

**RE: REPORTED U.S. PRESSURE ON QUESTION OF LIABILITY OF DOW
CHEMICALS IN BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY**

SHRI D. RAJA (TAMIL NADU): Sir, I am raising a very serious issue of national public importance. It is an issue of the sovereignty of the nation; it is an issue of how the US is trying to arm-twist India on many issues, including the Dow Chemicals issue. Sir, this has been raised by our own media. It has been telecasted by the Times Now Channel. It has been reported by very reputed newspapers like The Hindu. I quote: "A recent exchange of e-mails between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, and the US Deputy National Security Advisor, Michael Forman, accessed by the Times Now, would suggest that the United States is trying to pressurize India to take back its demand for Rs. 1500 crores in compensation from Dow Chemicals in the Bhopal gas tragedy case."

(Contd. By 1Y)

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SHRI D. RAJA (contd.): Sir, we had the Short Duration Discussion on Bhopal Gas Tragedy. At that time, the Home Minister gave an assurance that there was no pressure from outside in any respect. But it is now clear that the U.S. is trying to influence the decision-making process of our country, especially, as far as liability in respect of Bhopal Gas Tragedy victims is concerned. And, it is a very serious matter. The Government of India should take it up very seriously. The Government should come forward forthrightly denying such reports. It should not succumb to the pressure put by the U.S. Administration. Sir, it is not only a

question of liability in respect of the victims, but it is also linked with the borrowings of India from the World Bank. It is a serious matter. The U.S. Government is trying to put pressure on India on every policy matter. This kind of interference in our sovereign affairs, internal affairs, cannot be allowed. This matter should be seriously looked into by the Government. I am urging upon all the political parties, irrespective of our differences on many issues, to come together and resist this...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You just associate yourself with it.

SHRI D. RAJA: That is why I am raising it. The Government should not succumb to the pressure. If the BJP and the Congress (I) can come together on the Nuclear Liability Bill, this is a far more serious issue on which I would appeal to the BJP, the Congress (I) and all parties to come together. How can the U.S. pressurize our Government? It is for the Government of the day to come clean on this, and it should come out forthrightly and say, "We will not succumb to any pressure of the U.S."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is all...(Interruptions) You all can associate yourselves...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir,...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You only associate yourself. You have already raised a matter today...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I may be given two minutes...

श्री उपसभापति : आप एसोसिएट कीजिए। ... (व्यवधान).. अहलुवालिया जी, वृंदा कारत जी भी एसोसिएट करना चाहती हैं, वे भी बोलना चाहती हैं।... (व्यवधान).. यह कैसे होगा? ... (व्यवधान)..

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: The Times Now has reported about an e-mail from U.S. Deputy National Security Advisor... (Interruptions) He is reported to have told the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, " I am not familiar with all the details but I think we want to avoid developments which put chilling effect on our investment relationship" ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: The Government of India should explain... (Interruptions) It is a matter of sovereignty of India. This kind of interference... (Interruptions)

श्री उपसभापति : यह क्या हो रहा है? ... (व्यवधान).. Nothing will go on record... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir,...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You only associate yourself.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: It is a serious issue... (Interruptions) Let me make my point, Sir. The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission has defended it. He has said that this is a normal thing. We raise issues, and then raise issues... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is over. Now, Shri Balavant alias Bal Apte.