

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, September 8, 1964/
Bhadra 17, 1886 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Escape of Mr. Walcott

- *31. { Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
Shri M. R. Krishna:
Shri K. C. Pant:

Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 102 on the 2nd June, 1964 and state:

(a) whether the investigation to further inquire into the escape of Mr. Walcott has since been completed;

(b) if so, the findings and the result of the investigation; and

(c) if not, the findings of the interim report submitted some months ago?

The Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (c). The final report of the officer appointed further to enquire into the escape of Mr. Walcott has been received on the 5th September. His interim and final reports would be considered and a statement containing the findings and decisions of Government on these would be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: May I know whether, according to the information

available with Government, there is any evidence to establish that Mr. Walcott was a part of an international racket operating for smuggling purposes in India, and whether these operations were connected with the Murud incident also?

Shri Kanungo: The enquiry was confined to the circumstances under which the man escaped without clearance from Air Control. The other aspects were not the subject matter of this enquiry. The other information which the hon. Member has asked for could be given by the Home Ministry.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: May I know whether any information is available with Government now in respect of the circumstances under which he got clearance? I am not asking about the findings, but what are the facts?

Shri Kanungo: Yes. As I said, the officer has submitted his report on the 5th, and the subject matter of the report and Government's findings will be placed before the House.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Has the enquiry revealed that the District Manager of Air India, Delhi, played host to Mr. Walcott just before his escape, and that he and some other officer or officers of the Civil Aviation Department have been directly or indirectly involved in Mr. Walcott's escape; and if so, what action has been taken against them?

Shri Kanungo: No, Sir. The enquiry has not revealed anything that the hon. Member has suggested.

Shri Hem Barua: Mr. Walcott, after his mysterious escape from this country, made shabby statements against India and cast reflections on

our arrangements and some officers also, at Karachi. May I know whether these accusations are being enquired into, and if they have been enquired into, what is the conclusion?

Shri Kanungo: As I said, the enquiry was confined to the circumstances under which Walcott could get away from the Delhi airport, and if any officer had failed in his duty to prevent him or had helped him in his escape. That was the limited purpose of the enquiry.

Shri Hem Barua: On a point of order. He has not replied to my question. I was very specific. He has evaded it very skillfully. Ministers have become very skillful nowadays.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Hem Barua: I am sorry I used the wrong word; it should be "unskillful".

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have heard him. He will kindly resume his seat.

Shri Hem Barua: May I say....

Mr. Speaker: May I say? His question is he was entertained by an official.

Shri Hem Barua: It was his question, my question was different. My question was this. Mr. Walcott, after his escape from India, made a shabby statement against India, accusing....

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, he says that question was not covered by the terms of reference.

Shri Hem Barua: He has not said that.

Mr. Speaker: That is what he means.

Shri K. C. Pant: Is it not one of the specific objects of the enquiry to build up a case against Walcott for the purpose of ultimately getting him extradited and tried in India?

Shri Kanungo: It is not an extraditable offence.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that a senior intelligence officer belonging to the Central Intelligence Cadre was sent abroad to know more about Mr. Walcott and his whereabouts and pursue this case? I want to know whether the officer was there for some time, and whether he has submitted any report.

Shri Kanungo: As I have earlier said, this information would be available from the Home Ministry.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Was he not sent abroad?

Mr. Speaker: That is not concerned with this report.

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi: Apart from the terms of reference of this enquiry committee, may I know if Government has tried to find out what links and connection Mr. Walcott has in this country and how he has been operating with such impunity?

Mr. Speaker: The report has been received. The Government has not looked into it.

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi: No, Sir. Apart from the terms of reference, I am asking whether Government has taken care to enquire into the links and connections of Mr. Walcott in this country which had enabled him to operate in this country with impunity.

Shri Kanungo: The enquiry has not revealed any such thing; it was confined to the circumstances under which he got away... (Interruptions.)

Shri Hem Barua: What has the enquiry revealed then?

जी बड़े : जो इनकायरी हुई है उसकी रिपोर्ट में, क्या यह बात सब है, कि, यह थाया है कि बालकाट का सम्बन्ध यहाँ भी था और इंग्लैंड के कुछ लोगों से भी था ?

में जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सासन उनके खिलाफ कुछ एक्शन लेना चाहता है ?

Shri Kanungo: No. This was about the escape of Mr. Walcott on 25th September, 1963 and as I have said the terms of reference are: to enquire into the circumstances in which Mr. Walcott took off in his piper aircraft from the Safdarjang airport on 25th September 1963 . . .

Mr. Speaker: He need not read all that . . . (Interruptions.) Shri Sheo Narain.

श्री शिव नारायण : जो इनकवायरी टीम बनी हुई है उस में कितने प्रफसर हैं और किस किस कैटेगरी के प्रफसर हैं ?

Shri Kanungo: There is only one officer enquiring into it—Secretary of the Ministry of Communications.

Shri Joachim Alva: The hon. Minister denied that Mr. Walcott was the guest of the district manager of the Air India, New Delhi. How is it that as a result of questions put, this man was transferred to Nairobi? Has he gone there or has he refused to go there? Is he still in service?

Shri Kanungo: As I said the enquiry has not revealed anything of that nature.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Sir, the reply of the hon. Minister all along has shown a very sorry state of affairs. Does he want to suggest that the enquiry was of such a nature that all the antecedent and subsequent conduct of Mr. Walcott was scrupulously kept out of the enquiry that was made into the running away without clearance? He says that we do not look into this; we do not look into that. Everything pertaining to Mr. Walcott was scrupulously kept out in making this enquiry.

Mr. Speaker: That would be a different discussion then.

Shri P. C. Boroach: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the comments in the monthly magazine, *Mother India*, where it has been stated that such is the security arrangements under which Mr. Walcott escaped from this country in recent months twice that it would not be surprising if Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri or some of the important personages are kidnapped out of India? If so, what is the Government's reaction to it?

Shri Kanungo: As I said earlier, this enquiry is confined to the escape of Mr. Walcott.

Shri Hari Vishan Kamath: Sir, before you proceed to the next question, may I request you to ask the Minister to lay the report, unexpurgated, on the Table of the House in this session, not in due course, which may become long course, but in this session itself?

Mr. Speaker: I hope the report would be laid during this session.

Shri Kanungo: Yes . . . (Interruptions).

Shri Nath Pal: It should be unexpurgated . . . (Interruptions). Sir, you have been very kind enough in ordering the Minister to lay a copy of the report on the Table of the House during this Session. We welcome that. We want the unexpurgated report. We do not want the kind of the summary the House was given in respect of the NEFA enquiry. We want the original report of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot give a direction in this respect. Let the Government come up with the report. If some portions are kept out, we will see then.

Shri Nath Pal: What is the inhibition in giving it?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.