

LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 17, 1969 | Chaitra 27,
1891 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

तेलगू समाचार पत्र को रूसी सहायता

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*1141. श्री रणजीत सिंह :

श्री बृज भूषण लाल :

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी :

श्री सूरज भान :

डा० सुशीला नैयर :

श्री ए. श्रीधरण :

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण तथा संचार
मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या 14 दिसम्बर, 1968 के
"आर्गेनाइजर" में प्रकाशित यह समाचार सच
है कि श्री राजगोपाल ने जो तेलगू में 'विशाल
आंध्र' नामक कम्युनिस्ट समाचार पत्र के 16
वर्ष तक सम्पादक रहे हैं, यह कहा है कि रूस
ने इस समाचार पत्र को एक भूठे नाम की
कृषि-औद्योगिक निगम के माध्यम से बेकार
तम्बाकू खरीदकर 7.50 लाख रुपये की सहायता
दी थी ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार की इस पर
क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(ग) इस प्रकार विदेशी धन से भारतीय
प्रेस को प्रभावित करने के प्रयासों को रोकने के
सम्बन्ध में क्या उपाय किए जा रहे हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPART-
MENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI
I. K. GUJRAL): (a) The attention of the
Government was drawn to the news item
appearing in the 'Organiser' dated the 14th
December, 1968. The press report was sub-
sequently repudiated by the present Editor of
the 'Vishal Andhra' in an article dated the
24th December, 1968. Beyond that the
Government have no information.

(b) and (c). The matter has been brought
to the notice of Ministry of Home Affairs
who are studying the role of foreign money in
the last General Elections and for other
purposes.

श्री रणजीत सिंह : इस सत्र में प्रश्न 765
पूछा गया था और उसकी तरफ मैं आपका
ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। इसमें पूछा गया
था कि लिंक, पैट्रियट तथा इसी प्रकार के अन्य
अखबार जो हैं जिनको विदेशी सहायता अनेक
माध्यमों से मिलती है, उसके विषय में सी० बी०
आई० ने क्या जांच की थी और उसकी जो रिपोर्ट
है वह कब तक सरकार सभा के पटल पर रख
देगी ? इसके उत्तर में कहा गया था :

"The report of the Intelligence Bureau
on the use of foreign money in the last
General Elections and for other purposes
has been carefully considered. Govern-
ment will make a statement on the
subject in the current session of Parlia-
ment."

आप मानेंगे कि यह मामला बहुत अहम है।
हमारे अखबारों में विदेशों को बिक रहे हैं। मैं
पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सत्य नहीं है कि
पैट्रियट को पैसा देने के लिए अनेक लोगों को,
रूसी जासूसों ने और उनके फैलो ट्रेबलर्ज ने
शेयरहोल्डर बनाया और तुरन्त के तुरन्त उधर
शेयर बेचा और शेयर बेचते ही उनसे बेचा-

नामा लिखा लिया, वहां पर कोई नाम नहीं लिखा...

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Sir, it is the only one paper which represents the voice of the people correctly. It is not like *Organiser*. I am referring to *Patriot*.

AN HON. MEMBER : Russian *Patriot* ?

श्री रणजीत सिंह : करोड़ों रुपया इस प्रकार से अखबारों जैसे पेंड्रियट हैं उनको मिला है। क्या उसके विषय में सरकार को जानकारी है ? अगर है तो क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं और क्या उठाये जा रहे हैं ? यह जो हस्तक्षेप हमारे देश के मामलों में विशेषकर रूस से चल रहा है प्रेस के ऊपर, इसको आप कैसे रोकेंगे ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Sir, the hon. Member has referred to an answer to the question given here by the Home Minister. If he had perused it further he would have also known that the Home Minister said that he was going to make an exhaustive statement on the subject in this session. This is an assurance given by the hon. Home Minister here in Parliament itself. The hon. Member has mixed up three Ministries in this. One statement has already been made here on 4th December, 1968 by the Finance Minister giving details of some shares and donations etc. to Indian *Patriot*. A similar statement has also been made by the Home Minister. I can only repeat it by saying that the Home Ministry, so far as I know, is making an exhaustive study of the subject and, as per the assurance given by the Home Minister, he will make a statement here during this session.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH : Sir, when we ask a question we expect that the answer is coming from the Government. The responsibility does not lie with a particular Ministry. Therefore, it was the hon. Minister's duty to make himself acquainted with the Home Minister's views and collect information about this. The two specific questions I have asked are: is it known to the Government that shares were sold to individuals through Russian agents or foreign agents for the

Patriot and such other papers—comrades or fellow-travellers as they are called in the Communist jargon—and these shares were then resold keeping the purchaser's name blank so that at the time of inquiry they could say that so and so are the persons who purchased it ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : While I agree with the hon. Member that a question is addressed to the Government as a whole and reply is given, as far as possible, by the Government whenever any Ministry is addressed to.....

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : As far as possible ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I meant, as far as possible by the Ministry. Even then the hon. Member will have to concede one point that work here is allocated and divided. Therefore certain things are looked after by particular Ministries. About shares etc., the hon. Member would appreciate the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting does not go into the shareholdings of any company. That is looked after by the Company Law Department, the Ministry of Finance and other Ministries. I would, therefore, request the hon. Member to address his question to them. I can assure the hon. Member that the information he has now given will be passed on by me to the Ministries concerned.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH : Sir, this question is only a month old but the problem is much older and known to the Government. Even then the answer is not forthcoming although the enquiry has been going on for a long time. This Session is going to last till the 15th May. God knows whether by the end of the Session they will come and say that the information will be given in the next Session. Is the hon. Minister going to make a statement on this particular question that I have asked, after due investigation, about the type of shares sold to the *Patriot*, the amount of money lying with them and the amount of money brought from foreign countries ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Sir, I have already answered it. The hon. Member is in a hurry to ask his question and not listen to the answer. I said that I will pass on the information given by him to the Ministries concerned.

श्री बृज भूषण लाल : हमारे देश की प्रेस को फारेन कंट्रीज के रुपये से इनफ्लुएंस किया जा रहा है। ज्यादातर व्यापार की चीजें जैसा कि इसमें आया है कि बेकार का तम्बाकू बगैरह साढ़े सात लाख रुपये का खरीदा गया और यह रुपया प्रेस को दे दिया गया।

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री महोदय कोई नियम बनायेंगे कि फारेन कंट्रीज के लोग व्यापार करें तो वे जो सामान खरीदना हो उसको एस० टी० सी० के द्वारा खरीदें ताकि इस तरीके का बंगलिंग न हो और इस रुपये को वे इस तरह से पास न कर सकें ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Sir, so far as the general approach is concerned I am absolutely at one with the hon. Member that no foreign country, of whatever shade, should have any opportunity to influence our papers here or even our public life. So far as general trade is concerned I think if the hon. Member addresses it to the Ministry concerned, as to whether the export-import trade should be nationalised or not, that would be the correct thing.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : विदेशी पैसा चुनाव पर और हमारे देश के ऊपर अपना प्रभाव डालने के लिए कैसे-कैसे हथकंडे अपना रहा है, इसके विषय में आज नहीं बहुत बार चर्चा हो चुकी है। मुझे मंत्री महोदय का उत्तर सुन कर बड़ा आश्चर्य हुआ। उन्होंने कहा है कि विशाल आंध्र के जो वर्तमान सम्पादक हैं, प्रेजेंट एडिटर हैं उन्होंने इसको रिप्यूडेट किया है। शासन को भी कोई जानकारी नहीं है। इसके पहले वह सोलह साल लगातार "विशाल आंध्र" के सम्पादक रहे। कम्युनिस्टों में जब भगड़ा हुआ राइट और लैफ्ट में तो उनको बाहर जाना पड़ा। राजगोपाल को उस समय जाना पड़ा। उन्होंने बड़ी जिम्मेदारी के साथ आरोप लगाया था। क्या शासन ने उनसे पूछा है कि श्री राजगोपाल ने कौन से आधार पर आरोप लगाया था ? क्या इसके बारे में उनसे शासन ने कोई जानकारी लेने की कोशिश की है।

जानकारी के पश्चात् जब आपको कुछ पता चला तो उसको रोकने के लिए आपने कौन से कदम उठाये या उठाने आप जा रहे हैं।

इसके पहले भी मलयलम पेपर को चीन से पैसा मिला था। यह विदेशी पैसा किसी एक देश से नहीं मिलता है। यह चीन से भी आता है, रूस से भी, अमरीका से भी, पाकिस्तान से भी। देश में प्रजातंत्र को स्वस्थ दिशा में ले जाने के लिए समाचारपत्रों का बड़ा भारी दायित्व होता है। वह देश का विचार बनाता है, देश की पब्लिक ओपिनियन को मोबिलाइज करता है। इसमें अखबार वालों का बड़ा भारी हाथ होता है। हमारे समाचारपत्र विदेशी पैसे के प्रभाव से दूर रहें, इससे वे स्वतंत्र रहें, इसके बारे में मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आपने कौन से प्रभावी कदम उठाये हैं या उठाने का आप विचार कर रहे हैं ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Sir, I have said in my reply to the main question that we brought the matter to the notice of the Home Ministry and they are looking into it. It will form part of the study undertaken by them or is being undertaken by them about foreign money being pressed in during the General Elections. So far as the general thing, that outside money should not be allowed to influence our newspapers, is concerned, I am in agreement with him.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : मैंने राजगोपाल के बारे में पूछा था। उन्होंने आरोप लगाया है।

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : The hon. Minister says that the new editor has contradicted it. But what about the old editor ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : The old editor has made the allegation and the new editor has repudiated it. I have left it there; I have not given any judgment. The only thing is that we have referred the matter to the Home Ministry to examine everything. It has also been brought to the notice of the Andhra Government.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : तो फिर यह जवाब कैसे दिया कि "if it is brought to the notice of government"?

श्री ई० कु० गुजराल : आपने जवाब पढ़ा ही नहीं। मैं फिर पढ़े देता हूँ :

"(b) and (c). The matter has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Home Affairs who are studying the role of foreign money in the last General Elections and for other purposes."

श्री सूरज भान : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी बैनर्जी भाई ने यह कहा था कि हिन्दुस्तान में अखबार एक ही है पैट्रियट जो अच्छा अखबार है। मैं उसे रशियन पैट्रियट कहता हूँ, इंडियन पैट्रियट नहीं कह सकता हूँ।...

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : What about *Hindustan Times* which is controlled by capitalists like Birlas ?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Then what about Biju Patnaik, who is one of the proprietors of *Link Publications* ?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : We are concerned with the editorials of the paper, the cause which it represents.

श्री सूरज भान : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अगस्त के सेशन में मोरारजी भाई ने एक सवाल का जवाब देते हुए कहा था कि पैट्रियट को 5 लाख 69 हजार 747 रुपया बतौर दान मिला। यह दान कहां से आया जरा मंत्री महोदय बताएं। लिंक के बारे में उन्होंने बताया कि था कि दो साल में 1964 और 65 में 2 लाख 90 हजार 500 रुपया लिंक को मिला। मैं यह भी पूछना चाहता हूँ कि वह किस जरिए से मिला।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Another paper is *March of the Nation*.

MR. SPEAKER : All this may be addressed to the Home Minister.

श्री सूरज भान : और तीसरा प्रश्न मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आर्गेनाइजर ने एक हेडिंग

दिया था कि कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी आफ इन्डिया को 50 लाख रुपया साल मिलता है। उसके माध्यम हैं चार। पहला माध्यम है कि पब्लिसिंग हाउस बनाया है, वहां यह छपाते कुछ नहीं हैं, रशिया से छपी छपाई किताबें आती हैं मुफ्त में और वह उसे यहाँ खेचते हैं। दूसरा माध्यम उन्होंने बनाया हुआ है न्यू एज प्रिंटिंग प्रेस। रशियन एम्बेसी अपना सारा काम उस प्रेस में प्रिन्ट कराती है और महंगे दाम उनको देती है जबकि आम बाजार में वह सस्ते छप सकते हैं। इस तरह उनको फायदा पहुँचाया जाता है। और तीसरा माध्यम है प्रेस को प्वायजन करने के लिए वह जानबूझकर ज्यादा ऐडवर्टाइजमेंट मैटिरियल उनको देते हैं।... (व्यवधान)... मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इस सारी घांघली को खतम करने के लिए सी० बी० आई० से कोई एन्वयारी कराएंगे और उसकी रिपोर्ट सदन से मेज पर रखेंगे ?

श्री स० मो० बंनर्जी : और इसकी भी इन्वयारी कराएंगे जो श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद के शादी करने के बारे में निकला है ? It has come in *observer*.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Regarding the reference made to *Link* and *Patriot*, I have already mentioned that the Deputy Prime Minister has made a statement here in reply to a question on 4.12.68 wherein all the details have been given. I would refer my hon. friend to that. If he looks at that statement I am sure he will find some of the details he has asked for. So far as the functioning of the papers and press is concerned, we have taken note of whatever the hon. Members have said and we will pass on this information to the Home Ministry.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY : Then why was this question accepted by this Ministry?

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : The Deputy Prime Minister announced in the House that *Patriot* and *Link* are getting Russian aid. Now the former editor of *Vishal Andhra*, Shri Rajagopala Rao, has

clearly stated that they were getting money from Russia all these years. What more evidence do the government want to take action against these people? The Government by their action are helping the Russians to give more money to these papers. I feel the Government are afraid of taking any action in this regard because they are afraid of the neo-Socialists in the Congress Party, or the so-called "progressive people" who are not at all progressive. What more evidence do the Government want to take action to stop this money going to these papers? Have they not seen the editorial which appear in *Patriot*, *Link* and *Vishal Andhra* who are getting Editorials prepared from the Russian Embassy. Naturally, they will follow their instructions. If this goes on, what will happen to our country? Are we going to stop Russia from doing this? Why is this government submitting to Russia like this?

May I ask the Minister if they are willing to cancel the agreement that they have reached with the Russian news agency?

The Minister has also said that they have sent a strong protest to the Russian radio, Radio Peace they call it, which announced something against our leaders. What action they have taken is not known; they have not received any reply.

Will the Government at least cancel their agreement with them and take action against the Russian Embassy people who pump out money to these papers?

MR. SPEAKER : It was too long a question. I do not know where it began and where it ended.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I am grateful to you, Sir, for coming to my rescue because really I do not know which question to reply.

MR. SPEAKER : But the relevant portion was that the Congress was afraid of taking action because the Congress was supporting this.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I would say strongly that all Congressmen, including my hon. friend here, are not afraid of anybody. I would also like to say that we

are second to none in our commitment to safeguarding the entity of this nation..... (Interruption) and in anything, whether it comes from this side or from that side, before the Government of India the interest of India is paramount; everything else is secondary. The policy of the Government is neither going to be pulled this side because my hon. friend, Shri Pilo Mody, asserts his weight on this side nor to the other side.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Only to the Russian side.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I would only say that if money is coming from any country to influence our papers, we are definitely concerned about it. That is why the Home Ministry has undertaken an inquiry into it and study of it. When the Home Minister makes a statement about it, I am sure, it will satisfy Members by and large.

SHRI RANGA : The kernel of the question of Shri N.P.C. Naidu is whether the Government would be willing to put an end to the agreement in regard to *Novosti*. No answer has come forward to that from my friend, although he waxed eloquent about the independence of the West and the East and so on. My hon. friend was talking with his tongue in his cheek.

In view of the fact that so many ministries are involved in this, including the Company Law Department, the Home Ministry, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry which poses to be very bold (Shri S. K. Tapuriah : But is uninformed.) in spite of their proved weakness to deal with this matter over all these years, will they try to form a committee of their secretaries and also of the concerned ministries in order to go into this particular matter of not only these journals getting money and companies and all those things which are involved in getting and helping the money to go into one sector of our politics for which evidently my hon. friend has a lurking sympathy, but also the money, companies and various kinds of things that are coming into the other sector which seems to weigh very much on his brain both sectors? We want the Government to go into this matter, not

merely the Home Minister and then the Home Minister saying, "I am doing it only on the basis of the information that is placed before me" but all the concerned ministries taken together including Food and Agriculture also in view of PL 480 which is their responsibility. Let them get together, form a committee, pool all the information, sort it out and place the information on the Table of the House. Will my hon. friend convey this also to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Home Minister and his own Cabinet Minister who is sitting so mum just in front of him just because he is afraid of his junior ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA): There is nothing to be afraid of. I think, many things which he has said are a matter of suggestion. We shall consider what he has said in order to find out what is the actual affair.

श्री नवल किशोर शर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस देश की राजनीति में विचारों के जरिये, चुनावों के जरिये विदेशी घन के माध्यम से कुछ लोग हावी होना चाहते हैं—चाहे वे रशियन हों या अमेरिकन हों या पाकिस्तानी हों। यह एक अहम सवाल है और इन सबके सन्दर्भ में इस बात की जरूरत है कि ऐसे पत्र जो पोलिटिकल पार्टीज से सम्बन्धित हैं, उन पत्रों के रिसोर्सज कहां से और किस तरह से प्राप्त होते हैं—इनके बारे में क्या सूचना मंत्रालय जांच करेगा और जांच करके ऐसे लोगों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही करने का निश्चित निर्देश देगा ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I have already replied to this and I can only assure my hon. friend that an exhaustive study has been undertaken.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Sir, before I ask my question, I want to make it clear that I am all for Indo-Soviet friendship. But I am opposed to any attempts at political indoctrination in our country by any country, whether it is Russia or China or America or U.K.

With this background, I want to draw the attention of the Government that I had put a Question to the Government asking for information about the number of periodicals published by U.S.A., U.K. and Russia in this country and also whether these publications are being printed by the printing presses owned by any political party. It took nearly one year to answer that Question. In that answer, it was stated that America publishes 6 periodicals, Britain publishes 3 periodicals and Russia publishes 41 periodicals in our country. About the total circulation of U.K. and U.S.A. periodicals, the Government could not furnish any information. About 41 Russian periodicals, only 1/5th of the circulation was given to me which is more than 2 lakhs. I also wanted to know which are the presses which published these periodicals. About U.K. and U.S.A., the Government could not furnish any information. About Russian publications, they only supplied a few names, *New Age*, *Vishal Andhra*, *Jana Shakti*, *Nava Yug* and a few others but could not give full information. I know in the Kalantar press owned by the C.P.I. in West Bengal all Bengali publications of Russia are printed there.

I want to know from the Government whether they have by now got full information, the figures of circulation of the periodicals published by U.K., and U.S.A. and in which printing presses these periodicals are published and, secondly, whether the Government has got full information about the names of the printing presses owned by the Communist Party of India where all the publications of the Russian Embassy are printed and also the total amount of income accruing from them.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : That is entirely a different question. I am willing to give information later.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : It is not entirely a new question. Let him give some assurance as to by what time he will give the information.

MR, SPEAKER : He has been saying that he has referred the matter to the Home Ministry.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : This is not about the Home Ministry. This question pertains to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. We want to know by what time they will be able to supply the information.

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : From the nature of the question, it will not be possible within 10 or 15 days. We shall try as early as possible to place the information on the Table of the House.

SHRI PILOO MODY : I very rarely ask questions because I am used to getting the type of answers they have been giving. In Unstarred Question No. 6607 dated 16th April, 1969, I had asked for information. I have heard that East European countries are supplying the presses to India, to various importers here, and that they are being highly subsidised in the sense that the full value of the price is never paid.

The first instalment and the second instalment are paid and after that the matter is forgotten. For that reason I asked for the names of the importers and the dates of import, the prices at which they were imported and the payments, if any, so far remitted to the exporting countries, to which I get a reply which says that the names of the importers and the dates of import are not available. This Government which has been spending millions with its licences, with its control systems and with the delays that it takes in granting licences, surely can supply the names of licensees to whom they have actually given the licences and at what prices and to what extent the licences have been issued to them. On the basis of that I would also like to know from them whether any repayment has been made by the actual importer to the exporting country. This the reply I get to my question 6607. I take this opportunity, of extracting another tooth of the Minister, particularly, now that he has assured us that there will be a major change in the Government's policy and that the Government of India henceforth will be working for the interests of this country !

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Whether my friend likes it or not, we always work in the interests of the country. Even when Mr. Raju was on this side, even then we

were working, and even to-day working in the interests of the country. I would only like to say that I do not remember the question. He would rather address such questions about imports and exports to the Ministry of Foreign Trade and he will get better replies from them.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Appoint a commission of industry.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : My friend is unfortunately in the habit of asking question from the wrong place. Why does he not put the question to the Ministry of Foreign Trade ? (*Interruptions*)

राजस्थान में टेलीफोन एक्सचेंजों के विकास की योजनायें

*1142. श्री मीठालाल मीना : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि राजस्थान में, विशेषकर जयपुर तथा भरतपुर डिविजनों में, टेलीफोन उपकरणों के अभाव के कारण टेलीफोन केन्द्रों के विकास तथा सार्वजनिक टेलीफोनों को लगाने की पूर्वस्वीकृत अनेक योजनायें कार्यान्वित नहीं की जा रही हैं ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) अपेक्षित उपकरणों को कब तक उपलब्ध कराने की संभावना है ; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH). (a) to (d). No, Sir. The approved schemes for development of telephone exchanges and opening of long distance public call offices are being executed progressively. After a scheme has been sanctioned, stores are procured and installation and construction are undertaken, the actual implementation