

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : पीठ से स्वयं यह आदेश आया है। आप सभापति भी हैं, भारत के उप-राष्ट्रपति भी हैं और स्वयं आप कह रहे हैं कि मैं सरकार से बात करूंगा, तो उसके बाद किसी और आश्वासन की बात ही नहीं रह जाती है। ... (व्यवधान) ... जहां तक ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री सभापति : आप सुनिए तो सही। ... (व्यवधान) ... आप सुनिए, वह क्या कह रही हैं।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal) : The Chair should not be involved in it. It is the responsibility of the Government.. (interruptions)... Why is she dragging the Chair?... (Interruptions)... It is not the job of the Chair. ... (Interruptions)... She should speak on behalf of the Government. .. (Interruptions)...

श्री सभापति : उन्हें बोलने दीजिए (व्यवधान) ... वोरा जी बैठिए।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सभापति जी, सांसदों की सुरक्षा हमारी पहली प्राथमिकता है और मैं यहां आश्वस्त करती हूँ (व्यवधान) .. मैं बोल रही हूँ सुनिए, मैं बोल रही हूँ सुनिए ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री सभापति : आप लोग बैठिए, गुस्सा मत करिए इतना। गुस्से के कारण ही ये बातें पैदा हो रही हैं (व्यवधान) ... अब यहां गुस्सा पैदा कर रहे हैं। उन्हें बोलने दीजिए।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : महोदय, मैं स्वयं गृह मंत्री से जोकि भारत के उप-प्रधान मंत्री हैं, बात करूंगी कि सदन में खड़े होकर अमर सिंह जी ने स्वयं यह कहा है कि उनकी जान को खतरा है। इसलिए उनकी सुरक्षा का विशेष प्रबंध किया जाना चाहिए।

श्री सभापति : ठीक हैं। स्पेशल मेशंस – श्री राजकुमार धूत।

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would raise.. (Interruptions)...

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT (Maharashtra): Sir, today, I want to raise a special... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I won't allow on this very subject. ... (Interruptions) ... I won't allow. ... (Interruptions) ... It will not go on record. ... (Interruptions) ...

Statement reportedly made by the Prime Minister during his speech in Srinagar for improvement of relationship between India and Pakistan

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal) : Sir, we read in the newspapers that the Prime Minister, during his speech in Srinagar, had

made a very positive statement in respect of improving relationship between India and Pakistan. This is a matter of utmost importance to the House. Therefore, in the morning meeting, I sought your permission that I would like to draw the attention of the Government whether the Government or the Prime Minister would be in a position to tell the House and take it into confidence what message did the Prime Minister convey through his speech in Srinagar; what has been the response of Pakistan; and, what follow up action is the Government of India going to take? I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to convey the feelings of the House to the Prime Minister and the Government, and get an appropriate response.

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्री (श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज) : सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन को बताना चाहूंगी कि जो विषय अभी प्रणब जी ने उठाया है, बृहस्पतिवार को स्वयं प्रधान मंत्री इस सदन में उस पर वक्तव्य देंगे।

श्री सभापति : ठीक हैं। श्री राजकुमार धूत।

SHRI N. JOTHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, public, money is involved.. *.(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I will not allow on that subject. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI N. JOTHI: Sir, it is public money...*(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I am not allowing. *...(Interruptions)...* Nothing will go on record. *...(Interruptions)...* I am sorry; I will not allow. *...(Interruptions)...* We should not go to that extent. *...(Interruptions)...* We are also human beings, and you are Members of this House, we should not go to that extent. *...(Interruptions)...* Yes, Mr. Rajkumar Dhoot. *...(Interruptions)...* No, I will not allow. *...(Interruptions)...* I will not allow. *...(Interruptions)...* I think, Members should take it very seriously. *...(Interruptions)...* You should take it very seriously. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI N. JOTHI: Sir,

* Not recorded.

[21 April, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. N. Jothi, you have made your point, but it will not go on record. Mr. Rajkumar Dhoot.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand for Haj like facilities to other communities

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT (Maharashtra): Sir, I want to raise a very important issue of extending Haj type facilities to other communities in India. India is the largest democracy in the world, which enjoys unity in diversity. It has no religion of its own, and secularism is its way of life. The Constitution of India, *inter alia*, guarantees right to freedom of religion to every citizen; it gives strength to real secularism. But, in a secular State, how long can or should a particular community be given benefits for pilgrimage at the cost of others, who are considered for similar benefits? In the governance of a secular State, all communities pay taxes to the Government. The Government of India spends about Rs. 200/- crores on 89,000 Haj pilgrims, approximately.

(THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, in the Chair)

It will be congruent for the Government to demonstrate secular ideology by providing Haj type facilities to other communities, such as, to the Hindus for visiting Mansarovar and *Chaar Dhams*, to the Sikhs for visiting Nankana Sahib, to the Christians for visiting Jerusalem or Vatican City, to the Buddhists for visiting South-East Asian countries, and so on. The Government can enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Governments of these countries on the lines of Saudi Arabia. The number of pilgrims can be worked out in proportion to their population or based on other criteria, as is feasible to them. The Central Government may provide funds for this purpose in its Annual Budget so that all communities exalt the feeling of true secularism. I urge upon the Government to give a serious consideration to this aspect so that the feeling of secularism is not vitiated, which is so vital at this juncture. Thank you.

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN (Maharashtra): Madam, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Rajkumar Dhoot.