

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, May 1, 1968/Vaisakha 11, 1890
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Narayana Rao.

SHRI K. NARAYANA RAO : Question No. 1557.

SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR : Question No. 1577 may also be taken up with this.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

Asia Foundation

*1557. SHRI K. NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any institutions in India which received money from the Asia Foundation during 1965-66 and 1966-67.

(b) whether any such institutions in India received grants from the Government of India on ad hoc basis consequent upon the discontinuance of the Asia Foundation grants ;

(c) if so, the names thereof ; and

(d) what is the criterion for giving such ad hoc grants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) A list of various institutions, financed by the Asia Foundation during 1965-67 is placed on the

Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1111/68].

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Asia Foundation

*1577. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Asia Foundation has closed down their offices in India ;

(b) whether the Asia Foundation alleged to be a conduit of the American CIA has appointed a local Public and Press Relations man ;

(c) whether the Press Institute of India and several newspapers were financed by Asia Foundation ; and

(d) who are the journalists and newspapermen who themselves or whose close relatives were patronized by the Asia Foundation through fellowships and travel grants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) The Asia Foundation is in the process of winding up its office in India. This will take a few more months to be completed.

(b) Government of India have no information about the appointment of a local Public and Press Relations man.

(c) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House setting out information regarding the financial assistance rendered by the Foundation to journalists, newsmen, the Press Institute of India and others. However, it should be stated that the Press Institute refunded a sum of Rs. 75,000 in 1967 following the disclosure that Asia Foundation had received Cf funds. [Statement Placed in Library. No. LT—1112/68].

SHRI K. NARAYANA RAO : Mr. Speaker, Sir from the list it is very clear that quite a large number of academic institutions have been receiving financial aid from the Asia Foundation. Now that the Asia Foundation has cut short its financial assistance, a serious crisis has taken place in most of the institutions. In view of this fact, may I know whether the Government is considering to see that the academic work of these institutions should not suffer by virtue of this crisis and, if so, whether the Government would be extending its financial help and, if so, on what criterion ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : This matter was considered in the Cabinet and it has directed that consideration should be given to the setting up of a fund of Rs. 50 lakhs to Finance all worth-while research programmes in the field of social science, and this matter is now being examined by the Ministry of Education in consultation with the Planning Commission.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : May I know when the Foundation's offices have been closed here, what are the agencies through which the promised amounts will be given to these institutions ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : How many offices ?

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : In reply to part (a) of my original question, the hon. Minister has said that the offices of the Foundation have been closed.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : The question of grants from the Asia Foundation does not arise ; there will be no grants. They have stopped disbursing any further amount ; it will not be allowed.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Since many offices have been closed, I wanted to know how the promised amounts will be given to the institutions.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : The matter is still under

consideration ; but I suppose it will go through the Ministry of Education.

SHRI R. K. AMIN : In view of the fact that the Asia Foundation was not getting the money directly but indirectly—it is a fact that they were getting money from the CIA and it has been stopped now—may I know whether it is a fact that the Indian Institute of Law, of which I suppose Shri Narayana Rao is the Secretary-General, and of which Mr. Menon was the founder,—is it not so—are receiving CIA money and, if so, has action been taken to stop that money ?

SHRI K. NARAYANA RAO : He is referring to the Indian Law Institute ; unfortunately it is not the Indian Law institute ; it is the Indian Society of International Law.

SHRI R. K. AMIN : Yes ; is it receiving CIA money and, if so, has it been stopped ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I have given a list of all the institutions which have been receiving money during 1965, 1966 and 1967. The hon. Member should carefully go into it and find out how much money they were receiving.

श्री देबेन सेन : मैं मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि एशिया फाउंडेशन बेनामी नाम पर अभी काम कर रहा है या नहीं ? वह इन सब नामों से काम कर रहा है या नहीं :

अमेरिकन कौंसिल आफ ग्रार एम मिशन इन केडागांब,
लावेच लिट्टेरी फंड, कलकत्ता और बिहार में,
सिस्टर्स आफ नाटर्डम, बिहार में,
वीमेन्स यूनिवर्सिटी सोसायटी भांसी, फतेहपुर और कानपुर में,
अमेरिकन इमर्जेन्सी कमिटी आन टिबेटन रिफ्यूजीज
महाराष्ट्र बाइबल मिशन ?

श्री ब० रा० जगत : बेनामी काम करने का सवाल नहीं उठता क्योंकि एशिया फाउंडेशन

देशन किसी ऐसे इन्स्टिट्यूशन को या किसी दूसरे इन्स्टिट्यूशन के जरिये इन इन्स्टिट्यूशन को कोई ग्रांट नहीं दे सकता है हम ने सब बन्द कर दिया है।

SHRI SRĀDHAKAR SUPAKAR : Is it a fact that most of the educational institutions, while they were receiving these grants, were not aware of the fact that the Asia Foundation was supported by or financed by the CIA ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : It is quite so, because, as I said, one institute, the Press Institute, has returned the money as soon as it learnt that it was so. There were some worth-while research projects, particularly in social sciences, which were being financed, and it is for this reason that we decided that these projects which were otherwise very worth-while and good projects should be helped so that their work should continue.

SHRI HEM BARUA : Since the representative of the Asia Foundation in India has said that this Foundation is no longer getting any financial assistance from the CIA, since many of the institutions in India devoted to academic studies and researches like the Institute of Gandhian Studies which were receiving financial assistance from this Foundation are facing a critical situation now, and since whatever financial assistance was given by the Asia Foundation was channelled through the Central Government, as the representative of the Asia Foundation has said in India very recently, and since even now applications to the tune of 2.4 lakhs of dollars are pending with the Asia Foundation here in this country, may I know whether the Government are considering the possibility of reversing the orders since the Asia Foundation is no longer getting any assistance from the CIA ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : No, Sir.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Though it is a fact that these grants from the Asia Foundation have been stopped to all these organisations, and while acknowledging the fact that many of the recipients might have been unaware of the original source of

these funds, still,—after all it is obvious that the money that was coming from the CIA, whether directly or indirectly, was not for charitable or altruistic purposes but prima facie, on the face of it, that part of the money was being given with some other purpose—may I know whether, a part from stopping these donations being received, the Government have progressed at all with the assurance that was given to this House many times that some investigations should take place to find out whether any of these recipients had been using those funds for the purpose which we do not consider to be in our national interests ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : You mean funds from the Asia Foundation ? Well, Sir, the Home Ministry is dealing with the larger question of the use of foreign funds for various purposes ; certainly they have gone into these matters. But now that we have stopped all disbursements by this foundation, that question does not arise.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : What is the answer to my question, Sir ? I asked a specific question. After all, during the period when they were getting these donations, many of them might not have known, but many of them may have known.

MR. SPEAKER : He said it has been stopped.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : They continued with certain activities at that time when they were financed by that source. Now that the source has been stopped, what about the activities ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I said that the Home Ministry did go into this.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : How long ?

श्री मधु लिमये : यह 14 महीनों से बेवकूफ बना रहे हैं। इतने दिनों से कोई जवाब ही नहीं आ रहा है।

श्री ब० रा० भगत : मामनीय सदस्य की समझना चाहिये कि ऐक्शन लिया गया है।

उन को काम करने से रोक दिया गया है और माननीय सदस्य कहते हैं कि ऐक्शन नहीं लिया गया है।

श्री मधु लिमये : गृह मन्त्रालय का काल हरण यह तरीका बन गया है।

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : While I welcome the decision to discontinue all grants from the Asia Foundation, may I know whether it is a fact that apart from the Asia Foundation, there are a number of other foundations which have been giving *ad hoc* grants to Indian individuals and institutions. That may or may not be CIA money, but still that is having a very bad effect on the individuals and institutions. On the individuals, it is creating some kind of intellectual slavery and attachment to particular countries and their thinking is coloured that way. Institutions are using it because it comes readily without much effort. Therefore, they put on buildings and increase the expenditure, but later on when these grants are stopped, they cannot run these institutions. That way a very difficult situation is created. May I know whether Government is thinking of any policy by which no foreign concern or foundation will be able to give any grant to any institution or individual without proper consultation with the Education Ministry or the Government of India, so that that money may be spent where it is really needed and for purposes for which Indian money or Indian know-how is not available ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : That larger question is being looked into by the Home Minister. It is correct that we should not allow any money from outside from any source which may affect our independent functioning or security; etc. That larger question is being looked into.

प्राचीन भारतीय इतिहास तथा संस्कृति संबंधी विदेशी प्रसारण

*1559. श्री ओ० प्र० त्यागी: क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को पता है कि विदेशों

में रहने वाले भारतीयों के बच्चों को भारत के प्राचीन इतिहास तथा संस्कृति के बारे में कोई जानकारी नहीं है और वे इनका ज्ञान प्राप्त करने के बहुत इच्छुक हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने आकाशवाणी के विदेश सेवा कार्यक्रम में भारतीय इतिहास तथा संस्कृति पर प्रकाश डालने वाले कार्यक्रमों का प्रसारण करने की कोई व्यवस्था की है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका व्यौरा क्या है, और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और ऐसी व्यवस्था कब तक करने का विचार है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). The programmes of the External Services of All India Radio project Indian life, thought, culture and civilisation in talks, discussion, features etc. Indian music is also broadcast regularly in these programmes.

श्री ओ० प्र० त्यागी : क्या सरकार को ज्ञान है कि वेद जोकि संसार का सब से प्राचीन ग्रन्थ है और इसका दर्शन प्राणी मात्र के कल्याण का उपदेश रखता है और इसी दृष्टि से जर्मनी, इंडोनेशिया आदि देशों में इसका प्रचार और प्रसार होता है ? यदि ज्ञान है तो क्या सरकार ने कभी इसके प्रचार और प्रसार के सम्बन्ध में आकाशवाणी का उपयोग करने पर विचार किया है, यदि नहीं किया है तो क्यों नहीं ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : I have already said that certain talks concerning Indian life thought, culture and civilisation are being broadcast through the external services. For the information of the hon. member, I may add that readings from the classics such as *rig ved*, *upanishads* and some other classics are also