

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 25, 1971|Chaitra 4,
1893 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported Shortage of Small Coins in the Country

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA (Mandya) : I call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :—

The reported shortage of small coins in the country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : Mr. Speaker Sir, some complaints of shortage of coins in a few centres of the country are being received from time to time. Government are aware that such complaints have increased of late. However, the Reserve Bank of India have been making additional supplies to their small coin depots in centres from which complaints are being received. They have also been issuing large quantities of small coins through their counters. Government have also taken steps to increase production of coins. For this purpose, the Mints at Hyderabad and Alipore are working for 60 hours a week, as against 48 hours earlier, from 19th October and 9th November, 1970 respectively. The Bombay Mint has been taken to two shift working of nine hours each, with an incentive scheme for the workmen from the middle of January, 1971. Steps

are being taken to introduce two shift working, with an incentive scheme, in the Alipore Mint also. As a result of the measures already taken, the average daily production in the Mint has increased from about 12 lakh pieces, when they were working for 48 hours a week to about 35 lakh pieces. It is expected that the production of coins in the Mints is likely to rise from 5,500 lakh pieces in 1970-71 to about 18,500 lakh pieces in the next year.

Hon'ble Members will appreciate that with this increased production, the supply position of coins will improve considerably and the temporary shortage, felt in certain localities, will ease gradually.

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA : The shortage of coins in the country has added a new dimension to the current inflation and the statement that has been placed before the House is the least encouraging in the sense that the hon. Minister has not been able to appreciate the magnitude of the problem. Every housewife in this country has been undergoing the torture or the agonising experience of being told by the shop-keepers that they will have to come with the correct change in order to buy a particular material. I am sure that even Mrs. Shukla if she finds time to go shopping would certainly be confronted with this frustrating and agonising experience. We have got reports to this effect from many parts of the country. In Bombay the Foodgrains Dealers' Association have given out a warning that all those ration-card holders who come to buy rations will have to bring the correct change in order to get their daily supply of rations. In Modinagar the shop-keepers have created their own floating currency. They issue paper coupons and instead of changes these paper coupons are being utilized. In the DTU Delhi we hear that even girls are being asked by the conductors to go to Scindia House to collect their change. Just imagine the position. They pay one rupee in the bus and in order to collect the change of 85

[Shri S. M. Krishna]

paise they will have to go all the way to Scindia House.

Now I would like to pose three pointers to the hon. Minister. Is it not a fact that in April, 1970 the Reserve Bank of India withdrew about Rs. 20 crores worth of small coins because they were all worn out coins? Secondly, is it not a fact that the Bombay Mint has taken up foreign orders from Thailand and Greece? When we were not able to fulfil our internal requirements, I wonder at the farsightedness of the Reserve Bank of India in taking up these foreign orders just because they provided Rs. 33 lakhs worth of foreign exchange. I also learn that there are many more orders being placed with the Bombay Mint; particularly, there are requests from Ethiopia, Brazil and Ceylon.

Thirdly, there has been some sort of black-marketing going on in these small coins. You find a big queue in the Reserve Bank of India here in Delhi where if one gives 85 paise worth of coins he gets one rupee. Seemingly poor people have been queuing up at the counters of the Reserve Bank of India here. They collect 85 paise in coins and go to the nearest dealer who is a middleman and some sort of a profiteer. He melts all those coins because recently the Government raised the price of nickel and copper. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many cases have been registered against these anti-social elements who are indulging in such black-marketing and profiteering. Has Government made any efforts to bring them to book?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :
The complaint voiced by the hon. Member is substantially correct. I am not trying to reduce the magnitude of the problem; I have only given the history of how this problem arose. I would give a little bit more of detail so that hon. Members can appreciate how this difficult situation has arisen.

In 1968-69 the demand that the Reserve Bank made on the mints was 10,268 lakh pieces. Against this demand the mints supplied them 14,246 lakh pieces. When the coin programme for 1969-70 was being drawn up the demand by the Reserve Bank was drastically reduced from 10,268 lakh pieces to 4,709 lakh pieces. Therefore,

production in the various mints had to be drastically cut down. There was spare capacity but because the demand by the Reserve Bank and the coin programme as drawn up by the Reserve Bank was reduced, production in the various mints had to be reduced.

After that, when through the State Trading Corporation certain foreign orders were received from Greece and Thailand, they were accepted, not at the sacrifice of production for local needs but when this production had to be cut down. They were accepted for being minted at the Bombay Mint.

After that the complaint about the coin shortage started coming in. Therefore, as I have said in my original statement, we started a crash programme of minting in the various mints, particularly in Bombay and Alipore. In the Hyderabad Mint the machinery is very old and it cannot be used to its optimum capacity. We have now put the mint in Bombay to two shifts, as I said, and in Alipore it will be put to two shifts with the incentive scheme very soon. Therefore, the situation has started easing up.

The two other factors pointed out by the hon. Member are also substantially true, that is, regarding the metallic content of the small denomination coins like 2 paise, 5 paise and 10 paise coins. As a result of the alloy that was being used particularly because of the devaluation of the rupee in early 1966, the face value of these coins became less than the metallic value. Therefore, there was a tendency amongst the people to not only hoard these coins but also melt them and take the alloy out of it and use it for their purposes. This shortage became a little more acute. But now we have taken measures, as I stated earlier in the last Parliament, to change the alloy composition of these small coins and make them from cupro-nickel to aluminium magnesium coins so that the face value will always remain more than the metallic value of the coins. With the crash programme that has been launched, I hope, the shortage will be soon overcome.

One point that he particularly wanted to ask from me was whether the Reserve Bank has withdrawn Rs. 20 crores worth of small

coins. The small coins are normally withdrawn from circulation. But the receipts at the Reserve Bank have not been very satisfactory. We have received only about 2 per cent of the total coins that were issued or in certain cases, probably, of 5 p. coins, only 20 per cent of the coins issued have been received back. That was only done to see that they were not melted or misused. There were also coins which had become by circulation unusable. Therefore, they had to be withdrawn. I do not know the exact figure of the coins withdrawn. This is regularly done by the Reserve Bank in order to see that only usable coins remain in circulation.

As I stated before, foreign orders were accepted only when there was surplus capacity available in our mints. In order to give overtime and working facilities to our workers, we accepted these foreign orders and, in addition, that gave us some benefit of the foreign exchange earnings. I can assure the hon. Member that we shall not accept any foreign orders from anywhere unless we are able to meet our internal demand first. Only after we have met our internal demand, only then the question of accepting further foreign orders will arise.

As far as the cases registered for misuse of coins are concerned, we got the legal position examined. Unfortunately, there is no law under which such people who hoard the coins or who melt the coins can be prosecuted. Therefore, the only way that we can do is to make sufficient and proper supply of small coins in the country so that the hoarding becomes unnecessary or becomes unprofitable.

Also, another thing that I pointed out is that the metallic composition should be made in such a way that the face value of the coins always remains more than the value of the alloy in the coins.

With these things that I have stated, I hope, we will overcome the acute difficulty that is being felt at present.

DR. KARNI SINGH (Bikaner) : The shortage of coins in the Indian market has been there for nearly a year now. It is a matter of very great regret that the Government has not even been able to anticipate the shortage and take adequate steps to help the people. I am not against our country

minting coins for other countries like Greece, Thailand, etc. But the first and the foremost responsibility of this Government is to take care of our own people.

Now, one of the questions that I want to ask many of which he has already answered, is this. Have you taken any steps to carry out raids to collect these coins that are being hoarded? I know no law exists, as you very rightly said. But I want to know whether the Home Ministry has carried out raids to collect these coins. I want to know what is the difference between the intrinsic value of the coins and their face value. You have only broadly hinted at it. But you have not told us what is the difference between the intrinsic value and the face value of the coins.

Another point that I wish to ask is this. You said that this shortage will be eased gradually. But the country is anxious to know the definite date by which it will ease. Now that you have such a big majority and are in a position to carry out your programme, could you not give a definite date by which this problem will be solved once and for all?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :

As to the questions asked by the hon. Member, firstly, about the raids, unless we have the legal powers, we cannot carry out the raids and seize the coins. Unless we make out an offence to hoard coins beyond a certain limit, beyond a certain number, we cannot raid the premises of any particular individual or citizen and say that he is committing an offence of hoarding these coins. So, the question of raids does not arise unless we change the legal situation.

The difference in the face value of the coins is almost double. That is to say, if a five paise coin is melted they would get a return of ten paise and if a two paise coin is melted they would get four paise out of it. Roughly, I am stating the position. So, the metallic composition of the coins has to be changed and, as I said earlier, this has happened particularly after the Devaluation; as most of these alloys are imported, the difference between the face value and the intrinsic value of the coins has become a little more.

He has asked about the definite date by which I expect the coins shortage to be

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

eased. I think it would be very early, but I would not hazard a guess. We are trying to see that in a few months and as early as possible we do it. I cannot give the date because it depends upon many factors, but I am sure it will not be too late. It will be earlier than later.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) :

अध्यक्ष महोदय, देश में अनेक चीजों की कमी है, जिनमें कोयला और मिट्टी के तेल की कमी के साथ रेजगारी की कमी भी पैदा हो गई है। मन्त्री महोदय अपने वक्तव्य में कहते हैं कि यह कमी टेम्पोररी है, अस्थायी है, लेकिन वह यह बतलाने की स्थिति में नहीं हैं कि यह कमी कब तक पूरी हो जायेगी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि रेजगारी की कमी के बारे में सरकार को सबसे पहले कब सूचना मिली। यह कमी कितने महीनों से चल रही है। जैसा अभी कहा गया, बाजारों में कागज के सिक्के चल रहे हैं, ढाक के टिकल चलाए जा रहे हैं, डी०टी०यू० मन्दिरों में जाकर रेजगारी इकट्ठी कर रही हैं। मन्त्री महोदय बतलायें कि रेजगारी की कमी की सूचना उनको पहले कब मिली और उस कमी को पूरा करने के लिए उन्होंने कौन से कदम उठाये। टाल मटोल का जबाब देने की जरूरत नहीं है कि कुछ महीनों में हो जायेगा, जल्दी हो जायेगा। अगर सरकार निश्चित अवधि के भीतर रेजगारी की कमी भी नहीं पूरी कर सकती तो ग्राम आदमी की जरूरत की चीजें एक निश्चित अवधि के भीतर कैसे पूरी कर सकती है ?

एक और बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सच है कि रेजगारी की गड़बड़ इस लिए हो रही है कि उसमें जो धातु लगाई गई उसको गला कर बेचने से ज्यादा फायदा होता है ?

श्री बिद्या चरन शुक्ल : मैं बता चुका हूँ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्या सरकार

धातु बदलने के बारे में कोई विचार कर रही है ? वह आप कब तक बदलेंगे और उसके बदलने के बाद जो रेजगारी की गड़बड़ कर रहे हैं वह उस धातु के साथ भी गड़बड़ शुरू नहीं कर पायें इसके लिए क्या प्रबन्ध किया जा रहा है ?

श्री बिद्या चरन शुक्ल : माननीय सदस्य ने जो प्रश्न पूछा है उसमें से भाषे का जबाब मैं दे चुका हूँ, लेकिन मैं फिर से उसको दोहरा दूंगा। एक प्रश्न तो यह पूछा गया कि रेजगारी की कमी की सूचना हमें कब मिली। मैंने अपने मूल वक्तव्य में यह बतलाया था और जो पहले पूरक प्रश्न का उत्तर दिया था उसमें भी बतलाया था कि 1969-70 में जब हमारे पास रेजगारी ज्यादा हो गई थी उस समय रिजर्व बैंक ने कहा कि उस वक्त जो 13,000 लाख संख्या पीसेज की थी उस को घटा कर हम 4700 लाख पीसेज कर दें, और इस तरह से हम ने जो हमारा स्वायत्त का प्रोग्राम था उस के हिसाब से उस को ऐडजस्ट किया। उसके बाद हमने बतलाया कि इस बात की सूचना मिलने लगी कि देश में रेजगारी की कमी हो रही है। उसके बाद की कुछ घटनायें भी बतला दीं। और उसकी प्रतिक्रिया तत्काल हुई। जैसा मैंने मूल वक्तव्य में बतलाया, उसके बाद बम्बई मिट और अलीपुर मिट, हर जगह पर डबल शिफ्ट से हमने काम करना शुरू किया। उत्पादन बढ़ा कर दुगुना या तिगुना कर दिया है। उसको हम भाषे बढ़ाते जा रहे हैं। उत्पादन के कुछ भागड़े मैं देना चाहता हूँ। रिजर्व बैंक ने सिर्फ 5,700 लाख पीसिस की मांग की थी। उसके आधार पर हमने अपना भी प्रोग्राम रखा। उस प्रोग्राम के अनुसार हमारा जो उत्पादन होने वाला है वह 18,550 लाख पीसिस का होने वाला है। इस तरह से उत्पादन क्षमता से बढ़ रहा है। यह उसी कार्टवाई का परिणाम है जो हमने की है। इस बास्ते मैं

विश्वासपूर्वक कह सकता हूँ कि रेजगारी की जो कमी है वह बहुत जल्दी दूर हो जायेगी। मैंने कारण बताया है कि क्यों हम नहीं कहते हैं कि फलां तारीख तक कमी दूर हो जायेगी। कारण यह है कि ऐसे लोग भी हैं जो इस तरह की कमी का फायदा उठाने की कोशिश करते हैं। जैसा माननीय सदस्य श्री कृष्णा ने बताया है कि कुछ चोर बाजारी करने के लिए या थोड़ा सा पैसा कमा लेने के लिए कुछ लोग हैं जो इसको इकट्ठा करके रख लेते हैं और फिर लोगों को एक रुपये के बदले में 85 पैसे या 90 पैसे देते हैं और इस तरह का रोजगार शुरू कर देते हैं। इस तरह के लोगों को पकड़ना और उनमें इस चीज को छुड़ाना आवश्यक हो जाता है। इसका एक तरीका तो यह है कि जो भ्रवेलेबिलिटी है उसको हम इतनी बढ़ा दें कि इस तरह का व्यापार कोई सफलतापूर्वक या सुगमतापूर्वक न कर सके।

जहां तक धातु का सवाल है, मैंने बता दिया है कि धातु की कीमत ज्यादा थी बजाय सिक्के के फेस वैल्यू के। इसलिए कुछ लोग उन को गला लेते थे। वैसे तो 1966 से ही लेकिन विशेष कर पिछले दो सालों से हमने धातु के कम्पोजिशन को बदलना प्रारम्भ कर दिया। पिछले दो सालों में हमने कार्बन का विद्वार करके उनके धातु का जो कम्पोजिशन था, उस को क्यूप्रो निकल से बदल कर एल्यूमिनियम मैंगनेशियम का कर दिया है। इस कारण किसी भी छोटी रेजगारी की धातु का जो कम्पोजिशन है वह इतना नहीं, उसकी कीमत इतनी नहीं होगी कि वह उसकी फेस वैल्यू से ऊपर हो सके। अब गला कर फायदा उठाने का कोई प्रश्न नहीं होगा।

माननीय सदस्य ने टालमटोल की बात कही है। इसमें टालमटोल की कोई बात नहीं है। जो सत्य है उनको मैंने आपके सामने रख दिया है। इस तरह की भावना हमें जनता में और देश में पैदा नहीं करनी चाहिये कि बहुत

ही बड़ी भारी कठिनाई है जिस पर हम पार नहीं पा सकेंगे। अगर ऐसी भावना पैदा की गई तो और भी लोग रेजगारी अपने पास इकट्ठा करने की कोशिश करेंगे और उसका फायदा उठाने की कोशिश करेंगे। मैं समझता हूँ कि बहुत जल्दी हम इस चीज को ठीक कर सकेंगे। निश्चित तारीख जब तक इस कमी को दूर कर दिया जाएगा, बताने में व्यावहारिक कठिनाइयां हैं। हमारे पास ऐसा कोई कानून नहीं है जिससे हम लोगों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई कर सकें, जो इकट्ठा करके रखते हैं, उनके खिलाफ कार्रवाई कर सकें या जो गला लेते हैं, उनके खिलाफ कार्रवाई कर सकें। कमी के जो कारण हैं उनको हम दूर करना चाहते हैं, अपने उत्पादन को दीघ्रता से हम बढ़ाना चाहते हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि कुछ ही महीनों में हमारे प्रयत्नों के फलस्वरूप जो कमी है वह दूर हो जायेगी और सामान्य स्थिति पैदा हो जाएगी।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (गुरेना) : चमड़े के सिक्के चलाइये।

श्री विश्वा चरण शुक्ल : ये जनसंघ के राज में चलेंगे।

श्री कमल मिश्र मधुकर (केसरिया) : देश में रेजगारी की सख्त कमी है। खास कर बिहार में लोग इस कमी को बहुत ज्यादा अनुभव कर रहे हैं। चाय की दुकान में आप चाय पीने चले जाएं तो वहां रेजगारी नहीं मिलती और दो-दो घण्टे रेजगारी की तलाश करने में खराब करने पड़ते हैं। मन्त्री महोदय ने टालमटोल करने की कोशिश की है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कोई स्थायी हल भी इस समस्या का उन्होंने सोचा है ताकि सिक्कों की कमी का जो सवाल यहाँ उठाया गया है आज, इसको प्रागे न उठाया जा सके? कब तक सिक्कों की कमी स्थायी रूप से दूर की जा सकेगी?

लोग सिक्को का होडिंग भी करते हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कोई ऐसा कानून भी

[श्री कमल मिश्र मधुकर]

आप बनाने जा रहे हैं जिसके जरिये सिक्कों का होर्डिंग करने वालों को सजा दी जा सके और इसको रोका जा सके? यदि हां तो क्या इसी सत्र में या अगले सत्र में इस कानून को यहाँ पेश किया जायेगा? कब इसको पेश किया जायेगा?

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल इस तरह के कानून को लागू करना बहुत ही मुश्किल होगा। गाव-गाव में और कसबे कसबे में इसको लागू करना कठिन होगा। इसका सबसे अच्छा और प्रभावशाली तरीका यह होगा कि हम उत्पादन ही इतना बढ़ा दें ताकि रेजगारी की दिक्कत ही न रहे। उत्पादन हमने बढ़ा भी लिया है। उसकी रफ्तार इतनी हो गई है कि जो कमी है, उसको बहुत जल्द पूरा कर लिया जायेगा।

कमी का दूसरा कारण जो था कि लोग धातु गला कर बेच लेते थे और ज्यादा फायदा उठाने थे, उस कारण को भी हमने दूर कर दिया है। जो अस्थायी कठिनाई हुई है और जिसके कारण हमारे देश की जनता को तकलीफ हुई है वह दोबारा न होने पाए, इसके दो मुख्य उपाय थे जिनको हमने अपना लिया है। मैं समझता हूँ कि बहुत जल्दी स्थिति सामान्य हो जाएगी। थोड़ा सुधार हुआ भी है। लेकिन आधिक सुधार ही हुआ है। वह सन्तोष-प्रद नहीं है। उस में हम जल्दी से जल्दी ज्यादा सुधार करना चाहते हैं।

श्री कमल मिश्र मधुकर : कानून बनाना चाहते हैं या नहीं ?

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : कानून का फायदा ही होगा। इस वास्ते कानून बनाने की कोई जरूरत नहीं है।

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA (Kalia) : The hoarders and those who melt metal have been doing this type of thing several times in the history of our country, they have done it once or twice even

after Independence. Why should Government not settle this issue once and for all by saying that the metallic content will always be lower than the face value to such an extent that it will not at all be of any use to melt the coins? May I know whether Government will once and for all think in terms of devaluing the coins further? I am told that the Security Paper Mills at Hoshangabad is producing enough security paper. May I know whether Government think in terms of producing some smaller denomination currency notes? They are already in use in the form of stamps, bus tickets, and so on. Why should Government not regularise the whole thing by producing some sort of smaller denominational currency notes for 50 paise and so on? I am only making a suggestion. Only Members of Parliament may be able or may afford to pay more for every item, but it is not everybody who can afford to do so, all the time.

I would also like to know whether our mints are really overworked. I think we have four mints. If they are really overworked, then it is quite proper to export the coins. We are all the time saying 'Export or perish', and, therefore, certainly, we should export coins, and it will be quite good, and Government should do it. But in that case, have Government really assessed the coin requirements in the country once for all? After all, paper currency has been printed and it is in circulation now, and we have today much more paper currency going about in the country than at any time in the past. So, it is necessary that Government will have to assess the coin requirements of the country.

In view of this, may I know whether Government have considered the question of setting up another mint, so that not only do we export our coins, but we also produce enough for meeting the local requirements so that the present type of discomfiture and difficulties do not arise for the public in the future?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The hon. Member has made quite an interesting suggestion regarding paper coins. I do not think that, that suggestion is at all welcome, because in fact, it will worsen the situation, as I can prove it.

As I have said, the only way to meet the difficulty is to produce coins in such a way that they would always be in abundance and not in short supply and that is the only effective answer to the present problem. As I have said, our mints are not overworked, but in some, as for instance, in the Bombay mint, there are two shifts, and some incentive schemes are also there which the mint workers could take advantage of. If necessary, we can have more mints. At present, we have three mints, not four, and they are able to meet the requirements at present. If we need more mints, we shall set up more, but the need for such a step has not been felt at present.

As far as the assessment is concerned, it is made quarterly and annually by the Reserve Bank of India in advance, and they frame the coin programme and give it to us and according to the coin programme given by the Reserve Bank, we mint the coins. That assessment procedure or process goes on regularly

11.28 hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification under Indian Telegraph Act

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHYR SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Indian Telegraph (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 1970 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. GSR 2030 in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 1970, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-13/71].

11.28½ hrs.

RE: MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (स्वा.सि.स.) : मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि मैंने जो काम रोकने प्रस्ताव दिया था उस पर आप पुनर्निश्चय करें। प्रस्ताव का विषय बड़े सार्वजनिक महत्व का है। कल चंडीगढ़ में एक गोदाम में हजारों बैलट पेपर बरामद किये गए। और ये

बैलट पेपर गवर्नमेंट के प्रैस से आए हैं। वे बैलट पेपर मेरे पास इस वक़्त में मौजूद हैं...

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry that the hon. Member is seeking to raise it here. I had already told him the whole position in my Chamber...

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : बैलट पेपर सीरियल वाइज हैं। ये केवल एक चुनाव क्षेत्र के नहीं हैं, अलग अलग चुनाव क्षेत्रों के हैं। इस की जांच होनी चाहिए। ये बैलट पेपर कहां से आए। मैं आपकी इजाजत के खिलाफ कोई मामला उठाना नहीं चाहता। लेकिन आप यह स्वीकार करेंगे कि यह एक ऐसा मामला है, जिस की जांच होना जरूरी है। हमने इस बारे में इलैक्शन कमीशन से चर्चा की थी और वह इस सवाल का कोई जवाब नहीं दे सके कि हजारों की संख्या में बैलट पेपर एक प्राइवेट गोदाम में कैसे आये। उस गोदाम पर पहरा दिया जा रहा है। उसके बाहर कोई घटना घट सकती है। आप ला मिनिस्टर से कहें कि चंडीगढ़ में जो बैलट पेपर बरामद हुए हैं, उसके सम्बन्ध में वह मदद में एक वक्तव्य दें, जिससे जनता के मन की शंकायें दूर हो सकें।

MR. SPEAKER : I would request him to sit down. Are these ballot papers handed over to him by some candidate or someone else ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Yes, by a candidate, a former MP. He is a responsible citizen of the country.

MR. SPEAKER : They are handed over by a candidate. I have thought over it. I had a discussion with him in my Chamber. Let him please be sure that I have all respect for him. He is an old colleague and leader of a party. I do not think it is proper to suspect that I have any further doubts about it. But there are two sides to this. I do not think an adjournment motion can be allowed on anything which would be the subject of a judicial decision or the subject matter of a petition before an election tribunal,