

LOK SABHA DEBATES

255

LOK SABHA

Friday, 26th July, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

RE: QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Bashrat): Before the House takes up questions, I would like to raise a point of privilege. On the 23rd July there was an unstarred question No. 182. On the 20th July it was informed to us that that question was being transferred to the 31st July. But I find that in the PIB press information bulletin of July 23rd, the reply to the unstarred question No. 182, which I presume, would be given to us on the 31st July, has already appeared, on the Dandakaranya scheme. I would like to know whether this is not contempt of the House, involving a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: The answer has not been placed on the Table of the House?

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: No; it was originally put down as an unstarred question on 23rd July. Then on July 20th, we were notified that it has been transferred to July 31. But obviously either the Ministry or somebody else must have passed on the information earlier, because on July 23rd, without looking into the fact that it has been transferred, they have already given the answer, which is yet unknown to us regarding the Dandakaranya scheme. It was appearing in the name of Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, myself, Shri Sadhan Gupta and many others.

5256

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Lady Member will kindly write out what she has said. All that I can say is, any question of privilege is raised not merely orally here; it must be sent in writing. I must check it up and find out whether there is really a question of privilege. If any action is to be taken, I will bring it before the House. Of course, I had allowed it now to be brought before the House, but a formal application may also be sent under the rules.

The House will now take up questions.

Oral Answers to Questions

“इंडियन इन्फार्मेशन” और “भारतीय समाचार”

*३६७ श्री म० सा० द्विवेदी : क्या सूचन. और प्रचारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि “इंडियन इन्फार्मेशन” और “भारतीय समाचार” के प्रकाशन को पुनः प्रारम्भ करने में बिलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्रों (श्री राज बहादुर) : इन पत्रिकाओं के प्रकाशन के बारे में तफसील आदि तैयार किये जा रहे हैं। लेकिन, और कार्यवाही करने से पहले खर्च की बचत करने की दृष्टि से पत्र प्रकाशन के विषय में फिर संछन बन की जा रही है। आभारों: निर्णय बहुत जल्दी किये जान को आशा है।

श्री म० सा० द्विवेदी : क्या मंत्री जी को यह मालूम है कि इन दो पत्रों के प्रतिरिक्त कई ऐन नई नई पत्र पत्रिकाएँ भारत सरकार ने निकालनी शुरू कर दी हैं जो “इंडियन इन्फार्मेशन” और “भारतीय समाचार” से कहीं ज्यादा कम लाभकारी हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सब सूचनाएँ “भारतीय समाचार” द्वारा नहीं दी जा सकती थीं ?

श्री राज बहादुर : जी हां, कतिपय विभाग ऐसे हैं जो कि अपने पत्र निकालते हैं और इस मामले की छान बीन करने के लिये एक विभागीय समिति का निर्माण किया गया है जो इस में छान बीन कर रही है और आशा की जाती है कि शीघ्र ही, यानी एक महीने के अन्दर, उस की सिफारिशें मिल जायेंगी ।

पं. डन टा० ना० तिबारी : एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में दो तीन दिन पहले यह जवाब दिया गया था कि जो पत्र पत्रिकायें प्रकाशित होती हैं, उन क हजारों कापिया मुफ्त बांटी जाती हैं, खासकर "भाज कल" या इसी तरह की और पत्रिकाओं की । क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जब इन पत्रिकाओं की कापिया मुफ्त ही बांटी जाती है तो वह पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर को क्यों नहीं दी जाती ?

श्री राज बहादुर : मैं समझता हूँ कि काम्प्लिमेंटरी कापीज विशेष विभागों और विशेष व्यक्तियों को जरूर भेजी जाती हैं जिन में मंसूद सदस्य भी हैं । पर हम विषय में मेरे माननीय माथी मंत्री सूचना तथा प्रसार विभाग ने प्रश्नों का जवाब दिया होगा ।

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : जैसा मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि प्रत्येक विभाग द्वारा दर्जनों पत्र घाटें पेपर पर निकाले जाते हैं । क्या मैं पूछ सकता हूँ कि उन पत्रों को कोई पढ़ता भी है, अथवा क्या विभाग वाले भी पढ़ते हैं कि उन पत्रों में क्या लिखा हुआ है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : वह पत्र पढ़ने के लिये ही प्रकाशित किये जाते हैं । वह पढ़े जाते हैं या नहीं, यह पढ़ने वालों से पूछा जाना चाहिये ।

Shri Ranga: In view of the fact that every Ministry has been publishing more than one journal or bulletin

giving information in regard to their activities and also in view of the fact that Government themselves have been circulating a lot of information everyday to the Press, have they considered at any high level whether it serves any useful purpose at all to take up the publication of this very costly book?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This question was considered by the Estimates Committee and the Committee has made a specific recommendation which is contained in its 66th report. In pursuance of the examination and implementation of that recommendation, as I said just now, a high level departmental committee has been set up specifically to go into the question of multiplicity of the various types of journals and how far the information given in those journals, or their purpose and viewpoint scope etc can be covered by the proposed information bulletins

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it a fact that the number of unpaid freely distributed copies is much more in all these cases as against the number actually sold and paid for?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Where we have to arrange for publicity we have to distribute a few complimentary copies I may just say that there are some classes of people and institutions which are provided with free copies, like Members of Parliament, newspaper editors correspondents, educational institutions, libraries, information centres, public institutions, universities and colleges I think it is imperative in the public interest that these individuals and institutions are kept informed in an authentic manner about the activities of the Government from time to time.

Shri Bimal Ghose: May I know the total number of copies not paid for and the number of copies paid for?

Mr. Speaker: He has given the category.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know the total loss incurred in each of these cases?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The underlying principle for, free distribution as I have said, is to achieve publicity. For public sale, a very concessional rate is also prescribed. So far as this particular publication, the Indian Information is concerned, Rs 1,10,000 is the estimated cost for editing and Rs 2 lakhs for each issue having 48 pages, for blocks, printing, paper, etc.

Mr. Speaker: How many of these copies are free and how many are paid for?

Shri Raj Bahadur: For that I require notice, because information has to be collected.

Shri A. C. Guha: Publicity may be the purpose, but still may we not know the financial commitment and the loss incurred in each of these cases?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have given the financial commitment. It is estimated that it will cost Rs 1,10,000 per annum for editing and Rs 2 lakhs for printing etc.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Will the Minister give the names of the personnel of the committee?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The committee consists of the Principal Information Officer, Director of Advertising and Audio-visual Publicity, Director, Publications Division and Chief Editor, Yojana.

इ० राम सुभग सिंह उन व्यक्तियों के नाम तो बनाइये ।

श्री. राज बहादुर उन के नाम देने से मुझे कोई सकोच नहीं है, पर हम की जानकारी करनी होगी ।

Mr. Speaker: I may submit for the consideration of the Ministers as a whole that unless they have got urgent work which they cannot avoid, they will kindly be here to answer questions relating to their subjects. I got a letter from Dr Keekar this morning and I found that he has instructed Mr Raj Bahadur to answer the ques-

tions. Mr Raj Bahadur has answered very well. But all the same, what is the urgency? I would request hon. Ministers who have got their deputies to be present here either by themselves or through their deputies, unless they have unavoidable work. Work of Parliament must be given precedence over any other work in the country. I can understand if it is a question of floods, devastation or any other difficulty, information can be put off. But hon. Ministers know definitely when their subjects are taken up. Therefore, the hon. Minister could have put off to tomorrow. I would request all hon. Ministers to see to it that they are present here either by themselves or through their deputies to answer questions whenever matters relating to their subject come up before the House. I would not ordinarily consider any matter important in preference to the work that comes up before Parliament during the parliamentary session.

Shri Tyagi: I pray it may go down as your ruling.

Shri Mohiuddin: May I request that this ruling may specially be communicated to the Prime Minister?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, I think, is here.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have tried my level best to answer all the questions. If there is any particular information still lacking, if hon. Members put questions, I will give the information or I will pass it on to my colleague to give the information to Parliament.

Shri Banga: What the hon. Minister says is pillar to post business that he will pass it on to somebody. That is not what we want. We have all appreciation for Shri Raj Bahadur. Our quarrel is not with Shri Raj Bahadur. Our quarrel is with the growing practice of, so many of our Ministers taking it easily and simply treating it as a matter of secondary importance and passing it on to their colleagues in this way.