

Shri Warrior: Why tomorrow? Why not today?

Shri Nanda: We can give whatever information we have got today. Tomorrow we will have fuller information.

Mr. Speaker: Then we can take it up tomorrow.....(Interruptions). Order, order. We cannot proceed in this manner.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: I want to submit only one point.

Mr. Speaker: Unless I identify, no member shall speak. A member can rise in his seat but he should begin to speak only when I identify him. That rule should be strictly observed. I would request hon. Members to cooperate with me in this matter.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: I always submit to your ruling.

Mr. Speaker: Except on this occasion?

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: Yesterday we gave a calling attention notice regarding the hunger strike by Kerala detenus but it was not admitted by you. Yet, in the other House, a statement was made by the Home Minister. I do not know why the Lok Sabha is treated like this. When we table the same question, we are not given an opportunity to hear the statement from the Minister while the other House gets it.

Mr. Speaker: Both Houses are independent and sometimes the presiding officers might differ honestly and sincerely. I have said that earlier also.

I said yesterday that I was admitting the short notice question and that is why I did not allow the calling attention notice. Now I am asking the hon. Minister that either he should answer the calling attention notice or the short notice question. I am asking him just now.

Shri Nanda: Even now my colleague will give whatever information is in his possession.

Mr. Speaker: That information might be given.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The papers today report a serious deterioration in the condition of Shri Gopalan. Even though it fails to mention his condition in so far as his blood pressure and that kind of thing is concerned, it is sufficient to indicate that his condition is really causing anxiety. We are also very anxious about it and we would like to be re-assured by the Minister that there is nothing very much to be worried about his condition.

Mr. Speaker: I am asking the Minister to make the statement.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: He is making it tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: No, he is making it today.

Shri Kapur Singh: We are all very much concerned....

Mr. Speaker: Including myself.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Fast by Shri A. K. Gopalan and other detenus in Kerala Jails

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SNQ. 1. { Shri Daji:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Warrior:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Dr. Ranen Sen:
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri A. K. Gopalan, M. P. alongwith 51 other D.I.R. detenus has started indefinite fast in Kerala jails;

(b) if so, what are their demands;

(c) Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Hathi):

(a) to (d). The Left CPI detenus in Kerala have decided to go on fast for a week in batches to draw attention to their demands, including trial in a court of law or outright release, liberalisation of parole and medical facilities, increasing the quantum of family allowance and treatment as class I prisoners. Shri A. K. Gopalan is one of the 53 detenus who have been on hunger strike from August 21. Specific representations made by the detenus in the matter of parole, sanction of family allowance, medical facilities etc., are promptly examined by Government and decision is taken on the merits of each case. The family allowances are given to those detenus who are the only earners in the family and each case is decided on merits. So far as other conditions of Kerala detenus are concerned, we have instructed the Kerala Government to consider each case on its merit and the Governor informed us that he will look into these cases liberally.

So far as the arrests are concerned and their releases are concerned, they have been detained for specific reasons, and their mere going on fast cannot be a reason for their release.

Mr. Speaker: What is the condition of Mr. Gopalan? All are concerned about it.

Shri Hathi: So far as the health of Mr. Gopalan is concerned, we checked it up this morning. His blood pressure is 180 and there is no cause for anxiety. He is under medical treatment and there is no cause for worry at all.

Mr. Speaker: If the Government can get more information, then the questions might be put tomorrow.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: I do not want to put a question. I want a clarification. The papers say that he is on fast for an indefinite period. What is the actual position?

Shri Hathi: It is not indefinite; it is for a week, in batches.

Mr. Speaker: It would be better if we put it off for tomorrow. Let them get more information.

Shri J. B. Singh: I want one clarification.

Mr. Speaker: No. We now take up the Calling Attention Notice.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Farming Joint Stock Companies

*160. { **Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:**
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Daljit Singh:
Shri Bagri:
Shri H. C. Soy:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to allow Joint Stock Companies to take up farming operations in the country; and

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and (b). Yes. The proposal is under examination.

Uplift of Tribals in Forest Areas

*161. **Shri D. D. Puri:** Will the Minister of Social Security be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee set up by Government to work out proposals for the uplift of tribals in forest areas has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether Government have accepted these recommendations; and