

- (a) Seventeenth Annual Report on the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, for the year 1996 and 1997, under sub-section (4) of section 15A of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT.2128/00]

Memorandum of Understanding (2000-2001) between Government of India and Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): Sir, On behalf of Dr. Vallabh Bhai Kathiria, I lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises, Department of Heavy Industry) and the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited for the year 2000-2001. [Placed in Library. See No. LT.2114/00]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that a letter has been received from Shri K.G. Bhutia stating that he is in the intensive care unit of Gangaram Hospital, New Delhi due to illness and is unable to attend the House during the current Session. He has, accordingly, requested for the leave of absence from all sittings of the House till the end of the current Session.

Does he have the permission of the House for remaining absent from all the sittings of the House during the current Session?

(No hon. Member dissented)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

MATTER RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Kidnapping of Dr. Rajkumar, Kannada Film Star by Veerappan, a Sandalwood Smuggler

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI (Karnataka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is shocking to know that Dr. Rajkumar, the matinee idol of Karnataka and the most

popular star, has been kidnapped by Veerappan, a notorious smuggler. Sir, because of this, there is violence. Rioting has started in Karnataka and schools have been closed for two days. It is a serious matter. Perhaps, if immediate action is not taken, it would spread to the villages of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu also. Therefore, I would strongly urge upon the Government of India to intervene and try to get his release as early as possible to prevent any future rioting and violence in the country. Sir, I would like the Leader of the House, who is present --if not the Home Minister-- to respond. I must also say that law and order has completely broken down. Such a situation has arisen. Please take some action, whatever is reasonable, and see that Dr. Rajkumar, the popular star, is released safely in good health.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka): Sir, the incident of kidnapping of Dr. Rajkumar, a film star of Karnataka, has caused great anguish and anger in Karnataka. I urge upon the Central Government to extend all assistance to the Karnataka Government to see that Dr. Rajkumar is released as early as possible. The situation in Karnataka is tense because the people are charged with emotion. He is one of the matinee idols of South India. The State Government has already taken all steps to see that the film star is released. In this connection, I urge upon the Central Government to extend all assistance to the Government of Karnataka and see that both the security as well as... *(Interruptions)*

I am urging the Central Government to give assistance. *...(Interruptions)...* It is a very serious and sensitive issue. Veerappan has been creating terror both in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. That is why we are urging that it is not an isolated issue. He has been indulging himself in kidnapping. *...(Interruptions)...* It is becoming very difficult. *...(Interruptions)...* The attitude of leaving everything with the State Government should not be there. Sir, we are seeking assistance. Sir, I once again condemn this incident and would like to see that Dr. Raj Kumar is released as early as possible.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very shocking that a great actor like Dr. Raj Kumar was kidnapped when he went to his farmhouse yesterday along with his wife, other family members and crew. Veerappan and twelve others came in some vehicles and suddenly threatened them and then leaving the wife of Dr. Raj Kumar, I think, Shrimati Parvathamma, took Dr. Raj Kumar and his son-in-law as hostages and gave a cassette to the wife of the great actor conveying

some message to the Government of Karnataka. Some message is there in the cassette. This is the information available. Sir, this is highly condemnable. The other information is that there is a lot of tension in Bangalore. I have just spoken to some people there. Many unfortunate incidents are taking place there. I would like to appeal to the people of Karnataka not to get emotional because this is an issue where there is no fault of the Government at the moment. It is an act of a terrorist type of a fellow. So, that being the case we should focus our attention to see that efforts are made by the State Governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu with the active cooperation of the Government of India to see that the actor is released without any harm to him. Then the other issues can be discussed because Veerappan has been creating terror in this region and this is not an isolated incident. So far more than Rs.120 crores have been spent to catch that person. He has been kidnapping and killing people. This is continuously happening. This is really a very serious matter. So, I request, Sir, through you, the Union Government to get in touch immediately with the Governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and take all necessary positive steps for an early release of Dr. Raj Kumar, and inform the House if there is any progress because Dr. Raj Kumar is not only adorned by the people of Karnataka, but even, as pointed out by Bommai, in other parts of the South. They all respect him. He is one of the greatest actors we have. His contribution to culture and film industry is praiseworthy. That being the case, I express my concern and condemn this incident. I urge the Government of India and the Government of Karnataka to take all necessary steps, including steps to maintain law and order also. I do not want to go into the details because information going around the country will also not be of much help. I want that steps should be taken to maintain law and order and also to see that no further tension is built up. Thank you.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I share the concern of all hon. Members about this very serious matter involving the abduction of a great actor Dr. Raj Kumar. I do hope that Governments both in Karnataka and at the Centre will take all possible steps to bring the culprits to book and that without any further loss of time every effort will be made to ensure that Dr. Raj Kumar is back home safe and in good health. Thank you.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, as we well know, kidnapping of Dr. Raj Kumar, who is a well-known actor, is a very serious matter. He is treated as a god in Karnataka. He is under threat. I

am very much concerned about this matter because I had been a co-star in some of his films. The lives of artists throughout the country are in danger. I being an artist cannot shirk my responsibility and the Government must take serious action for the safety and quick release of Dr. Raj Kumar.

Sir, the notorious sandalwood smuggler, Veerappan has given a lot of information through the Press and the well-known smuggler has sent so many demands. But neither the Government nor the officials have taken any serious action against him. It is a very serious matter and it is shameful for everybody that we are giving an opportunity to him to do such things like the kidnapping of an established and renowned artist like Rajkumar. His life is under threat. Sir, I request the Government to take immediate action because it is not a small problem. Veerappan has been repeatedly doing such things to make people to concede his own demands. So, I request the Central Government to take immediate action and give assistance to the State Government in taking steps to get the early release of Dr. Rajkumar.

श्री संजय निरुपम (महाराष्ट्र) : सभापति महोदय, पिछले एक दशक से ज्यादा समय से चन्दन का तस्कर वीरप्पन, उसका आतंकवाद दक्षिण के राज्यों में व्याप्त है। तीनों राज्यों की पुलिस उसे पकड़ने के लिए कितने दिनों से एक समन्वित कार्यक्रम बनाकर काम कर रही है फिर भी वह नहीं पकड़ा जा रहा है। आज सुबह जो खबर आई, कल रात को जो उन्होंने घटना की वह तो निश्चित तौर से बहुत ही दुखद है, बहुत ही शक्ति है। डा. राजकुमार को किडनैप करके पता नहीं कहाँ रखा है, क्या किया है। सबसे पहले मैं सदन से आपके माध्यम से केंद्र सरकार से यह निवेदन करूंगा कि तत्काल राज्यों की पुलिस के सम्पर्क में आया जाए और डा. राजकुमार की रिहाई व डा. राजकुमार को बचाने की कोशिश की जाए और दूसरा जो सबसे प्रमुख मेरा निवेदन होगा वह यह है कि इसी के साथ साथ वीरप्पन को भी गिरफ्तार करने के बारे में एक ठोस कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए क्योंकि मुझे समझ में नहीं आता है कि जिस वीरप्पन के पास प्रेस के लोग पहुंच जाते हैं, जिस वीरप्पन के इंटरव्यूज आते हैं, उसके इंटरव्यूज टेलीविजन में आते हैं, उसके इंटरव्यूज मैगजीन्स में छपते हैं, उसके फोटोग्राफ्स छपते हैं, उस वीरप्पन के पास पुलिस क्यों नहीं पहुंच पाती है, कैसे नहीं पहुंच पाती है।

तीनों राज्यों की पुलिस जो एक साथ काम कर रही थी पिछले दो तीन सालों में खूब सघन अभियान चलाया गया था उसे पकड़ने के लिए फिर अचानक वह अभियान क्यों टंडा पड़ गया, यह समझ में नहीं आता है। लेकिन यह एक सही समय है। इस समय पर डा. राजकुमार की रक्षा करने के साथ साथ वीरप्पन जैसे एक अपराधी को तत्काल गिरफ्तार करने की दिशा में ठोस कार्यवाही की जाए यह मैं केंद्र सरकार से मांग करता हूँ, निवेदन करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we share the sentiments expressed by hon. Members of this august House. The kidnapping of Dr. Rajkumar by Veerappan is a highly condemnable one. The notorious smuggler is repeatedly doing this type of kidnapping. Sir, this

type of violence by anybody is highly condemnable. We condemn this. We cannot tolerate such things. What I feel is, the State Governments, the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government of Karnataka, with the full assistance of Central Government will certainly find a solution as early as possible and see that Rajkumar is released at the earliest possible date.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश): ऐसा हो कि राजकुमार छूटे भी और वह पकड़ा भी जाए। Veerappan should be arrested.

SHRI, S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: If it were possible, we would have done it. The Government of Tamil Nadu will stand by the efforts taken by the Government of Karnataka. The people of Tamil Nadu will stand by the people of Karnataka. This is not an issue pertaining to one particular State. We feel, this is an issue concerning the whole nation. Therefore, we feel that this should be taken on a priority basis by the Central Government. It must extend all possible assistance, including intelligence service to both the State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. I would like to cite an example. Sir, once a plane was hijacked to Uganda and, with the help of some peculiar technical assistance from Israel, the passengers on board were released unharmed. In such a way, if there is any such possibility, we have to use the new areas of technological development, and find out the person where he is and arrest him. We stand by the people of Karnataka and, we hope, that Dr. Rajkumar, will be released and Veerappan is arrested with the joint efforts of the State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and other State Governments in South as well as with the help from the Central Government. With this hope, I conclude. Thank you.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : समापति जी, इससे ज्यादा गंभीर कोई घटना नहीं हो सकती है कि डॉ. राजकुमार जैसे मशहूर कलाकार को अपहृत किया गया है। पिछले 8 साल से वीरप्पन के बारे में हम लोग सुन रहे हैं और ऐसा लगता है कि सारी सरकारें निरुपाय और असहाय हो गई हैं। कर्णाटक में तीन सरकारें बदल चुकी हैं। तमिलनाडु, कर्णाटक और आन्ध्र प्रदेश, तीनों राज्यों की पुलिस ने मिल कर कोशिश की है कि उसको पकड़ा जाए, परन्तु वह नहीं पकड़ पाई। ओसामा बिन लादेन और प्रभाकरण के बारे में तो हम लोग सुनते हैं, लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान की धरती पर भी कोई ऐसा व्यक्ति है जिसके आगे सरकारें और पुलिस लाचार है। यह मुझे पहली बार पता चल रहा है। मुझे लगता है कि इसमें सब से गंभीर बात यह है कि भारत सरकार की तरफ से कोई कोशिश होनी चाहिए, अभी तक मुझे नहीं लगता कि गवर्नमेंट ऑफ़ इंडिया ने वीरप्पन को पकड़ने के लिए एक्टिवली पार्टिसिपेट किया है? सीआरपीएफ आदि के जाने से कुछ नहीं होता। गवर्नमेंट ऑफ़ इंडिया को, होम मिनिस्ट्री को कोई ऐसी स्कीम बना कर और आर्मी की हेल्प लेकर तथा पूरा एम्बुश करके वहां के जंगलों से वीरप्पन को पकड़ने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए। वरना आज तो एक स्टार को पकड़ा है, कल किसी दूसरे स्टार को पकड़ा जाएगा और फिर किसी दिन किसी मुख्य मंत्री की नौबत भी आ सकती है। मध्य प्रदेश में तो मंत्री को

पकड़ कर पहले ही मारा गया है। इसलिए मैं मानता हूँ कि मामला बहुत गंभीर है और इस पर भारत सरकार को कोई जवाब देना चाहिए। जसवंत सिंह जी बैठे हैं, अगर वे इस पर कुछ बोल सकें तो अच्छी बात है।

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN (Kerala): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I share the views and sentiments expressed by my hon. colleagues here about the kidnapping of the famous film star, Dr. Rajkumar. Sir, Veerappan, as we all know, is continuing such a kind of tortuous activities since a long time. Unfortunately, he could not be prevented and he could not be caught hold of. Anyhow, now, a famous film star is kidnapped and one of his close relatives has also been kidnapped. I hope the Government of Karnataka will take all necessary measures to see that Dr. Rajkumar and his close relative, who had been kidnapped along with him, are released without any harm. At the same time, I would also like to suggest to the adjacent States and also to the Government of India to co-operate in the endeavour to catch hold of Veerappan, and see that Dr. Rajkumar is released without any harm. I do not want to take much time of the House. I hope the Government of India will render all possible assistance for this. With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

†मौलाना ओबैदुल्ला खान आजमी (बिहार) : सर, बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया। सदर-ए-मोहतरम, मि. वीरप्पन के जरिए जो एक घातक हमला हिन्दुस्तान के कल्चर और फन पर हुआ है डा. राजकुमार की शकल में, उसकी जितनी भी मजम्मत की जाए कम है। मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि यह मामला बहुत दिनों से खट्याई में पड़ा हुआ है। मुल्क के वे दुश्मन जो मुल्क के बाहर रह कर हिन्दुस्तान की तबाही का पेशखेमा साबित होते रहे हैं उन्हें हमारी हुकूमत मुख्तलिफ मुल्कों के साथ मिलकर गिरफ्तार करने की भरपूर कोशिश करती रही है - पिछली हुकूमत भी और यह हुकूमत भी। इस के बावजूद तालमेल की मालूम नहीं वह कौन सी कठिनाई है जिस के बिना पर इस देश के दुश्मन जो बाहर गतिविधियां कर रहे हैं, उन्हें देश में लाने से हम मजबूर रहे हैं? मगर यह गतिविधियां तो देश के अंदर हो रही हैं, देश के जंगलों में हो रही हैं। इस तरह से यह मामला सिर्फ डा. राजकुमार का नहीं है। जहां तक उन के कलाकार होने का सवाल है, यकीनन देश के एक फनकार को अपहृत कर के पूरे देश का सिर उन लोगों ने झुकवाया है, मगर देश के किसी मामूली नागरिक का भी अगर अपहरण होता है तो हमें उस की भी जान की कीमत का अंदाजा और उस के भी स्वाभिमान की कीमत का अंदाजा उसी तरह से लगाना चाहिए।

सर, अब तक यह मामला इस तरह रहा है कि वीरप्पन को तमिलनाडु गवर्नमेंट पकड़ती है या कर्नाटक गवर्नमेंट पकड़ती है और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट उस में कितना सहयोग देती है। तो इस तरह बहस से काम नहीं चलेगा। जितनी बहस कर्नाटक और तमिलनाडु के लोग यहां हाउस में करते हैं उतनी बहस अगर वहां जंगल में जाकर की जाए तो भी वीरप्पन पकड़ा जा सकता है।

† Transliteration of the speech in Persian Script is available in the Hindi version of Debate.

मेरी गुजारिश है कि यहां लड़ने के बजाय वहां लड़ाई की जानी चाहिए ताकि उस को पकड़कर एक देशद्रोही का खात्मा किया जा सके और देश के स्वाभिमान को बचाया जा सके । मेरी हुकूमत से भरपूर गुजारिश है कि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट इस सिलसिले में अपने हर अख्तियार को बरोएकार लाते हुए इस पाप का खात्मा कर दे ताकि हिंदुस्तान के उज्ज्वल भविष्य को कोई दाग न लग सके । शुक्रिया ।

श्री गांधी आज़ाद (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से बहुत खेद के साथ यह बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज देश में आतंकवादियों द्वारा समांतर सरकार चलाई जा रही है और सरकार इसे रोकने में बिल्कुल विफल दिखाई दे रही है । इतना ही नहीं सरकार आतंकवादियों के सामने घुटने टेक गयी है । मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि वह कोई कारगर उपाय कर के डा0 राजकुमार को छुड़वाए और वीरप्पन गिरफ्तार किया जाए ताकि इस प्रकार की पुनरावृत्ति न हो । धन्यवाद ।

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : सभापति महोदय, मैं सदन की भावनाओं के साथ अपनी सहमति व्यक्त करती हूँ । डा0 राजकुमार जैसे ख्याति-प्राप्त अभिनेता का अपहरण बहुत ही दुखद बात है । सभापति जी, डा0 राजकुमार जिन का मैं समझती हूँ सिर्फ दक्षिण में ही नहीं पूरे भारत में नाम है, उन का इस तरह से अपहरण किया जाना बहुत ही गंभीर चिंता का विषय है । मैं कर्नाटक सरकार के साथ-साथ भारत सरकार से अपील करना चाहूंगी कि भारत सरकार, कर्नाटक सरकार को पूरी मदद दे ताकि वीरप्पन की तरह के आतंकवादी जो इस तरह का घृणित मानव-विरोधी काम कर रहे हैं, उन के खिलाफ सख्त से सख्त कार्यवाही की जा सके । धन्यवाद ।

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : सभापति जी, श्री रामकृष्ण हेगड़े वीरप्पन की गिरफ्तारी का फॉर्मूला बताना चाहते हैं ।

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE (Karnataka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not have any particular formula. But the hon. Members may be interested in knowing that as long as there was my Government in Karnataka, there was no Veerappan menace. It started only after my resignation. Sir, the problem is that the terrain of that area is such that it is very, very difficult for the Government to arrest him. The previous Government used all possible methods; they used helicopters also to search him. A joint action force was also constituted by the Government of Karnataka and the Government of Tamil Nadu. Later on, it was withdrawn, I do not know for what reasons. But this much is certain that whatever has happened yesterday is most condemnable. We must take every possible measure to see to it that Dr. Rajkumar is released forthwith. I am told, that Karnataka Cabinet had a long session in the morning and the Chief Minister of Karnataka is flying to Chennai to consult the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE (Maharashtra): Do you have any idea of Veerappan's demands?

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: No. My information is, after he kidnapped three people, that is, Dr. Rajkumar, his wife, and his associate, one Mr. Govind Raj, an excise contractor, from Mysore, he released Mrs. Rajkumar and gave her a cassette to be delivered to the Chief Minister, and that cassette is being played before the Cabinet today, according to the latest information I have. The Karnataka Government has done this. I don't know what role the Union Government can play in this. The only thing is that every possible measure should be taken. Dr. Rajkumar is, perhaps, a legend in his life time. He recently acted and produced a film called Shabdavedi, with Ms. Jayaprada as his heroin, and the film was a great success. I hope something will be done.

SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY (Karnataka): Sir, we condemn the cowardly act of the forest dacoit, Veerappan, who has kidnapped one of the greatest personalities of Karnataka. Sir, Dr. Rajkumar has won many awards. He has won the Dada Saheb Phalke Award; he was awarded Padma Bhushan and he has won the biggest award of Karnataka, that is, the Karnataka Ratna Award. The people of Karnataka love him and they have got great affection towards him. Some newspaper editors of Tamil Nadu are in touch with Veerappan and they have been regularly going into the forest and video-recording his statements. They have negotiated in regard to the earlier kidnappings also. Investigation about people who have got connection with Veerappan has to be done. Then only we will know how to get to this Veerappan and arrest him. Even the Special Task Force which was sent by the Central Government was withdrawn a few years back. And the joint operations by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka slackened after this STF was withdrawn. So, all assistance from the Union Government should be given to the Karnataka Government to see that Veerappan is arrested and Dr. Rajkumar is rescued from the hands of this forest dacoit. Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri B.P. Singhal. You have to be brief, Mr. Singhal.

SHRI B.P. SINGHAL (Uttar Pradesh): I would like to say that for this purpose, all necessary assistance needed by the State, in terms of force as well as equipment, has to be provided by the Government of India. There is no doubt about that. But my experience has been that dacoits who kidnap for ransom can be caught and liquidated only with the help of the local population. The local police have to win the confidence of the people; that is the most important part. Once that happens, the man

cannot thrive in his area for long. Since last eight years I have been hearing about him. And as Mr. Rajiv Shukla has said, it is amazing how this man has been going on giving interviews and yet the police are not able to catch him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's all right. Now, Mrs. Saroj Dubey.
(Interruptions)

SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Here, we have to be cautious -- lest we take a strong stand -- till Dr. Rajkumar is released. I would urge upon the Government not to take any action which might precipitate the matter. That is a very important point which has to be kept in mind

श्रीमती सरोज दुबे (बिहार) : माननीय सभापति जी, कई सम्मानित पुरस्कारों से पुरस्कृत उच्च घोटी के कलाकार डा. राजकुमार के वीरप्पन द्वारा अपहरण किए जाने से पूरा देश स्तब्ध रह गया है और हर कोई इस बात के लिए चिंतित है कि वह कूर अपराधी न जाने डा. राजकुमार के साथ कैसा सलूक कर रहा होगा। इसलिए माननीय सदस्यों ने जो अपनी पिता व्यक्त की है, उससे अपने को संबद्ध करते हुए मैं केन्द्रीय सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहूंगी कि वह इस मामले में कर्नाटक सरकार को पूरी तरह से सहयोग दे ताकि डा. राजकुमार मुक्त हो सकें क्योंकि वीरप्पन के बढ़ते हुए खूनी पंजे को रोकने का काम अकेले कर्नाटक सरकार नहीं कर सकती, इसलिए केन्द्रीय सरकार का सहयोग बहुत जरूरी है और हम सब चाहते हैं कि जल्दी से जल्दी डा. राजकुमार मुक्त होकर हम लोगों के बीच में आए ताकि लोगों के मन में सुरक्षा का भाव जाग सके। धन्यवाद।

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government takes seriously the committing of this crime. It, of course, takes seriously the sentiments expressed in the States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Besides, the Government is very mindful of the sentiments expressed by all sections in the House. I do wish to assure the House that as Government has always cooperated with the State Governments when it comes to tackling incidents of crime, in this particular matter also, as all sections of the House have urged the Government to act, whether the Government of Karnataka has asked for assistance or not, necessary action will be taken. The Ministry of Home Affairs is already in touch with them and they will take all necessary action.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Sir, my point is that the Leader of the House should clarify this, because on Friday, when we were having a discussion, we were under the impression that this will be thus far and no further, but, subsequently also, the so-called secret papers relating to the resignation of Shri Ram Jethmalani were published by the Press. In the light of that fact the Government was moving the Right to Information

Bili, we maintained that all the relevant papers must be laid on the Table of the House so that the House could take a view on this. But we are seeing selected portions of secret documents being leaked to the Press. Therefore, I think this is a very unseemly development. The Government owes an explanation to this august House as per the assurance that was given by the Prime Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up clarifications in relation to the calling attention to matter of urgent public importance. Shri Suresh Pachouri.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) : आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, देश के विभिन्न भागों में स्थित विडियाघरों और अभयारण्यों में बहुमूल्य वन्य जीवों की मृत्यु के संबंध में ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव पर जब चर्चा चल रही थी, उसी दौरान नंदन कानन विडियाघर में एक और सफेद शेर की हत्या हो गई ... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL (Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we should have a Short Duration Discussion on this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. It has already been half done. Let him complete this. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: The point is, everyday we see... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJU PARMAR (Gujarat): Everyday it is happening. Elephant, bear... ..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Let us have a full discussion on this matter. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Calling Attention cannot not be converted into a Short Duration Discussion. Besides, there is a Short Duration Discussion on the disinvestment policy of the Government. Let him complete this. I think this itself will become a Short Duration Discussion.

**CLARIFICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE CALLING ATTENTION TO A
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE / DEATH OF PRECIOUS
WILDLIFE IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY INCLUDING ZOOS
AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES - Contd.**

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित कर रहा था। महोदय, जब हम इस ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव पर चर्चा कर रहे थे, उसी दौरान एक और