can take place on Monday. Are we not satisfied with that? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: No, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Can we not agree to that?

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I have one point. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, the point is that the killings are taking place now. Now, in delaying it till Monday, there may be a hope that there will be some ceasefire, therefore, a discussion is infructuous. The point is that this Parliament has always acted with alacrity. Under Mr. Vajpayee, as the Prime Minister, when that attack by the United States took place on Iraq, this Parliament unanimously moved disapproving it. And, the United States of America is a country with whom we had a strategic relationship. So, it is not an issue of countries with good relations, etc. Whenever we felt something was important, we moved on that issue. The time is going on. It is already three days late. That is why, for the last two days, we have been arguing that this should be discussed and our opinion should be recorded. The world should know our concern about what is happening. Therefore, please do not delay it further. We fully respect the Private Members' Business. ...*(Interruptions)*... We want that to continue. But before that, we have sufficient time. You please discuss this issue. Let the Minister come on Monday and reply. ...*(Interruptions)*... But you should have the discussion. Let her reply on Monday. What is the problem? ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, let her reply on Monday. We can discuss it now. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, did you get my point? ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, my point is that let us have the discussion now and let the Minister reply on Monday when she is available. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is it agreeable? ...*(Interruptions)*... No; I have called the Law Minister.

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, listen to the Law Minister. Then, we will decide.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY; AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Sir, my submission is very simple. When the Government has agreed for a debate on this issue, I am sure, it is going to be a debate without any condition regardless of what Yechuryji has said. When the hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs has very clearly stated that at 12 o'clock on Monday, this will be the first agenda, I would request let the Question Hour go on. *...(Interruptions)...* The first question is important. Mr. Tiwari has to ask the question. *...(Interruptions)...* Why are they asking today itself? Only one day *...(Interruptions)...* On Monday, we can discuss it. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, I would request *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : उपसभापति जी *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will allow you. *...(Interruptions)...* I will allow you. I have no problem. See, there is only one problem in this. It is a matter of little co-operation. Number one, this side says, "Start the discussion today and the Minister can reply on Monday." *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: The Minister should be present.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am only saying as to what this side is saying. The Government side says, "We are assuring the discussion on Monday and we will start at 12 o'clock." So, it is only a small gap. Let us bridge this gap. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति जी *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : माननीय उपसभापति जी, मैं कल से देख रहा हूँ कि सरकार इस मुद्दे को डाइल्यूट कर *...(व्यवधान)...* मैं कल से देख रहा हूँ कि सरकार *...(व्यवधान)...*

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : माननीय उपसभापति जी *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will have to take up Question Hour. क्वेश्चन ऑवर लेना पड़ेगा। *...(व्यवधान)...*

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : सर, प्रश्नकाल को *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no *...(Interruptions)...* All of you are standing. *...(Interruptions)...* कुछ नहीं, क्वेश्चन ऑवर। I *...(Interruptions)...* I have to take up Question Hour.

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO (Telangana): No Question Hour.
...(Interruptions)...

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : सर, प्रश्नकाल को निलंबित करने का हमने रूल 267 के अंतर्गत नोटिस दिया हुआ है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 161. Shri Pramod Tiwari.
...(Interruptions)... Mr. Pramod Tiwari, Question No. 161. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Pramod Tiwari, are you putting the question?

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी : सर, यह मेरा सवाल है, लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि गाज़ा पट्टी पर जो कुछ भी हो रहा है, वह दुखद, दर्दनाक और दुर्भावनापूर्ण है। इसको रोके जाने के लिए पहले इस विषय पर आप चर्चा कराएं। ...(व्यवधान).... सवाल इस समय हजारों निर्दोष लोगों ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned for fifteen minutes.

The House then adjourned at eleven minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twenty-six minutes past eleven of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

कुछ माननीय सदस्य : सर, गाज़ा पट्टी पर ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : माननीय उपसभापति जी ...(व्यवधान)...

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Pendency of cases in High Courts

*161. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cases pending in various High Courts has increased tremendously over the past few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being initiated by Government to clear the backlog of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.