

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: We do not know anything about the protest by the Indonesian Government.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Even though we may not have been consulted in this matter, why is it that our Government has not bothered to make any enquiries, at least to satisfy ourselves, whether this scheme has got anything to do with any sort of military strategic significance?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: As I have stated in my original answer, the purpose is to establish a radio-communications relay centre for which a survey is being conducted. Nothing has been finalized yet.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: My question was whether they tried to get any information; not whether the other Governments have told us anything about it.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The only information that we have is that the survey is being conducted. We have no more information.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इंडियन ओशन में जो यंत्र लगाया जा रहा है क्या उस के सम्बन्ध में भारत सरकार ने यू० के० और जर्मनी को लिखा है कि हम भी उस से फायदा उठाने के लिए तैयार हैं।

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: No, Sir.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know whether the Indian Government itself made any attempt to have such a centre?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: No, Sir.

Shri Joachim Alva: Have we got any definite plans of our own in regard to these proposals? Does the Atomic Energy Commission come into the picture with definite plans? Do we have a whip hand when UK or USA Government makes a proposal?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: We do not have any programme to establish bases in the Indian Ocean. Therefore, this question does not arise.

Telephone tapping

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*834. { **Shri Hukam Chand Kachhavaia;**
Dr. L. M. Singhvi;
Shri Bade:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone tapping is a common detective and investigative process employed by or on behalf of Government in our country; and

(b) if so, the procedure authorizing such tapping?

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Telephone tapping is not a common detective and investigative process employed by or on behalf of the Government in our country. P. & T. Department on their own do not tap telephones. However, under Section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 Central Government or State Governments can order tapping on the occurrence of any public emergency, or in the interest of public safety.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह बात सही है कि कुछ राजनीतिक दलों के टेलिफोन मुने जाते हैं बीच में, और इस तरह की कुछ शिकायतें पहले भी सरकार के सामने आ चुकी हैं।

संचार तथा संसद् कार्य मंत्री (श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह) : ऐसे प्रश्नों से यह फायदा होता है कि इस तरह की जो गलतफहमियाँ फैली हुई हैं हमारे माननीय सदस्यों में और बाहर भी लोगों में, वह साफ हो जाती हैं। जहाँ तक हमारी मिनिस्ट्री का सवाल है, पोस्ट और टेली-ग्राफ़्स को कोई अधिकार नहीं है कि किसी के टेलिफोन को टैप करें। इस मामले में तो हम बिल्कुल पोस्ट ऑफिस हैं।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : इसमें क्या कोई शक है कि आप पोस्ट आफिस हैं ।

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : इस मामले में तो हम खास तौर से पोस्ट आफिस हैं । सन् 1885 के कानून के मुताबिक सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को यह अधिकार मिला हुआ है कि वह अगर हमारे यहां खबर भेजे कि वह किसी खबर को टैप करना चाहती है या किसी आदमी के टेलीफोन को टैप करना चाहती है, तो हम उस के अफसर को वहां बैठा दें और वह जो चाहे अपने आफिस को खबर भेजे । लेकिन जो आम तौर पर ख्याल है कि हर एक मेम्बर का

श्री हरि विष्णु कामत : हर एक किस ने कहा ।

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : बहुत से मेम्बरों के लिए कहा जाता है । वह भी सही नहीं है, अगर कोई इमर्जेंसी की बात नहीं है ।

श्री हरि विष्णु कामत : इमर्जेंसी तो है आजकल ।

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : ठीक है, होगी । लेकिन जहां तक इस बात का सवाल है, सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट या स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के कहने पर उन का अफसर भेज दिया जाता है और वह वहां बैठ कर टैप कर सकता है ।

श्री हुकम खन्ड कछवाय : अभी मंत्री जी ने यह बताया कि अगर कोई अफसर कहता है कि मुझे सुनना है तो उसे बिठा देते हैं । ऐसे कितने मामले उनके सामने आये जिनमें इस तरह किसी अफसर ने सुनने को कहा । जब हम टेलीफोन मांगते हैं तो दो आदमी आपस में बातें करते सुनायी देते हैं और हम लाइन मांगते हैं तो नहीं मिलती है । क्या इस प्रकार की शिकायतें सरकार को मिली हैं ?

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : यहां भी आप दो लाइनों मिला रहे हैं । ऐसा नहीं कि जो अफसर सुनना चाहे उसको मौका दे दिया जाता है । केवल वही अफसर सुन सकता है जिसके पास सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट का या प्रान्तीय सरकार का सरटिफिकेट हो । अभी मैं कलकत्ता गया था तो वहां भी मैंने इस प्रकार की शिकायत सुनी, और वह कोई पोलिटिकल आदमी नहीं है । कभी-कभी ऐसा होता है कि लाइन का जंक्शन मिल जाता है दूसरी लाइन से और जो बात दूसरा आदमी करता है वह सुनायी देने लगती है । और इससे लोगों के दिल में यह शक हो जाता है कि हमारा टेलीफोन टैप कर रहे हैं । तो वह लाइन की गड़बड़ी से हो जाता है । वाजिव टैपिंग बहुत कम होता है । यह खास मौके पर अगर कोई खतरनाक आदमी हो तो उसके लिए ऐसा किया जाता है ।

Shri Bade: Is it a fact that you have received a list of undesired persons from different States and the telephones of those persons are tapped? Are you going to place the list of those names on the Table of the House?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: So far as I am concerned and my Ministry is concerned, I have not received any list of desirables or undesirables.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Does the hon. Minister consider it consistent with the present democratic and republican Constitution of this country to continue this practice in terms of an outdated law of 1885 which was made by the British conquerors of this country?

Mr. Speaker: How can he prevent it, if the law is there?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I am not prepared to give an opinion. So long as the law is there and the Parliament does not change it, it is there.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: You bring it forward, we will change it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: From the statement of the hon. Minister it appears that he is simply a post box and is not concerned with tapping. I would like to know whether during the 1960 strike and even during the recent arrests of Left Communist leaders, there were instructions issued by the Home Ministry to the P & T Minister that telephones of certain Members of Parliament should be tapped regularly and taped. Is it in his knowledge and will he take up this matter with the Home Minister if he is not conversant with it?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I do not know what happened in 1960; but, it may be quite true. Whenever the Home Minister of the Central Government or the State Minister sends instructions that certain persons' telephones should be tapped, we have no other go; we must allow that.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like your protection, Sir. Who are those persons, who are the Members of Parliament whose telephones are tapped? I would like to know that.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The list should be laid on the Table.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: So far as my knowledge is concerned, I do not think we had received any instructions like that.

Shri Bade: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Shrimati Renu Chakravartty.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that we all know that our telephones are tapped, would the hon. Minister at least assure us that the gentleman who listens in, will not disturb us at least during the conversation?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I still maintain—I cannot contradict what the hon. lady Member says—that the intervention sometimes is due to....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Interruption.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Interruption; intervention also. It may be due to defect in the machine. If any specific.....

Shri Bade: Sir, I want to raise a point of order. There is contradiction in the reply of the hon. Minister. Once he said that he received the list from the Home Minister of certain persons whose telephones should be tapped; on the other hand, he says that he has no list. Which is the correct reply? I want your guidance, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I have said it so many times before that there is no point of order involved if there is some discrepancy in the reply. Only the other day I was informed that the Speaker of the House of Commons asked one Member that this was the second time that he had raised a point of order which was not a point of order and that he should be on his guard.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Is it that the Central Government or the State Government sends a list for tapping telephones of particular persons through the Minister or is it that they send it directly to the Department of Telephones concerned—I do not know how it is done—and the Minister said that in an emergency he receives the list and, in that case, would he kindly put it on the Table of the House?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: So far as the Central Government or the State Governments are concerned, I said that they need not send it to the Minister. They can send it to the head of the Department. But the list is absolutely secret. We cannot place it on the Table of the House even if we receive it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Secret documents have recently been placed on the Table of the House.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is it not a fact that the telephones of Members irrespective of their party affiliations are tapped if they happen to be interested in mass movements concerning the workers, farmers, teachers and others?

An hon. Member: Also professors.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: This tapping is not restricted to any party or group.

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : अभी माननीय मंत्री जो ने बताया कि कभी-कभी अगर गृह मंत्रालय के अफसर किसी मामले में सुनना चाहें तो उसके लिए कानून में व्यवस्था है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब से श्रीमान जो ने इस मंत्रालय का भार संभाला तब से ऐसे किन्ने आदमियों के टेलीफोन सुनने के लिए कहा गया ? और अगर किसी के लिए कहा गया तो वे लोग कौन हैं ?

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : मेरे पास वह सूची नहीं है, और होती भी तो भी मैं नहीं बतलाता।

Explanation of Language Policy on A.I.R.

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*835. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha:

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Home Affairs have asked the All India Radio to explain Government's policy on the use of English as an associate official language to the people;

(b) whether it is a fact that the publicity media of the Union and State Governments have failed to explain to the people the provisions of the Official Language Act;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the All India Radio in the matter and the results achieved thereby?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The various media units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have taken suitable action to inform the public of the correct position in this regard.

(d) The fact that Hindi was to be adopted as the official language of the Union from 26th January, 1965 was adequately covered in All India Radio's broadcasts from time to time. The Home Minister's special talk on the Republic Day explaining the significance of this step was broadcast and relayed by all Stations of All India Radio. Language versions of the talk were also put out by Stations in different regions, particularly those in non-Hindi areas.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the All India Radio, due to its inherited tradition, has been relaying talks by others also, besides the Home Minister, and, if so, who were those persons whose talks were broadcast on the subject connected with the Official Languages Act?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: The earliest broadcast was by the Home Minister and thereafter, a few days later, there was the broadcast by the Prime Minister.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I wanted to know whether talks by others also were relayed.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: No other talk.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Government has any plan to make known their policy with regard to the language through the mass media such as films, broadcasts and other things in the near future, because it happens to be a very ticklish subject, and, if so, can the Government give us the outlines of that plan?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: I have a very long list with me. Excepting the films, we have put across, through