

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, November 22, 1968/Agrahayana 1, 1890 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LOTTERIES FLOATED BY STATES

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- *271. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA :
SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL :
SHRI M. SUDARSANAM :
SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR :
SHRI SITARAM KESRI :
SHRI RAM AVTAR SHARMA :
SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR :
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SHAH :
SHRI R. K. AMIN :
SHRI S. R. DAMANI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of States which are running lotteries at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that while more and more State Governments are thinking of raising resources by floating lotteries, there is general resentment about this method of raising resources on the part of intelligentsia;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken notice of these facts and considered this matter;

(d) whether constitutional validity has also been studied and, if so, the result thereof; and

(e) whether it is proposed to stop the lottery system of raising resources by States and, if so, how ?

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

(a) Five States viz. Haryana, Kerala, Madras, Punjab and Rajasthan.

(b) Resentment has been expressed in some papers against this method of raising revenue by State Governments.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Under the Constitution, lotteries organised by State Governments are relatable to entry 40 of List I (Union List) of Schedule VII.

(e) No; but it is proposed to amend Section 294-A of the Indian Penal Code with a view to restricting the sale of tickets of lottery run by one State in another State without prior concurrence of that State.

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : मैं गृह मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह दुस्त है कि कुछ प्रान्तों की लीटरियों के मुताल्लिक, जिनमें पंजाब भी शामिल है, ऐसी शिकायतें आई हैं कि इनके टिकटों में गड़बड़ हुई है तथा कई किस्म की इरेगुलैरिटीज हुई हैं ? इस मामले में क्या सरकार उन सरकारों के खिलाफ कोई एक्शन ले सकती है ? अगर नहीं ले सकती है तो क्यों नहीं ले सकती है । यह लीटरी सिस्टम जो एक तरह का जुवा है, सट्टा है, बल्कि इनसे भी बदतर चीज है, लोगों को लालच दी जाती है कि तुम एक रुपये का टिकट लो, तुमको एक लाख रुपये मिलेगा, जबकि प्राइवेट लोगों को जो जुएबाज या सट्टेबाज हैं, उनको गिरफ्तार किया जाता है । मैं सरकार से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि उन स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट्स के खिलाफ एक्शन लेने से सरकार क्यों कतराती है ?

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : मैंने मूल प्रश्न के उत्तर में कहा है कि इसके सम्बन्ध में कुछ नाराजगी देश के कई भागों से प्राप्त हुई है, लेकिन जहाँ तक लाटरी चलाने या न चलाने के निर्णय का सवाल है, यह केवल राज्य सरकारों का विषय है और उनको ही इसके बारे में निर्णय लेना है, उनके निर्णय पर हम किसी तरह की बाधा नहीं डाल सकते।

हमारे सामने तो नीति के निर्धारण करने का सवाल था, नीति के सम्बन्ध में बहुत उच्चस्तर पर विचार हुआ था और यह सोचा गया कि हम ज़बरदस्ती किसी तरह से किसी भी राज्य सरकार के अधिकार पर रोक न लगायें तथा राज्य सरकारों की विवेक-बुद्धि पर इस बात को छोड़ दें, वे लाटरी चलाना चाहते हैं तो चलायें, न चलाना चाहते हों तो न चलायें। एक प्रतिबन्ध लागू हुआ है कि यदि वे लाटरी के टिकट बेचते हैं तो केवल अपने ही राज्य में बेचें.....

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : यह तो आप पहले कह चुके हैं, अब फिर उसी को रिपीट कर रहे हैं।

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : उन्होंने पूछा है, इसलिये रिपीट कर रहा हूँ। वे अपने राज्य के सिवाय बाहर लाटरी न बेचें। इतना छोड़ कर और कुछ हस्ताक्षेप हम लोग राज्य के इस क्षेत्र में नहीं कर सकते।

श्री ब्रह्म चन्द्र वर्मा : माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया है, उससे ऐसा मालूम होता है कि भारत सरकार किसी कारणवश उन राज्य सरकारों के खिलाफ, जो चोरी-चकारी या सट्टा करना चाहती हैं, लोगों की जेब पर डाका डालना चाहती हैं, शायद कोई कार्यवाही इस लिये नहीं कर सकती है कि हमारे कांस्टिट्यूशन में कुछ खामियां हैं या वह प्रदेश सरकारों के साथ टक्कर लेने के लिये तैयार नहीं है, उनको मजबूर करने के लिये तैयार नहीं है, डरती है कि यदि उन्होंने हमारी बात नहीं मानी तो गड़बड़ हो जायेगी।

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस पृष्ठभूमि के अनुसार क्या सरकार कोई ऐसा कदम उठाने के लिये विचार करेगी कि इस चोरी-चकारी, लूट और धोखे को जो राज्य सरकारें करना चाहती हैं, रोका जा सके ?

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : मैंने मूल प्रश्न के उत्तर में स्थिति को साफ कर दिया है, जो संवैधानिक स्थिति थी उसको स्पष्ट कर दिया है, अब उसको दोहराना नहीं चाहता।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : आप अपनी राय बताइये।

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : प्रश्न के समय राय नहीं दी जाती, इसलिये इस समय राय बताने की ज़रूरत नहीं है।

SHRI R. K. AMIN : I think there is some woolliness on the part of the thinking of Government. Some States are running lotteries; some are not. On the same morals horse races are stopped at some places and at some other places horse races are being allowed. Regarding prohibition also the same morals come into the picture. Why should we not have a consistent policy in the country as a whole regarding that? If the States are allowed to run lotteries and raise resources, why should even the Centre not do it? Or, the Centre should prevent this system of lotteries from being taken to by any State whatsoever. Is the Government thinking of evolving a consistent policy in regard to certain social moral issues in the country so that the people and the States can follow a consistent policy?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : We cannot arrogate to ourselves the power of regulating the policies of State Governments. As far as our own policy is concerned, we can regulate it. It is not our intention to regulate the policy of State Governments as far as this matter is concerned.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : I welcome the restriant that the Government has shown in this matter. I would like to know from Government that, since

conditions differ in various States, taking into consideration the various situations that are prevailing there, the Government would not intervene as some Members would very much like the Government to but would see that the State Governments are helped in their endeavour to improve the little resources that they have got. It is very unfortunate that the hon. Members made the remark that it is a kind of gamble. Considering the expenditure that is involved due to the various luxuries of life that our people are living with, like horse racing, card playing, club going, cinema going and other things, paying a rupee a month is not an amount by which anybody is going to suffer.

MR. SPEAKER: Ask a question now.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN: From our experience we know that almost 90 per cent of the people of Tamil Nadu are very happy because they are contributing to the exchequer of the State. Since the Minister in his main reply has himself indicated that they are going to regulate the jurisdiction of a State for the raffle, I would like to know from Government whether they will bring forward any such measure and see that there is no unhealthy competition between States.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I have already indicated that we do not wish that the sale of lottery tickets of one State should be sold in another State without the concurrence of the other State. If the other State agrees, we do not mind but we only impose the condition that the concurrence of the other State should be taken before the sale is organised in another State.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: May I know whether the Government is aware that, apart from the lotteries run by the State Governments, there are lotteries run by private institutions which are supposed to be authorised by the State Governments and, if so, whether the Government propose to regulate those lotteries also?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: As the hon. Member himself indicated, the permission for organising such lotteries has to be given by the State Governments. So, the responsibility of regulating those lotteries also falls on the State Governments, not on the Central Government.

SHRI RANGA: In view of the fact that the opinions differ in regard to the advisability or otherwise of having to resort to these lotteries in order to raise finances for the States and also in view of the non-advisability of the Government of India coming into conflict or competition with the State Governments, since some of the State Governments have already taken up this means of raising the revenues, would the Government of India abstain themselves from getting into this competition and avoid floating their own lotteries?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: There is no such intention at present of the Government of India to enter into this kind of a thing.

श्री अचल सिंह: मैं मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट इस बात को पसन्द करती है कि लाटरी चलाई जाये? अभी हाल में इसी कैपिटल, दिल्ली के अन्वर एक कोआपरेटिव एग्जिबिशन लगी थी जिसमें इस तरह की काफी दुकानें थीं और उनके द्वारा काफी लोग लूटे गये। इसलिये मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट इसको रोकना पसन्द करेगी?

श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल: इसमें केन्द्रीय सरकार की पसन्दगी और नापसन्दगी का कोई प्रश्न नहीं है। राज्य सरकारें जब इस तरह का कोई काम करना चाहती हैं तो हम देखते हैं कि कहां तक हम उसको नियंत्रित कर सकते हैं या कहां तक नहीं कर सकते हैं। जहां हमारे नियंत्रण करने का सवाल नहीं उठता है, वहां हम हस्तक्षेप नहीं करते हैं। वैसे दिल्ली शासन ने भी लाटरी चलाने की पमिशन मांगी है जो कि हमारे विचाराधीन है।

श्री शिव चरण लाल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो यह लूट चल रही है, एक लाख का लालच देकर इस प्रकार से जो जनता लूटी जा रही है, क्या इसमें केन्द्रीय सरकार का कोई हिस्सा नहीं है और यदि केन्द्रीय सरकार का कोई हिस्सा नहीं है तो क्या सरकार इस पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाने की कृपा करेगी ताकि जनता की लूट बन्द हो जाये। इसमें लाखों रुपए का गबन भी किया जा रहा है। तो क्या सरकार इसको रोकने की कृपा करेगी ?

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : इन लाटरीज में केन्द्रीय सरकार का कोई हिस्सा नहीं रहता है।

जहाँ तक माननीय सदस्य के प्रश्न के दूसरे भाग का सम्बन्ध है, मैं उसका उत्तर दे चुका हूँ।

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : Generally, poor people purchase these lottery tickets to become rich. When the Central Government have authorised legally the State Governments to rob poor people, will the Government consider to give the same authorisation to philanthropic institutions running hospitals, educational institutions, etc., to run these lotteries ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : It is very unfair to say that we are a party to such lotteries or we have acquiesced in that. The only allegation that can be made against us is we have not prevented them from doing so.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : What about authorising philanthropic institutions to run these lotteries ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I have made the position clear. If these private people want to do it, they have to take the permission of the State Government. The Central Government does not come into the picture.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : Since Punjab is under President's rule, there

are serious complaints of embezzlement of large funds of money in these lotteries. May I know whether Government has got any inquiry conducted into this matter and what action the Government has taken ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : These allegations have not arisen because Punjab is under the President's rule. Some difficulties might have arisen there, and the local administration is looking into it.

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM : I do not know why so much of horror is expressed against lotteries just as people nowadays express disapproval of short-skirts...

SHRI HEM BARUA : Nobody does it.. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Skirts cause such an excitement here !

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM : Lotteries by themselves are not bad. Here in the Lok Sabha also there are ballots; by lots our names are taken for certain purposes. There are some pieces of legislation under which elections are decided by lot when there is a tie. I do not, therefore understand why so much of horror is expressed against lotteries. May I, therefore, know whether the Central Government will decide not to interfere with the States when they want to raise revenues through lotteries ? As Mr. Kandappan said, here is a lottery where it is not the lottery aspect that is predominating, but it is contributing to the revenues of the State, that is the dominating factor.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I have already answered this.

HUMAN SACRIFICES

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✓ *273. **SHRI D. N. PATODIA :**
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :
SHRI RAM SEWAK YADAV :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received information about the revival of ancient practice of offering human