

**Reported attack on religious freedom in West Bengal**

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA (Nominated): Sir, it is with a sense of deep dismay that I want to raise an issue of great importance which affects the State of West Bengal. Sir, as we all know, Saraswati Pooja is one of the most...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, it is a State Subject. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. It is permitted. Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him speak.

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Sir, I have not even begun. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: It is the State law, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Sir, I have not even begun.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your problem with Saraswati Pooja? ...*(Interruptions)*... What is your problem with Saraswati Pooja? Sit down.

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Sir, I have not even begun.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Unnecessarily you are creating problems. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Sir, I have not even begun, Mr. O' BRIEN. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Sir, we have no problem. But the problem is that the \* has started creating problems... ...*(Interruptions)*...

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री, तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी): ये repeatedly एक ऐसे संगठन का नाम लेते हैं, जो यहां पर नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... इन्होंने जो कहा, उसको एक्सपंज किया जाए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me listen. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Sir, I raised this issue with a sense of deep dismay... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why did you unnecessarily mention \* ? I am expunging \*. Why do you bring in \* now? Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: This is the manner in which... ...*(Interruptions)*... I seek your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I did it. Sit down. ...(Interruptions)... एक्सपंज करवा दिया है, आप बैठिए! ...(व्यवधान)... सुनिए ...(व्यवधान)... सुनिए ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Sir, it is a cultural festival. ...(Interruptions)... If I am talking about a cultural festival ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't be impatient. ...(Interruptions)... This is also intolerance. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Sir, this is the manner in which ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You first listen to it. ...(Interruptions)... You cannot listen to that, it is also intolerance. ...(Interruptions)... You should know that. ...(Interruptions)... You should hear the other view also. ...(Interruptions)... Even then you are not ready. ...(Interruptions)... First you listen to that. ...(Interruptions)... You listen to that. ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Shri Swapan Dasgupta is permitted. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: It is a matter of public importance. ...(Interruptions)... It is a matter which affects the cultural identity of a State. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Swapan Dasgupta was permitted by the hon. Chairman to speak here. He has a right. Let us listen to him and if you disagree, if you have anything else to say, that is a different matter. ...(Interruptions)... I can think of allowing you. But don't prevent him and let him say what he wants to say. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Thank you very much, Sir. ...(Interruptions)... I want to raise an issue which concerns the cultural identity...(Interruptions)...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Sir, it is a State Subject. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is this? ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: It is a matter concerning ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your problem? ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Nadimul Haque, sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Sit down. ...(Interruptions)... I am not allowing you. ...(Interruptions)... Only what Mr. Dasgupta says will go on record. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Sir, it concerns the cultural identity of a State. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: \*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has been permitted by the hon. Chairman. What are you doing?

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: \*

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Sir, I want to say that if there is ...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is permitted by the hon. Chairman. ...*(Interruptions)*... You sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: \*

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: We have a bizarre situation. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN (West Bengal): \*

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Sir, we have a bizarre situation, so I can raise this matter of public importance which concerns the cultural identity of a State. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: \*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Md. Nadimul Haque, I will have to name you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will have to name you. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will be forced to name you. Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why do you prevent another Member from raising his issue which is dear to him? If it is not dear to you, it is a different matter. ...*(Interruptions)*... This way we cannot function. If you think that the other person should say what you like, how can the Parliament function then? You may not like it. That does not mean that he cannot say it. No, I don't agree with that this way. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: \*

SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: \*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, he should be allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*... He should be allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*... You please keep quiet. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Swapan Dasgupta. ...*(Interruptions)*... I want to know what he wants to say. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is my problem. ...*(Interruptions)*... I want to know what you want to say. You please say. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Sir, I want to raise the matter of cultural identity of a State. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are facing a situation where people are being terrorized. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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\*Not recorded.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: \*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will have to take action against you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: \*

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: I have not even begun my submission. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nadimul Haque, I will have to name you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will have to name you, I am telling you. ...*(Interruptions)*... You sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... I cannot allow this. Why are you creating this problem during Zero Hour?

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Sir, it is a matter concerning the cultural identity of a State. Therefore, I would like to ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: \*

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सर, जब सरस्वती पूजा के मुद्दे पर यहां पर इनका यह हाल है, तो पश्चिमी बंगाल में क्या करते होंगे? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: \*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Everything in this country happens in one State or the other. You cannot come forward with this argument. ...*(Interruptions)*... I don't know what he has to say. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me listen to that. Who are you to decide it before listening to that? ...*(Interruptions)*... I will have to name you. Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't do anything. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will have to name you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will have to name you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Basant Panchami or Saraswati Puja is one of the most important cultural festivals which we all know that. ...*(Interruptions)*... If you know that, I think you would also realize that it is very important to know that people are allowed to observe it. ...*(Interruptions)*... After 65 years of continuous observance, now not observing this Saraswati Puja, I think it is a matter of shame. ...*(Interruptions)*... I can think it is not really a question ...*(Interruptions)*... Whatever the issue is, ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: \*

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Why are people feeling guilty? ...*(Interruptions)*... Why are certain people feeling guilty about it? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your point? ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Swapan, you can raise your issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... Otherwise, your time will be over. ...*(Interruptions)*... You raise your issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Sir, we want religious freedom for all communities in the State and just because ...*(Interruptions)*... That does not exclude any community especially those who observe Saraswati Puja. Restrictions have been placed on media for trying to cover it. People have been trying to place restrictions on immersion of Durga. So, the selective and vindictive attitude should be stopped. ...*(Interruptions)*... Religious freedom must exist for everybody. ...*(Interruptions)*... I think, it must exist for everybody ...*(Interruptions)*... No community can be excluded from it. ...*(Interruptions)*... And, I think, in West Bengal, today, we seek that. ...*(Interruptions)*... I want to raise that point. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, freedom of religion must exist for every community. That is the point. Thank you.

SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI (Rajasthan): Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour submission of Shri Swapan Dasgupta.

SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA (Rajasthan): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission of Shri Swapan Dasgupta.

MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA (Gujarat): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission of Shri Swapan Dasgupta.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we all associate ourselves with the submission made by the hon. Member.

#### **Need to declare rehabilitation package for Gulf returnees**

SHRI K. K. RAGESH (Kerala): Thank you, Sir. I appeal, through you, Sir, the Central Government for announcing a special package to rehabilitate the Gulf returnees who have lost their jobs due to the present oil crisis and also due to Nitaqat Law. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, Saudi Arabia started implementing Nitaqat Law in 2011 and this law ensures jobs for Saudi nationals, especially in private sector. Saudi Arabia private sector is mainly depending upon foreign workers, especially in retail and service sectors, and the foreign workers are mainly from India and Indian workers are mainly from Kerala.

After implementation of Nitaqat Law, till 2013, 1.41 lakh Indian workers have lost their jobs and had to return India from the Gulf countries. Majority of those