

## REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN REGARDING CLARIFICATION ON THE STATEMENT BY MINISTER

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know the convention. There were occasions and statements were made; clarifications were sought subsequently also, not just immediately. There are instances. Let us not be selective on that. Secondly, I also remember what Jairam Rameshji, time and again, is trying to remind me. I have taken up the matter with Defence Minister. He came and met me. He told me, 'Sir, discussions are going on with our neighbour and these are at very delicate stage. Just let us wait.' Then, again, the other day, when I met some leaders, -- I don't want to name the Opposition leaders -- I told them also that this is what the Defence Minister has told me. To make it brief, thirdly, again yesterday, the Defence Minister met me. We discussed it. Then, the Defence Minister said, 'I want to now share with the Parliament some of the details of the discussions that are going on between both the countries'. Now, after consultations between the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of External Affairs, and then with officers, he has come with a statement. Yesterday night, he called me and told me, 'I want to take the House into confidence today'. I said, 'Okay'. Then, I permitted him. He made, to my knowledge, a fairly, elaborative statement. I never deny that there is no right to the Members to ask any supplementaries on any issue. But, let us keep in view the sensitivity of the situation, because the talks are going on, Commander level talks are going on over the last 48 hours and tomorrow also another level of talks is to go on. The Minister has taken the House into confidence. Now, also some Members are suggesting, 'Sir, why not at least in-camera' and some Members are saying, 'No, no; permit us to seek clarifications, etc. I want to make only one appeal to the entire House, to all parties; this is not a political matter. It is in national interest. Let it be seen that we are speaking with one voice and then move... *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, we are speaking with one voice. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. *...(Interruptions)...* Is it one voice? *...(Interruptions)...* Let us not make... *...(Interruptions)...* When the Chair is on his legs, *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL (Gujarat): Sir, there is only one voice... *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (Maharashtra): Sir, *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you don't want to respect the appeal also, then I will leave to your better sense. ...(*Interruptions*)... You want to question; you want to ask of the Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)... And, you want to ask of the Chair also. ...(*Interruptions*)... I am telling you.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, we are seeking clarifications ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have said it. ...(*Interruptions*)... I understand. ...(*Interruptions*)... I have that much understanding. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please. We all respect him, irrespective of how many years, is not the issue. He is knowledgeable.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, the rules permit clarification. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is knowledgeable; he is a very important person. There were occasions I have told you. If you want me to quote, then, there were occasions where clarifications were sought subsequently also. I remember that also. So, let me apply my mind, talk to the Government and then come to a final conclusion.

Now, Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose Pilli...(*Interruptions*)... There is no discussion now as such. ...(*Interruptions*)... No, no Antonyji, please. ...(*Interruptions*)... I have already clarified. After the Chair, this is not fair. After the Chair, it is not fair, please. ...(*Interruptions*)... No, no, I have not denied it totally.

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#### THE UNION BUDGET 2021-22 - *Contd.*

SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI (Andhra Pradesh): \* "Privatization of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is at present a burning issue in Andhra Pradesh. It is understood that the Central Cabinet has prepared a roadmap for this and my party, YSRCP opposes this move. After the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is the only large Navratna Public Sector Undertaking that remains with the State. It is the largest Steel Plant in Southern India. After a prolonged agitation lasting for ten years and sacrifices by 38 persons, we were successful in getting the Steel Plant in the State. "Visakha Ukku, Andhrula Hakku" slogan evokes a strong sentiment

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\* English translation of the original speech delivered in Telugu.