

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 29, 1967/Chaitra 8,
1889 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PL 480 Funds used in Elections

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*109. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:

Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Shri Hukam Chand

Kachhavaia:

Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Shri Yashpal Singh:

Shri George Fernandes:

Dr. Ranena Sen:

Shri J. M. Biswas:

Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made
any investigation into the charges
made by responsible public leaders
that PL 480 counterpart funds had
been used in the recent General Elec-
tions; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri
Y. B. Chavan): (a) and (b). Govern-
ment have recently ordered the
Intelligence Bureau to make inquiries
into the allegations that in the recent
General Elections money from foreign
sources had been used.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of
the revelation last year in answer to
Starred Question No. 605 on the 1st
December which showed that out of
the PL 480 funds, the expenditure of
the United States Embassy upto 30th

September, 1966 amounted to Rs. 41.54
crores while the Indian Government's
charge in regard to our Embassies
and Legations never exceeded Rs. 5
crores a year, and the expenditure
of the United States Information
Service had come to Rs. 16.47 crores
while our entire broadcasting system
never costs nearly half as much, may
I know if, in view of this, enquiries
would be made of the American
Government, so that they give us
details in regard to the expenditure
which they have made out of these
PL 480 funds? Otherwise this pro-
posed investigation about interven-
tion in our elections would be infruc-
tuous.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I thought this
was a limited question about making
enquiries into the use of PL 480
money in the general elections. So
far as the general way of using
PL 480 money is concerned, that is a
matter about which this Ministry is
not in a position to answer imme-
diately. Naturally, this is a question
that the Finance Ministry will have
to look into. The particular question
that is before the House today is
about the use of foreign money in
the recent general elections, and
PL 480 can be one of the sources.
That is the matter for enquiry which
the Government has asked the Intel-
ligence Bureau to look into.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know,
if Government's attention has been
drawn to certain reports which
appeared in the UAR neyspapers *Al
Gambharia*, which mentioned the fact,
according to their correspondent, of
PL 480 funds being spent for elec-
tions in North Bombay where Mr.
Krishna Menon was a candidate and
the fact of certain photographs in
American papers several years ago
having been supplied by PL 480
American agencies to those who were
contesting Mr. Menon?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I have not seen this report.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: I am glad to hear that an enquiry has been ordered. In view of the fact that it has been stated in this House and not been denied, as far as I know, by the Government that an amount of about Rs. 30 crores was withdrawn by the American Embassy from the PL 480 funds just on the eve of the elections, may I know whether there is anything in the PL 480 agreement itself which actually prevents our Government, despite any desire it might have to make an enquiry, from actually finding out how this money was spent?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I cannot either accept or reject this particular statement, because this is not a matter with which the Home Ministry is directly concerned. But if the enquiry discloses anything of that nature, certainly I will be willing to place it before the House.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: That is not my question at all. My question is, whether under this PL 480 law any agreement which is made prevents the recipient country from finding out exactly how the funds are spent in that country by the donor country. If that is so, the whole inquiry will be infructuous.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I will require notice to answer this particular question

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I wish to know whether it has been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister that during the elections or before the elections, just in the month of December, a sum of Rs. 30 crores or Rs. 31 crores, which is an abnormally big amount, was withdrawn by the authorities who were responsible for operating the PL 480 funds; if so, whether this was done to finance some individuals or political parties during the elections? If that is so, may I know whether the Finance Ministry or the apparatus of the

Finance Ministry have instituted any inquiry; if not, whether this will form part of the inquiry by the Intelligence Bureau?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: My answer is the same.

श्री दशपाल सिंह : क्या यह सही है कि पिछले जो हमारे मंत्री श्री टी० टी० कृष्णम-चारी थे उन्होंने इलजाम लगाया है कि पी० एल० 480 के 31 करोड़ रुपये को एकाजंट फौर नहीं किया गया और वह चाहे जिस एलैक्शन में और चाहे जिस परपज में खर्च कर सकते हैं ?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I have no information about what Shri T. T. Krishnamachari said.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, the Minister of Finance also should have been here. This question relates to the Finance Ministry as well. Sir, I want to know from you whether this Cabinet functions collectively or not?

Mr. Speaker: That is a separate question.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Does he deny that Shri Krishnamachari made any such statement or is he not aware of it?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I said, I do not know about it.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Sir, the ex-Finance Minister, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari made this statement at the forum of the AICC meeting. Does the hon. Minister say that he was not there in the meeting or did he not hear what he said there? Why did he not ever think it desirable to discuss this matter with Shri Krishnamachari?

Mr. Speaker: He might have been there but he might not have taken any serious notice of what he said.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Sir, when a responsible person makes such a statement, is it not desirable to discuss the matter with him? Has

anybody discussed this matter with him?

श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डीज : जब पी० एल० 480 के पैसे के इस्तेमाल के बारे में कई किसम के आरोप कुछ दिनों से इस मुल्क में लगाने में आ रहे हैं और सरकार अब खुद यह महसूस करती है कि इंटेलिजेंस ब्यूरो द्वारा इन आरोपों की जांच की जाय तो क्या अमरीकी सरकार के साथ जो पी० एल० 480 का करार होता है वह तमाम पैसे के ऊपर हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार के हमेशा के लिए जांच करने के अधिकार को अपनी सरकार अभी प्राप्त कर लेगी ?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I would again like to make this clear to this hon. House that the operation of the whole PL 480 is a separate question altogether, the details of which I just cannot give like this. Certainly it is a legitimate question, and if asked of the Government with proper notice somebody could give the necessary information about it. I am concerned here with certain allegations about the use of such money in the general elections. I am trying to confine my answer to that particular aspect.

श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डीज : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न वैसा नहीं है। मेरा प्रश्न गृह मंत्री से ही सम्बन्धित है। मेरा यह कहना है कि जब आज गृह मंत्री खुद यह महसूस करते हैं कि जांच करने की आवश्यकता है, इंटेलिजेंस ब्यूरो के हाथ में उन्होंने मसला सौंप दिया है ऐसा वह कहते हैं तो फिर आज गृह मंत्री जी क्या यह कहने के लिए तैयार हैं कि पी० एल० 480 फंड्स के ऊपर चाहे कुछ उसकी रकम के ऊपर सिर्फ अमरीकी सरकार ही अपना दावा रखती है उसका हिसाब किताब हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार को नहीं देती है तो वह हिसाब किताब मांगने की सिफारिश गृह मंत्री साहब करेंगे ?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Whatever matters will be disclosed in the course of the inquiry, certainly they will have to be looked into carefully.

श्री मधु लिमये : यह सवाल नहीं है उनका। वह कह रहे हैं कि पी० एल० 480 के पैसे का कुछ अंश ऐसा है कि जिस पर आपका कोई नियन्त्रण नहीं है वह चाहते हैं कि हम लोगों का नियन्त्रण रहे और यह मामला अमरीकी सरकार के साथ लें। यह उनका कहना है। उसके बारे में आप जवाब दीजिये।

श्री यशवन्तराव चव्हाण : मैं जवाब क्या दूँ। उन्होंने यह सजेशन दिया है, सजेशन का जवाब क्या हो सकता है ?

श्री मधु लिमये : उन्होंने सवाल पूछा है कि क्या अमरीकी सरकार के साथ आप इस मामले को ले रहे हैं ?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister says that a number of hon. Members have asked supplementaries on the question whether the Government of India has the authority and power to inspect their accounts. He says that he is not prepared to answer that question now.

Shri J. M. Biswas: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether a fund of Rs. 6 lakhs was allotted from the PL 480 funds for Purulia district and the Chairman of that PL 480 fund was the late Shri Sudhir Chandra Ghosh, a member of the Rajya Sabha. Will the hon. Minister kindly bring to light the position of that fund? I am asking this question because the information that we have received is that there is no account of that fund and it is understood that the entire fund has been spent for election purposes. Will the hon. Minister apprise the House of the position of the fund?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I would again mention that these are specific instances that they are mentioning which need to be looked into. Without that how do I answer the question? The very purpose of the original question was to start an inquiry about it. The inquiry has been ordered. And even before the inquiry has been started I am asked to give specific information and opinion about specific

amounts which it is difficult for me to give.

श्री मधु लिंगमः : कुछ रोज पहले जब सेंट्रल इंटेसिजेंस एजेंसी की कार्रवाइयों पर वहां बहस हुई थी तब श्री चागला ने सदन को आश्वासन दिया था कि हिन्दुस्तान की राजनीति में जो विदेशी पैसा आता, चाहे बी० एल० 480 के मातहत या किसी और तरह उसके बारे में एक उच्चस्तरीय जांच आयोग ब्रिटेन के सम्बन्ध में वह मंत्रिमंडल ने सलाह परिवार करने और सदन को अवगत करावेगे। मैं गृह मंत्री से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उसके पश्चात् इस तरह की कोई चर्चा मंत्रिमंडल में हुई है और कोई फैसला हुआ है ?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Certainly, the Foreign Minister did discuss this matter with me and there was some correspondence between him and me about it. He has certainly acquainted us with the trend of the discussion that took place in this hon. House. He has also acquainted me with the assurance that he has given that this question would be enquired into. As a result of that this inquiry has been ordered.

Shri F. Venkatasubbaiah: May I know from the hon. Minister whether this inquiry will be confined only to PL 480 funds that are alleged to have been spent for election purposes or all the funds that have come from foreign government, and foreign organisations to the political parties in India?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: This inquiry would be a very comprehensive one, the use of foreign money in the recent elections. PL 480 funds is included in this.

Shrimati Lakshminkanthamma: It is reported in certain quarters that these funds were used against certain leaders who were picked up such as the Congress President and others. In view of the seriousness of the allegations, will the inquiry be completed as early as possible?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Well, our efforts would be to expedite the inquiry.

श्री कृष्ण कृष्ण चट्टर्जी: This is a serious matter which has been pending before the country for a long time. Therefore, the hon. Minister is required to give a categorical answer as to the stage at which the inquiry is so that we can understand the position.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: It is only after the discussion in this hon. House and the assurance given by the Foreign Minister that this inquiry was ordered very recently.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: What is the nature and extent of co-operation from the Election Commission in the investigation?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I do not think the Election Commission comes into the picture in this.

श्री विमूक्ति मिश्र : मैं गृह मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सच है कि न्यू स्टेट्समेन ऐंड नेशन प्रखबार जो इंग्लैंड से छपता है उसके पिछले अंक में लिखा हुआ है कि बम्बई में अमरीका, रूस, चीन और पाकिस्तान का पैसा चुनाव में खर्च हुआ है, और क्या यह भी सही है कि नेपाल में जो बीरगंज शहर है वहां से विभिन्न इम्बेसियों के द्वारा पैसा आया है और वह चुनाव में लगाया गया है ?

श्री यशवन्तराव चव्हाण : यह सब एलिगेन्स है और इनकी इन्क्वायरी प्रार्डर की गई है।

श्री विमूक्ति मिश्र : एन्क्वायरी में यह सब कुछ है या नहीं ?

श्री यशवन्तराव चव्हाण : जी हाँ, यह सब है।

Shri V. Krishnamoorthi: In view of the seriousness of the allegation that PL-480 funds have been used for election purposes and in view of the fact that a lady Member from the Congress side has alleged that Rs. 41 crores out of the PL-480 funds were not at all accounted for, may I know from the hon. Minister whether much of the funds out of those Rs. 41 crores have been channelled through the Congress organisation

for winning the elections in the country?

Some hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Speaker: It does not lead us anywhere.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : पूछना चाहता हूँ कि पी० एल० 480 जो है किस तरह से उसके फंड ग्राम चुनाव में इस्तेमाल नहीं किये गये हैं, और किस तरह से वह भ्रमरीकी साजिश का एक हथकंडा नहीं है? मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि पी० जवाहरलाल नेहरू जब पहली बफा भ्रमरीका गये थे तब उनको गेहूँ गिफ्ट में भिजा था लेकिन बाद में भ्रमरीकी साजिश का हथकंडा उस पर लगाया गया। पी० एल० 480 या जो दूसरी मददें मिलती हैं मोटे तौर पर सब भ्रमरीकी साम्राज्यवाद के हथकंडे हैं।

Mr. Speaker: You are making a speech.

श्री रामसेवक यादव : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या इस तरह की भी खबरें मंत्री महोदय को पहुंची हैं कि भ्रमरीका सरकार की ओर से पी० एल० 480 का धन यहां के उद्योगपति श्री विड़ला के जरिये कांग्रेस को दिया गया है? यदि हां, तो क्या इसकी भी जांच कराई जायेगी?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Personally, I would request the hon. House that making specific allegations against one party is very unfair. Allegations can be made against all political parties. Possibly, you can make allegations against this party, this party can make allegations against other parties.... (Interruption).

Shri V. Krishnamoorthi: She has made allegations against our party... (Interruption).

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Saha: It is a very wrong statement made by the hon. Member.... (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Question No. 110. Shri Biswanarayan Shastri.

मिजो विद्रोहियों द्वारा मतदान केन्द्रों पर आक्रमण

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110. श्री बिश्वनारायण शास्त्री :
श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :

क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मिजो विद्रोही गत दो महीने से भारी लूट तथा हत्या के कार्यों में लगे हुए हैं ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि चुनावों के दौरान उन्होंने कई मतदान केन्द्रों पर आक्रमण किया था ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो पिछले दो महीनों में उन्होंने कितना नुकसान किया और कितनी हत्याएं की ; और

(घ) उनकी गतिविधियों को रोकने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

गृह-कार्य मन्त्रालय में, राज्य-मन्त्री (श्री बिष्वा चरण कुमल) : (क) पिछले दो महीनों में मिजो विद्रोहियों द्वारा हत्या तथा लूट मार की कुछ घटनाएं हुई हैं।

(ख) सरकार के पास ऐसी कोई सूचना नहीं है।

(ग) इस अवधि के दौरान 5 नागरिकों के मारे जाने की सूचना प्राप्त हुई है। 3 झोपड़ों के जल से पीने, एक टाइपराइटर तथा नकद और मूल्यवान वस्तुओं की लूट के रूप में 9,079 रुपये की हानि बर्साई जाती है।

(घ) मिजो विद्रोहियों की गतिविधियों को रोकने के लिये जो कदम उठाये