

Friday, August 2, 1968 | Sravana 11,
1890 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at eleven of
the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Homes for Infirm freedom fighters in
West Bengal

*271. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will
the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large
number of old and infirm revolutiona-
ries and freedom fighters in West Ben-
gal are faced with miserable plight re-
garding their accommodation and
maintenance;

(b) if so, whether Government pro-
pose to undertake any scheme for
making respectable Homes for these
revolutionaries and freedom fighters;
and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):

(a) to (c). According to the informa-
tion made available by the Govern-
ment of West Bengal, the exact num-
ber of the infirm freedom fighters who
are actually faced with such difficul-
ties is not known. The State Govern-
ment have, however, sanctioned a
scheme for the establishment of a
home for providing accommodation
and maintenance of 60 old and
infirm political sufferers, for
which provision of Rs. 1.25 lakhs has
been made in the State Budget during
the current financial year.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Sir, it is pro-
verbially known that revolution de-
vours its own child, and if it is an-
notated in case of India it can be said

that the Indian revolutionaries have
been heartlessly neglected, ignored
and condemned to oblivion. Otherwise,
I could not understand the reply just
now given. If the Home Minister him-
self was there, I believe his reply
would have been different. Now, re-
garding the Andaman prisoners a re-
presentation was made to the Home
Minister, and also during the discus-
sion at the Consultative Committee
Meeting in West Bengal, the matter
was brought in, at which representa-
tives on behalf of The Andaman pri-
soners met him and this representation
was made and it was signed by Siraj-
uddin Huq, Kalipada Roy and B. N.
Mathur. I could never imagine such
a cut-and-dried and wooden reply that
was made by the young Minister of
State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
who is fortunate enough to have been
born with a silver spoon in his mouth.
In his reply he has written:

"The ex-Andaman political pri-
soners are not treated as a special
category distinct from the rest of the
political sufferers who participated
in the freedom movement. The faci-
lities and concessions admissible in
general to the political sufferers who
took part in the freedom movement
can always be availed of by the ex-
Andaman political prisoners to the
extent admissible."

Certainly, the category of the revolu-
tionaries and the ex-Andaman political
prisoners is surely to be differentiated
from the other freedom fighters. If
you go to West Bengal—

MR. SPEAKER: May I remind him
that this is Question Hour?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: With one
sentence more, I shall finish my ques-
tion. With folded hands, I appeal to
you, and I submit that this Govern-
ment did not do anything for thous-
ands and thousands of those people

during the last 20 years, those political prisoners and others who fell in the cause of freedom and went to the gallows as martyrs. We must bow to them with folded hands. In West Bengal you will find that there are thousands of detenus and revolutionaries who had been in jail for 10 to 15 years; over a thousand who had been in jail for 15 to 20 years; a few hundreds between 20 to 25 years and at least a few dozens who had been in jail in the Andamans or in detention there for over a period of between 25 and 30 years. Would not the country expect that this type of prisoners should be treated as a special category of political sufferers, because their mission was a mission of total dedication, total sacrifice and total consecration to the ideal of Indian freedom?

With this background, I want to put the question whether the Central Government, in co-operation with other State Governments concerned, will extend financial and other help to the families of the revolutionaries and martyrs, the ex-Andaman prisoners, all over the country, not only in West Bengal, and also to their surviving parents, widows, minor sons and daughters and also provide pension to all revolutionaries . . . (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Will he sit down now? The House is learning, the other members are learning to put supplementaries. I am keeping quiet.

MR. SAMAR GUHA: May I know whether the Government will take any concrete steps to help the political prisoners and also the ex-revolutionaries who have been in detention for a very long period of time, who have been in Andaman jails, to give them special financial and other aids to them and also to the surviving members of their families like widows, parents, minor sons and daughters and also give pension to those who have reached the age of 60 years. Regarding the information given in the reply, I want to know when this home for the revolutionaries has been started, and when it will be completed? May I also know whether it is known to the Government that

another revolutionary home has been formed by the revolutionaries themselves called Vipalvi Niketan and whether Government will help that home of revolutionaries also?

MR. SPEAKER: Let the House note that one supplementary has taken 7-1/2 minutes. I cannot prevent anybody doing it now. I am helpless.

AN HON. MEMBER: You are not helpless.

MR. SPEAKER: I can only ring the bell. I can request the hon. member to sit down. I can appeal to him. Hon. members themselves should understand it. What else can be done?

SHRI RANGA: Our only plea is that you may advise one of your deputies to give some indication as to how a supplementary should be put. While being most respectful to all the sufferers in the cause of the nation, my hon. friend does not seem to know how to put a supplementary and he goes on accusing others. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: You have been one of the colleagues of Netaji (*Interruptions*).

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: He is a senior member and these charges cannot be made against him.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lakkappa is also a member of the same party. If he feels satisfied that a supplementary can take 7 minutes, I am satisfied. That means only 4 members can get the chance.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I agree with the hon. member that more could have been done for political sufferers in the country. I also share the sentiments of the hon. member about the suffering and sacrifices, etc. made by the valiant freedom fighters. There is no difference of opinion as far as these two things are concerned. As explained earlier in the House, this subject of aid and help to freedom fighters has been

put in charge of the various State administrations and they have been doing their best in this matter. For instance, they have been given lump sum cash grants, land grants, monthly pensions, refund of fines imposed on freedom fighters during the freedom struggle, restoration of confiscated properties, rehabilitation loans and other things. As far as the Central Government is concerned we took upon ourselves to regulate and to co-ordinate the policy, and this policy has been accepted by all State administrations. They are doing their best within their available resources to help the freedom fighters as far as they can.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I wanted to know from the Home Minister whether he was going to make a separate category of the 'revolutionaries'.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: As far as the Central Government is concerned, from time to time we give *ad hoc* assistance to various political sufferers within our own means. About this question of the house to be completed by West Bengal Government for the political sufferers, as I have already indicated in my main reply a provision has been made in the current year's budget and I hope during the current financial year they will take proper action to complete this work in an expeditious manner.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Unfortunately, Sir, from the Minister's reply I feel that the hon. Minister has not understood the import of the word "revolutionaries" which I used again and again in my question. I would only ask the Home Minister, who had been present in that meeting and who hails from the land of Chapekar brothers and Savarkar brothers, the two pioneer revolutionaries, whether the Government will constitute a committee of the members of Parliament to go into this question of giving aid to the revolutionaries—I want to point out that there is some difference between revolutionaries and political sufferers. This question

is begging for the last twenty years. I want to know whether he will agree to that.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): Sir, he pointedly asked me this question and, therefore, with your permission I will reply to that. The Minister of State was certainly replying on the basis of our policy in this matter. May I ask him whether it is necessary to have a committee? If he has any suggestions to give us, any specific ideas to put forward, I am prepared to discuss with him. Merely appointing a committee leads us nowhere. If hon. Members have got any specific ideas or suggestions I am prepared to discuss the matter with them so that possibly I can acquaint them with whatever we are doing and what can be done in this matter.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: *rose*—

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Govind Das—

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I invited his attention . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. The House consists of 522 Members.

डा० गोविन्द दास : श्री मंत्री जी ने यह कहा कि इस सम्बन्ध में सारा विषय राज्य सरकारों पर छोड़ दिया गया है तथा केन्द्रीय सरकार भी इस बात का प्रयत्न कर रही है कि इस विषय में कुछ किया जाय। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस विषय में लगभग सभी राज्यों से कोई योजनाएँ केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास आई हैं, क्या उन योजनाओं में कुछ अन्तर है, यदि अन्तर है तो उस को मिटा कर केन्द्रीय सरकार सारे भारतवर्ष के लिये एक योजना बनाने का विचार कर रही है ?

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : जैसा कि मैंने अपने मूल उत्तर में कहा है, जहाँ तक नीति का सवाल है उस नीति का सम्बन्ध हम यहाँ केन्द्रीय स्तर पर करते हैं। जिन

राज्य शासनों ने इस सम्बन्ध में योजनायें बनाई हैं उन योजनाओं का ज्ञान इस समय मुझे नहीं है, मुझे यह भी ज्ञात नहीं है कि वे योजनायें जो कई वर्ष पूर्व बनाई गई थी, वे हमारे पास भेजी गई थीं या वहां भेजी गई थीं। लेकिन जैसा मैंने पहले कहा है—कुछ ऐसे मुद्दे हैं, 8-10 मुद्दे हैं, जिन पर राजनीतिक पीड़ितों को सहायता दी गई है और जब तक यह वहां पर लोगों को मिलती रहती है, तब तक हमारे पास ज्यादा शिकायतें नहीं आती हैं। परन्तु जब यह सहायता मिलने में कुछ कमी आती है तथा राजनीतिक स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम के सेनानियों को कोई तकलीफ होती है, तब वे हमारे पास शिकायतें भेजते हैं, तब हम उन को राज्य सरकार से टेक-अप करते हैं या स्वयं उसकी सहायता करने का प्रयत्न करते हैं।

श्री रवि राय : अभी अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि नीति तो स्थिर है, लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आपके पास इस तरह की कोई शिकायतें आई हैं कि जिन लोगों ने राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन में भाग लिया था, उन में से जो कांग्रेस दल में हैं उन को सहायता मिलती है और जो विरोधी दल में हैं उन को सहायता नहीं मिलती है ? क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतायेंगे कि 1920-21, 1931 और 1942 इन तीन राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलनों में जिन जिन लोगों ने भाग लिया था, उन में से किन किन लोगों को यह सहायता दी जाती है तथा उन में से कौन कौन विरोधी दल में हैं—इस के आंकड़े दीजिये।

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : जहां तक वित्तीय सहायता का सवाल है बिना किसी प्रकार के डिस्क्रिमिनेशन के सहायता दी जाती है और मुझे व्यक्तिगत ज्ञान है कि विरोधी दल के माननीय सदस्यों की सिफारिश से बहुत से लोगों को वित्तीय सहायता दी गई है। जहां तक सवाल है कि कितनी

सहायता दी गई है—इसके बारे में और कितने स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम के सैनिक विर धी दल में हैं या कांग्रेस दल में हैं—इस के आंकड़े नहीं रखे गये हैं, क्योंकि हम लोग स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम के सेनानियों को इस दृष्टि से नहीं देखते हैं कि कौन कांग्रेस दल में है और कौन विरोधी दल में है, हमारे लिये कोई कहीं भी हो, सब बराबर है।

श्री रवि राय : कांग्रेस दल को ज्यादा मिलती है, पक्षपात करते हो।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: You do not even treat them as political prisoners.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: Public morality or national morality, if we can say so, demands that the freedom fighters are properly looked after and taken care of. There are some who, even though they were opposed to the national movement, by their nuisance value have been able to cash from the national Government. There are still others who are merely cashing their association with the freedom fighters. Then there are the honest and sincere freedom fighters who have either been thrown into oblivion or in wilderness. For instance, the Tana Bhagats have lost everything, even their landed property because they were staunch and devout followers of Mahatma Gandhi in the non-cooperation movement of 1921. Government of Bihar granted them Rs. 10 lakhs for the restoration of their lands but that fizzled out. I would like to know from the Government whether they have got anything in their mind to evolve a scheme so that these freedom fighters, irrespective of what their political affiliations are, properly looked after and their losses compensated; if not, whether Government would like to think in this direction.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I have already indicated that this is our line of thought and our policy.

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी : मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सन 1942 में स्वर्णीय नेताजी मुभाषचन्द्र बोस के साथ कन्घे से कन्घा मिल कर लड़ने वाले आई० एन० ए० के सिपाहियों और अधिकारीबर्ग को क्या सरकार राजनीतिक पीड़ित मानती है या नहीं ? अगर मानती है तो क्या उन को भी सहायता देनी नहै ? यदि सहायता देना है तो कितनी सहायता देती है ?

श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल : जिन लोगों ने नेताजी के साथ इण्डियन नेशनल आर्मी बनाई थी, हम उन को पूरी तरह स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम के सेनानी मानते हैं। उन्हें पूर्ण सहायता दी जानी है, कितनी सहायता दी जाती है, इस के आंकड़े इस समय मेरे पास नहीं हैं, परन्तु पूरी सहायता दी जाती है और किसी तरह का भेदभाव नहीं किया जाता है।

SHRI R. K. SINHA: I was the convener of the national conference of freedom fighters. The speeches delivered in that conference were such that it appears that some of the freedom fighters are being reduced to the junk of history; the condition of their neglect is terrible. I would like to ask of the Minister whether a proper national history of the freedom fighters will be prepared. a roll of honour of freedom fighters in every district will be maintained, pensions will be given to the deserving freedom fighters who are poor or to their widows, full free-ship concession will be given to their children and in view of the national importance of this question whether Government of India will bring forward a Bill in this Parliament which all sections of this House will support.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I have already indicated in my reply that we have probably not been able to do as much as we should have done for the freedom fighters. I agree with the hon. Member that there are freedom fighters in the country whose condition is not good; they are suffering and they have not been looked after very well.

As far as the question of compiling the history of the freedom fighters is concerned, we have already taken steps to do it in co-operation with the Ministry of Education. A comprehensive who's who is being compiled.

SHRI RANGA: "List of those people," he says.

SHRI R. K. SINHA: There should be a roll of honour of freedom fighter in every district.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: We are compiling a who's who which could be called the roll of honour or be given any other appropriate name.

I also understand that certain State administrations have given *Tamrapatra* to various freedom fighters in recognition of their valiant services to the nation.

SHRI R. K. SINHA: They are not even invited to freedom fighters' functions on the 28th January and the 15th August.

DR. RANEN SEN: May I know whether it is known to the Government that whereas there are thousands of ex-political suffers, only a few hundreds get pension from the Government of West Bengal and that too, the amount of pension, is only, on an average, Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 per month and, if so, would the Government try to instruct the West Bengal Government or give them extra subsidy so that at least more number of ex-political sufferers are covered and the paltry amount of pension is increased to a decent amount?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I have already said that we have not yet done as much as we could and the hon. Home Minister has also suggested that if there are any specific suggestions regarding this matter, we can talk over and try to improve our performance.

DR. RANEN SEN: Here is my suggestion. They might give their reaction here and now.

SHR VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:
We shall consider that.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY: All freedom fighters should be termed as one category whether they are terrorists or revolutionaries or satyagrahis. The only difference should be in regard to the duration of suffering and how many years they suffered. Otherwise, they should be termed as one category. Then, I would like to know whether the Government have taken steps to collect data from State Governments about the number of freedom fighters with all their particulars—only a few are still living and they will pass away in 10 to 15 years. May I know whether they have collected the data from the State Governments about the number of freedom fighters, the aid given to them and the number of those who have not received any aid so far.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I have already replied to a part of his question. We are compiling the information about the freedom fighters in consultation with the State Governments and Union Territories and in co-operation with the Ministry of Education. As regards the question of collection of data regarding the help given so far, we have only been advising the State Governments to be as liberal as possible to help the valient freedom fighters. But we have not collected the information as to what has been the quantum of help so far given to the freedom fighters.

श्री अब्दुल गनी दार : क्या होम मिनिस्टर को मालूम है कि पंजाब हरियाणा और हिमाचल के जो पोलिटिकल सफरर थे उनको सचचर मिनिस्ट्री ने जमीन एलाट की थी ताकि उनको मदद मिल सके और उस वक्त राष्ट्रपति रूल में हरियाणा के गवर्नर ने यह आर्डर किया था कि सभी पोलिटिकल सफरर्स को साढ़ चार सौ ६० की एकड़ जमीनें खरीदने की इजाजत दी जाय और यह रकम भी उनसे किरतों में ली जाय ताकि वे अपनी जमीनों का डबलप-मेंट भासानी से कर सके ? और क्या आपको

यह भी इल्म है कि उस वक्त के राज्यपाल का जो आर्डर था उसको हरियाणा की मौजूदा मिनिस्ट्री ने इम्प्लीमेंट नहीं किया जिसकी वजह यह है कि इस वक्त हरियाणा में जो मिनिस्ट्री कांग्रेस के नाम से चल रही है उसमें एक भी ऐसा आदमी नहीं है जिसने एक दिन की भी कैद काटी हो, इसीलिये उनको पोलिटिकल सफरर्स की कीमत मालूम नहीं है ।

[श्री عبدالغنی دار - کیا ہوم منسٹر

کو معلوم ہے کہ پنجاب، ہریانہ اور ہماچل کے جو پولیٹیکل سٹریٹس تھے ان کو سٹیج منسٹری نے زمینیں الاٹ کی تھیں تاکہ ان کو مدد مل سکے اور اس وقت اسٹیڈیٹی رول میں ۵ ہانہ کے گورنر نے یہ آرڈر کیا تھا کہ سبھی پولیٹیکل سٹریٹس کو ساڑھے چار سو روپہہ فی ایکڑ زمینیں خریدنے کی اجازت دی جائے اور وہ رقم بھی ان سے قسطوں میں لی جائے تاکہ وہ اہلی زمینوں کا ڈیولپمنٹ آسانی سے کر سکیں - اور کہا آپ کے یہ بھی علم میں ہے کہ اس وقت کے راجیہ پال کا جو آرڈر تھا اس کو ہریانہ کی موجودہ منسٹری نے امپلیمینٹ نہیں کیا جس کی وجہ یہ ہے کہ اس وقت ہریانہ میں جو منسٹری ڈائریکٹس کے نام سے چل رہی ہے اس میں ایک بھی ایسا آدمی نہیں ہے جس ایک دن کی بھی قید لگتی ہو اسی لئے ان کو پولیٹیکل سٹریٹس کی قیمت معلوم نہیں ہے -]

श्री बिष्ठा चरण शुक्ल : यह बात बिष्कुल गलत है कि जिन्होंने कैद नहीं काटी

है उन्हें फ्रीडम फाइटर्स की सफरिज का पता नहीं है। जिनके थोड़ी सी भी प्रकल है व उसकी कीमत को समझ सकते हैं। अब जहां तक इस मसले का ताल्लुक है, मैं हरियाणा गवर्नमेंट से पूछलाछ कर लूंगा।

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question. Mr. Ram Gopal Shalwale . . .

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं शुरू से ही उठ रहा हूँ लेकिन आप मुझे मौका नहीं दे रहे हैं जबकि मेरे से बाद में उठने वालों को आप मौका दे रहे हैं।

MR. SPEAKER: Three or four communist members got up and I called Dr. Ranen Sen. Every member wants to be called. What can I do? When three or four of them got up, I called Dr. Ranen Sen. Will he kindly sit down . . . (Interruptions).

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : यह अन्याय है। यह हमारे अधिकारों का हनन है।

MR. SPEAKER: Will he please sit down. I do not want to send him out. The Leader: must say something.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : यह बात सही नहीं है . . .

MR. SPEAKER: When SSP members got up, I called the leader of the SSP. Will he please sit down?

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : फिर इस सदन में बैठने का क्या लाभ होगा।

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Shastri, if you do not want to sit in this House, may I request you to leave if you think that it is not competent, will you please leave the House? May I request you to leave the House if you do not want to sit here? If you want to sit here, you should sit quietly . . . (Interruptions) I do not want to argue. Either you sit quietly or leave the House. The work of the House: must continue. You can-

not hold it to ransom. Please sit quietly or leave the House.

दिल्ली की परियोजनाओं के लिये द्वितीय सहायता

272. श्री राम गोपाल शालवाले : क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दिल्ली महानगर परिषद् ने दिल्ली की विभिन्न योजनाओं को क्रियान्वित करने के लिये 11 करोड़ रुपये की मांग की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार 46 वित्तीय सहायता कब तक देगी;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि कार्यकारी परिषद् ने मांग की है कि दिल्ली के राजस्व साधनों के प्रश्न को भी मुरारका प्रायोग को भेजा जाये; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस बारे में सरकार ने अभी तक क्या कर्वाही की है ?

गृह-कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल) : (क) 4 अप्रैल, 1968 को दिल्ली महानगर परिषद् द्वारा पारित एक संकल्प के अनुमरण में दिल्ली प्रशासन ने इस मंत्रालय को 13-6-1968 को विभिन्न स्कीमों के लिये चालू वित्तीय वर्ष में 12.49 करोड़ के प्रतिरिक्त धनराशि के आवंटन के प्रस्ताव भेजे थे।

(ख) प्रस्तावों में 46 मदें हैं और विभिन्न सम्बन्धित मंत्रालयों के विचाराधीन हैं। चूंकि दिल्ली प्रशासन द्वारा विभिन्न प्रस्तावों के लिये औचित्यपूर्ण व्यौरा अभी प्रस्तुत करना है, अतः तारीख नियत करना कठिन है कि कब तक इन प्रस्तावों को अन्तिम रूप दिये जाने की सम्भावना है।

(ग) कार्यकारी परिषद् ने, बताया जाता है, कि सुझाव दिया है कि प्रशासनिक सुधार आयोग के द्वारा नियुक्त संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों