

Nadimul Haque. ...*(Interruptions)*... Everybody is asking for the same thing, it is not political. ...*(Interruptions)*... I know that everybody is asking the same thing. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is why, I allowed more Members. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Mr. Rangarajan, please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... You have made your point. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is one more Zero Hour matter. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me clear that. ...*(Interruptions)*... What can I do? It is for the Central Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not Central Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, through you, we are requesting the Government to respond. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is a very burning issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... Lives of so many people and fishermen are at stake. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why does the Government not respond? They respond to each and every thing. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why not a few words of consolation for the people of Tamil Nadu? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The point is, I cannot ask or compel the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is up to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... Okay. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, normally, it is not the routine during Zero Hour that the Government must respond. You are very experienced. But, seeing the sentiments of my friends from Tamil Nadu, we completely share their concern. The Government has already been walking the extra mile to ensure safety and security of fishermen. They have always complimented the role of the Prime Minister. We shall take on board their concerns and take appropriate measures.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I must thank the Minister for that assurance.

Controversy over demand to handover Taj Mahal to U.P. Sunni Wakf Board

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, there is a controversy raging over property rights of the Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal was declared as “Monument of National Importance” by the Archaeological Survey of India under the provisions of “Ancient Monuments and Archaeological sites and Remains Act, 1951”. The UNESCO subsequently declared it as “World Heritage Site”.

Now, a controversy has been triggered by the demand that the Taj Mahal should be handed over to the U.P. Sunni Wakf Board which manages Muslim places of worship and burial grounds. Certain members of the Hindu community countered the demand by saying that the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan “purchased a part of Tejo Mahalaya Temple’s land from Raja Jai Singh” and claimed that document to prove it still exists. There has

also been a rift between the Shia and the Sunni community because Mumtaz Mahal, the Mughal Queen who is interred in this monument was a Shia Muslim, while her husband, the Emperor Shahjahan, who was also interred here by his son Aurangzeb, was a devout Sunni Muslim. Taj Mahal is maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India.

The Taj Mahal should not be made a part of any controversies as it will affect the flow of tourists to the city of Taj -- Agra. Taken to be one of the seven wonders of the modern world, the Taj Mahal is a prime tourist attraction and attracts the most number of foreign tourists in India.

I urge upon the Government, through you, to immediately take necessary actions to resolve all the controversies so that the issue may not divide communities and thus create serious communal problems... *(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति जी, ताजमहल पर कोई विवाद नहीं है। यह नेशनल मॉन्यूमेंट है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... लोग इस पर विवाद क्यों खड़ा करते हैं? इस पर कोई विवाद ही नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Sir, Shakeel Badayuni in an Urdu couplet has said, I quote: "इक राहंराह ने बनवा कर हसीं ताजमहल, सारी दुनिया को मोहब्बत की निरानी दी है।"

ایک شہنشاہ نے بنوا کر حسین تاج محل
ساری دنیا کو محبت کی نشانی دی ہے۔

I end this by saying that character and status of Taj Mahal must not be disturbed under any circumstances, no matter who says what.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate my self with the issue raised by my colleague.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate my self with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधू (पश्चिम प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, मैं इस विषय से संबद्ध करती हूँ।

SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM (Meghalaya): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : सर, मैं भी इस विषय से संबद्ध करती हूँ।

कुछ माननीय सदस्य : सर, हम भी इस विषय से संबद्ध करते हैं।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : उपसभापति जी, हम सब लोग इस बात से चिंतित हैं कि ताजमहल का भी राजनीतिकरण किया जा रहा है, ताजमहल को भी राजनीति का मुद्दा बनाने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है, इसे विवादित मुद्दा बनाया जा रहा है। यह चिंता की बात है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, इस पर तो मैं कहूंगा कि एक प्रस्ताव सदन में हो जाए, बेशक सत्ता पक्ष की तरफ से आ जाए कि ताजमहल को विवाद का मुद्दा नहीं बनाना चाहिए। ताजमहल इस राष्ट्र की धरोहर है, विश्व की धरोहर है और प्यार की धरोहर है। इसको कभी मुद्दा नहीं बनाना चाहिए। मैं चाहूंगा कि इस पर प्रस्ताव आ जाए, जिससे लोग इस पर आगे राजनीति न कर सकें। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I agree with the hon. Member. Taj Mahal is a great heritage. It should not be politicised.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Is Zero Hour over?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Then, yesterday I had raised a point of order under Rule 34. Then, the Chair actually deferred the ruling. Now, I want the ruling on the 'List of Business' issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You see that was in regard to a particular Bill. Your point was the time was not allotted by the BAC for that particular Bill; and the Bill can't be taken up. That is the point you have mentioned. But yesterday the House has deferred that Bill for a future date. Therefore, I will give the ruling when that Bill is taken up.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: My objection was in regard to the 'List of Business'. The discussion on the Bill was not taken up in the BAC. Then it was included in the List of Business. My objection was when the BAC has not made a provision to include that Bill in the 'List of Business', how could you bypass the BAC?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will give you additional information. If my memory is correct, the Government, in the List of Business for the next week, had included that Bill also and had announced in the House. I agree, I am not ruling out what you have said. But the Government's intention to include that Bill had been announced in the House. This is number one. But your point is well taken that the BAC did not consider that Bill and no time was allotted.

That was your point. That is one of the reasons why the Bill has been deferred. I will give the ruling when the Bill is taken up.

Now Question Hour, please.
