

If even the Chief Minister of a State has made that statement, how can I hold that it is not in the public interest?

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: The Chief Minister has not made that statement.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Nanda): If it is so, then I will have to check it up. If it is so, it certainly goes beyond the limits which are imposed on revealing certain information.

Mr. Speaker: That he will find out, and I will give another opportunity for these questions to be asked. Next question.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Question No. 65.

Shri Tyagi: Sir, on a point of order. This is full of insinuations—contact-women and all that. I suggest that this should not be permitted.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Why should a widower be so concerned with it?

Contactmen and Contactwomen

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*65. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:**

Shri Hem Barua:

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:

Shri Nath Pal:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5200 on the 11th May, 1966 and state:

(a) whether reports have been received or called for from the various Ministries and Departments as to the nature of action taken against the undesirable contactmen and contact-women; and

(b) if so, the particulars thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Minister of Defence Supplies in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Hathi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question has been coming up in the House for the last one year—since September 1965 and we are now nearly at the end of July and the Government has adopted a hush-hush policy with regard to this matter. I do not know why they are fighting shy of contactmen and contactwomen, even their names. Here on the last occasion, on the 11th of May, in the last session.

Mr. Speaker: I am again surprised that bachelors are interested . . .

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Bachelors and widowers are more concerned than married men.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I did not use the word myself; the Minister, Shri Hathi, used it. May I remind you, may I invite your attention to the fact that on the 11th of May, while answering a question on the subject, he said that the names of undesirable contactmen and contact-women—that was the first time he used that word; I do not know why Shri Hathi is fond of this word—as discovered by the CBI have been intimated to the Ministries and Departments concerned for such action as they may consider necessary. That was the previous question. As I said, for a year it has been coming up in this House. Today the question is about the follow-up with regard to that. Today he has said “No” to both questions.

Mr. Speaker: For the first “No”, and for the second “Does not arise”.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The last answer was in May and now we are at the end of July. Is the House to understand that the Departments and Ministries of the Government have taken no action whatsoever on the reports, on the names submitted by the CBI, or that they have not received the reports at all, in which

case what are the reasons for not taking such action, because these contactmen and contactwomen are doing liaison for certain big business houses and industrial Houses, the benefactors of the party in power? .

Mr. Speaker: The question should not be so long.

Shri Hathi: The question that has been asked by Shri Kamath is whether reports have been received. No report has been received. That is one part. The second question was whether they have been called for. They have not been called for. Therefore, the reply is "No". I will now explain why the reports have not been received or reports have not been called for. The reason is that we have sent these names to the various Departments and Ministries with instructions that these are the persons who are utilising their acquaintance and friendship with officers to influence them in their decisions, therefore a watch should be kept on them and that they should not be recognised as accredited agents. Now, when the question of meeting them comes, the officers should be careful that they do not associate themselves so closely as may ultimately . . .

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: 'So closely' means what? Clarify yourself. Clarify your observation.

Shri Hathi: . . . as may lead to frequent visits by these people which may result in the decisions of the officers being influenced by these people. But they should not be allowed to meet these officers, and when the lists of accredited agents come from the firms these should be checked and these persons should not be recognised as accredited agents. These instructions we have sent. Therefore calling of reports is not necessary.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The answer on the last occasion, on the 11th May, was that the names had been sent for such action as the ministries and departments would consider necessary. Is the House to understand that the Home Ministry does not keep track of what they have been doing and just go to sleep over the matter whether the ministries and departments have taken action at all? Will the Minister lay on the Table of the House the names of these contactmen and contactwomen which have been forwarded to the ministries and departments; if not, the reasons therefor, and what limits have been prescribed for acquaintance or association?

Shri Hathi: So far as the Home Ministry is concerned, we do keep a watch on the activities of these persons and see that they do not use undue influence over officers. We also keep a watch on the officers, whether they meet them or not. That watch is being kept.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: How can you keep a watch unless you get reports from the ministries? What is all this? Have you got a hundred eyes to see?

Shri Hathi: There are a few

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: 400 I know.

Shri Hathi: . . . and their activities can be watched.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: How?

Shri Hathi: So far as the names are concerned, the disclosure of these names are concerned, the disclosure of these names would not be possible . . .

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: In the public interest?

Shri Hathi: . . . because there are no specific charges against these people . . .

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Undesirable activity.

Shri Hathi: ... as having bribed or having malpractised.

Shri Tyagi: Do you take notice of them?

Shri Hathi: It is not a question of taking notice. As soon as they do certain acts, that is a different matter.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The CBI has held that they have indulged in undesirable practices. That is the CBI's finding.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Kamath cannot go on in this manner. The question was: When the Home Ministry has sent their names to the various ministries, has the Home Ministry tried to find out whether those ministries took any action on that?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Nanda): There is a system which enables us to get those names by keeping a close watch all over. We have a system of keeping a watch. It is not simply a question of a report, but we manage to see whether it is being carried out or not. It is not a question whether they say that this thing has been carried out or not; we are watching this.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Who is watching whom?

Shri Nanda: The same organisation.

Mr. Speaker: The organisation of the Home Ministry is watching it. But have the ministries also said that they have pursued the matter and they have taken action on that, whatever is required of them by the Home Ministry?

Shri Nanda: At a certain stage if that need arises, that will be done.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: That is not an answer. He is shamefully evading the answer.

Shri Nanda: I am not evading it.

Mr. Speaker: He might say that the answer is not complete....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Unabashedly he is evading the answer.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Hem Barua.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Let him answer. Is this the way he should conduct himself here? How can we know whether it is in the public interest, in the party interest or in his own personal interest?

Mr. Speaker: I have repeated the question.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: You have repeated it, but what is the answer? He has said that what is necessary will be done. We should know what is the answer. What is this? Is it Parliament or his own house or residence? They are taking it so easy. We will not take it lying down.

Mr. Speaker: I am not asking him to lie down but to sit down at least.

Shri Nanda: There is no question of any evasion at all. These names were discovered by certain activities of our department. We have a system, an organisation, to get at this. We have an organisation to see whether the directions that we have given are being followed or violated. If we find that there is any kind of violation, when it comes to our notice, at that stage we will make further inquiries. That is a very clear answer; there is no evasion.

Mr. Speaker: There is only one thing that I might repeat. It is all right that the Home Ministry is doing all that is needed, but when it had been thought proper to send on to the ministries the list, would it not be desirable that even reports should be got from those ministries as to whether they are implementing what the Home Ministry wanted?

Shri Nanda: They are intended to be implemented.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What is this? He does not even stand properly. Let him stand up properly.

Shri Nanda: We can take further steps also. At the moment, to our satisfaction, the steps are being taken. We can take further steps also.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over. Papers to be laid on the Table.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Wage Board for Journalists

*66. **Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:**
Shri Dhuleshwar Meema:

Will the Minister of **Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wage Board for the working and non-working journalists has submitted its final report;

(b) if so, the recommendations thereof;

(c) the decision of Government thereon; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons for the delay?

The Minister of Labour Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Not yet.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Both these Wage Boards have to deal with important matters and they have to consider the view points of various interests. The work of the Boards is progressing and is now nearing its final stage.

Strike by Telephone Operators in Delhi.

*67. **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:
Shri Liladhar Kotoki:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:

Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

Shri Bagri:

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:

Shri Madhu Limaye:

Shri Kishen Pattnayak:

Shri Hukam Chand Kachhavaiya:

Shri Rameshwaranand:

Shri Raghunath Singh:

Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Shri Subodh Hansda:

Shri S. C. Samanta:

Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:

Shri Gulshan:

Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

Shri Basumatari:

Shri D. D. Puri:

Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone service in Delhi was disrupted due to the strike by the Telephone Operators during May, 1966:

(b) if so, the cause of the strike;

(c) the loss suffered by the Department as a result thereof; and

(d) the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Departments of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri Jaganatha Rao):

(a) No. Delhi Telephone system is a fully automatic system. As such the local telephone service within the city was not affected by the strike of telephone operators on 24th and 25th May 1966. The Special Services, viz., Local Assistance and Directory Enquiry Services, were affected for 15 minutes on 25th May 1966 due to pen-down strike by operators staffing these services. In some of the local exchanges, the operators staffing the Test Desks which test subscribers' lines also resorted to pen-down strike for varying periods at different times. However, the maintenance work of telephone equipment and lines plant both indoor and outdoor was unaffected.