

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : Please sit down. Something that had already happened before one o'clock, before I occupied the Chair, I cannot remove. You can write to the Chairman. It will be considered by him. I have not heard that. How can I remove something that I have not heard?

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, hon. Member, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, also mentioned his own ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, Sir, through you, ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : I am protecting you. Why are you bothered? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: I request the Chair to get the views of other Members also as to what is fair and what is not fair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): All right. Now, we will take up the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways), 2002. Shri Nitish Kumar. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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### **SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 2002-03**

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 2002-03. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, we are walking out. ...*(Interruptions)*...

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber)

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, they are walking out against the ruling of the hon. Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Why don't you sit down?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: It is against the ruling.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : Can I force you to stay back here? It is their right to stage a walkout. Please sit down. Now, we will take up the Short Duration Discussion. Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

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### SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

#### **On grave situation arising in West Asia threatening world peace and security**

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise the Short Duration Discussion on the grave situation arising in West Asia threatening world peace and security. Sir, there are two sensitive areas in West Asia where the tension is escalated. One is, of course, the problem which is going on between Israel and Palestine. And the other area is Iraq where, just now, the inspectors appointed by the United Nations, as per the Security Council Resolution No.1441, are visiting. And, in that context, we would like to express our views as to what role India can play to defuse the tension and also to ensure that it does not further escalate and also lead to some sort of armed confrontation.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, in the areas of foreign policy and international relations, over the years, we have developed a broad consensus, and irrespective of the political parties occupying the Treasury Benches, hardly there has been any major differences in our approach to the international problems, in our relations with various countries, in our immediate neighbourhood or outside and, especially, in our relationship with the Super Powers. In one way, the second half of the last century is unique, because in that second half of the last century, the world witnessed no world-wide conflicts, except some regional conflicts, in stark contrast to the first half of that century, where two world wars took place. In the second half, especially in the 80s, world has moved closer with the end of the cold