

(iii) Buses which allow boarding and de-boarding of passengers at busy intersections are prosecuted.

(iv) The slow moving vehicles are not allowed on main road/busy road during restricted hours.

Chief Secretaries Conference

4927. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry are aware of the recommendations made in the conference of Chief Secretaries held in January, 1997;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) According to the information received from the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, a Conference of Chief Secretaries of States/UTs was held on 20.11.1996.

(b) The important recommendations made were as follows:

(i) There is a need for reorganisation of work procedures, delegation down the line and an effective management information system accessible to all. Simultaneous steps to address the rightsizing of public service are necessary.

(ii) The approach to the elimination of corruption in the public service needs to address prevention, surveillance and deterrent prosecution, and deal ruthlessly with the nexus between criminals and unscrupulous elements.

(iii) The Government of India and State Government should draw up a Charter of Ethics and Civil Service Code for the Civil Service.

(iv) The State Government will be requested to devise suitable mechanism including a high powered Civil Service Board and amend relevant rules for transparent decisions on postings, promotions, and transfers of officials at all levels.

(v) It is necessary to introduce greater transparency and openness in the functioning of Government and public bodies. This would cover, for example, movement towards a Right to Information Act.

(vi) Accountability should be interpreted in a larger sense in order to ensure public satisfaction and responsive delivery of services. For this purpose, a phased introduction

of Citizens Charter for as many service institutions as possible could be considered.

(c) The recommendations of the Conference were given wide publicity and were followed up within the Central Government and with State Governments for urgent processing. It is proposed to place an Action Plan soon before a conference of Chief Ministers.

12.01 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Just a moment please. Today we have guillotining at six O' clock. Before that four Ministries, concerning Energy, have been listed for discussion today. It is very important for us to discuss them - the Ministry of Power, the Ministry of Coal, the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and the Department of Atomic Energy. Therefore, there will be no zero hour today. But I will try to compensate it tomorrow and on the following day. Since this is very important subject and four Ministers have to intervene, we, therefore, need more time to discuss.

Since Shri Chandra Shekhar has something to say, I am just allowing him to raise it.

SHRI G. A. CHARAN REDDY (Nizamabad) : Sir, one hour of question time was taken for two questions only.

MR. SPEAKER : I know it.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us give him some time.

12.02 hrs.

RE: APPOINTMENT OF AN OFFICER ON SPECIAL DUTY IN P.M.O.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with anguish and deep concern I am going to read a letter that was published on 30th May, 1974, just after the explosion of nuclear device in India. The letter was published in *The New York Times* and the letter was written by one of today's officials of the Government of India. It is a matter of grave concern because it does not only put a question mark about the national policies but also ask the Super Powers to intervene in the affairs of this country. I do not know what prompted the present Government to appoint this officials in a very key position.

Mr. Speaker, I shall be failing in my national duty if I do not bring to your notice, to the notice of this House and to the people of this country about the gravity of the appointment of this official. I may be permitted to read. I

know that I have a very short time. I shall just read the paper. I shall not make any speech on that.

The letter reads and I quote:

"After India's 'peaceful' nuclear blast, the international community must wake up more vigorously to prevent India from embarking upon a nuclear weapons programme as well as to block further proliferation. It will probably not before the mid-eighties that India will have implemented, the Sarabhai programme for a 'balanced nuclear infrastructure', and be faced with the next crucial decision on whether or not it should go in for a weapons programme.

Mrs. Gandhi has muted the elite demand for a quick bomb. She is not unaware of the crippling costs of nuclear weapons and their worthlessness in war; nor is there much enthusiasm among the military for nuclear weaponry. On the other hand, the world community cannot accept New Delhi's declaration that it will not make nuclear weapons as an adequate and credible guarantee that India, having acquired the capability, will forever remain a nuclear pacifist."

"After all, the Rajasthan blast was not triggered off by any perceived threat to India's security. It was ordered by Mrs. Gandhi at a singularly inappropriate time in the mistaken belief that the heralding of India's nuclear capability would lift the country from its current despondency and gloom.

If the blast was a political mistake, it will be a worse folly on the part of the international community to try to "punish" India by cutting off or withholding developmental aid. In any case, such a strategy will not work, because whatever the Soviet Union may think about the Indian explosion, they are not going to deny India developmental assistance.

What the international community must ask of India now is a formal commitment to the U.N. Security Council that it will never undertake the manufacture of nuclear weapons, and that such a commitment be written into the Indian Constitution through an amendment sponsored by the Government. These two measures alone can reassure the world that India will not use its nuclear capability for destructive purposes. If Mrs. Gandhi refuses to take them (a mere undertaking to the Security Council will not be enough simply because it is not enforceable), she will have betrayed, or confirmed, what many suspect to be India's true nuclear ambition.

To prevent further proliferation, the Moscow test-ban treaty must now be extended to cover underground tests; the two superpowers must determinently move towards substantial, and not merely symbolic, nuclear arms control and disarmament, and the non-proliferation treaty should be revised to remove some of the clauses that the nuclear have not consider to be discriminatory against their vital interests.

BHABANI SEN GUPTA

The writer is a senior fellow at the Research Institute on Communist Affairs, Columbia University.

This gentleman, Shri Bhabani Sen Gupta, has been appointed as an Officer on Special Duty in the Prime Minister's Office. I am told that he has got the rank of a Secretary. Since the day he is appointed, he has been making statements which is the concern of all thinking people in this country. Editorials have been written. There has been news that the Officers of the Ministry of External Affairs do not know whether they can give sensitive documents to this person.

I do not know whether the Prime Minister knew about the credentials of this gentleman. I have nothing against him. I have no rancour. But, Mr. Speaker, Sir, if this was the opinion of this Officer, I cannot even think of this Officer being in the Prime Minister's Office even for a moment. I wrote to you, Mr. Speaker, when I came to know about it yesterday afternoon and I simultaneously wrote a letter to the Prime Minister that he should immediately ask him to relinquish his office.

I am told that there is another letter written by the same gentleman which has also been published and in that it has been stated that it is not enough; India should be summoned before the Security Council and if they do not agree to this proposal to amend the Constitution as desired, then the whole superpower community should impose sanction on India.

This is his view and not only that. After becoming an Officer of a super nature, he has made a policy statement on Siachen. He has also made a policy statement on nuclear programme. I have never seen such an Officer in the whole annal of world history, what to talk of India.

I have nothing to say; I do not want to pass any comment about his faith. But I do not know what the Government will do. They will be pleased to retain this Officer. But I caution the country about the nefarious designs of such appointments. I do not know on whose behest it has been done. I caution the people; I caution the Officers of the Government of India that any paper of sensitive nature should not be given to this Officer.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think it is a matter which should be debated on.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai - North East) : Sir, you at least, allow the person who has given notice on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think we should drag the debate on this issue. I know it is a serious matter. That is why, I have made an exception though there is no Zero Hour today.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA (Chindwara) : But Sir, where is the Prime Minister? He should be present here.

MR. SPEAKER : During Zero Hour, he need not be present here.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, normally we do not discuss about officials in the House. But keeping in view the seriousness of the matter raised by Shri Chandra Sekharji about the appointment made, there is need to make an exception to the normal practice. Whatever the officer said in 1974 was published in a newspaper of America and it reflects his views. These views are not in accordance with our National policy. There is neither any proof nor any hint that he has changed his views. His views are not limited to the nuclear aspects, he has gone to the extent of suggesting as to what action should be taken against India if the policies suggested by him are not accepted. Either he is firm in his views or he is working under some international pressure. If he is firm in his views then, as a person who is not convinced of the Indian policy, he is not at all fit to be retained on such an important and sensitive post. If he is saying under some pressure then the matter becomes even more serious on which the House will have to consider and the Hon'ble Prime Minister himself will have to clarify the whole position. If the Prime Minister were in the House, then it would have been very good. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you wish after hearing our point, you can postpone this matter until the Prime Minister comes.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : We have passed on a slip to the Prime Minister through an officer of Parliamentary Affairs requesting him to look into it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : As I have told you that I have some extracts of the letter read out by Shri Chandra Shekharji. The points made by him are not restricted to the nuclear aspects only, he has his own views on the Kashmir issue. His suggestion was to make a compromise on Siachin. He is a writer. He is entitled to his views. But if a person holding such views is selected to work as a special officer to the Prime Minister, then the House is entitled to know as to what was the pressure or the reason before the Prime Minister to have allowed that. Therefore, Shri Chandra Shekharji has raised this issue. I support this demand made by him that if this officer was appointed then whether all the preventive measures required to be taken before the appointment were indeed taken and all the information required to be collected before the appointment was indeed collected? Whether the appointment made was consequent to that? Whether his views have changed? The Prime Minister must be very careful in selecting his officials. It seems that in this matter the appointment has been made on account of friendly relations. I do not see that the person under discussion has been appointed on his merits.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard Chandra Shekharji and Vajpayeeji, I have read the newspaper reports for the last two days and also watched the ZEE T.V. news yesterday where, as rightly said by Vajpayeeji, the OSD said that he had his own policy on the Siachen issue.

It is the prerogative of the Prime Minister to appoint anybody, and we have no objection to that. But as very rightly said by Vajpayeeji, the appointments are made after proper scrutiny of the bio-data of the concerned persons, specially when a person is being appointed as an OSD with the rank of Secretary. So, I fully agree with the views of the two hon. leaders that the Prime Minister should come and explain the position. In yesterday's ZEE T.V. news, the OSD said that he was the father of the 'Gujral Doctrine', and that he had other things also in his mind, which he would try and go ahead. Some people asked him whether it was his duty to look after the international affairs. He said that he would look after internal affairs also, especially the North-Eastern regions. So, I am more concerned about it.

I appeal to the ruling party, whom we are supporting from outside, that as very rightly said by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, the Prime Minister, wherever he is, should come to the House without any delay and explain the position. The Prime Minister may have some views. As far as I know, the OSD is supposed to join today at 3.00 p.m. After seeing the position, we may stop his appointment. If the Prime Minister comes and listens to us, he may stop the appointment. If the Prime Minister comes and listens to us, he may stop the appointment. The Prime Minister should be requested to come and explain about this. I fully agree with the concern that was expressed, and if it is correct, then it is very disheartening and very alarming for us to know that such a person would be advising the Prime Minister, which is not desirable.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Even as I share the concern expressed by the two former Prime Ministers and by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, who joined the issue, we must remember that it is the prerogative of the Prime Minister to make such appointments. As we have come to know through the Press, two such appointments have been made or are going to be made. One is an eminent historian, a specialist in the history of Medieval India, and a former Chairman of the University Grants Commission. He is a very well-known personality. The other is a well-known columnist and a commentator on international affairs, who has been teaching in several universities of the world. His views on certain relations and certain developments the world over are well-known by now.

Sir, a man is not expected to hold a particular opinion for all times to come. A reference has been made to a particular letter where the person concerned had expressed certain views that he held at that time.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : No, it has appeared in the Press.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I am not opposing you. Let me finish. The best person to explain the situation is the Prime Minister himself.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar) : Then, why are you explaining?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I am not explaining. I am just saying that even after what has come out in the Press and the T.V., we are told, I am not sure, that the appointment is yet to be made or yet to be confirmed. If that is the situation, then the best person to explain the situation is the Prime Minister himself, and we shall extract an explanation from him.

MR. SPEAKER : I will go according to the strength of the parties. As I said in the beginning, we will not have a long discussion on this.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Hon. Speaker, Sir, after the speech of our senior leaders on this issue I would like to draw your attention towards two minor things. We feel proud that there is a consensus on India's foreign policy. There might be some petty issues on which there are differences in opinions. But there is a general consensus on India's foreign policy and the officer who has been appointed is not agreed with consensus on India's foreign policy. It is not that he is not agree with one or two issues. He is not agree with the policy on any of the important issues relating to International community. On the letter, which was referred to here, I would not like to discuss on that in detail. I would say that whether we prepare atomic weapons or not there might be some differences on this issue. But to keep this alternative open; this is an issue of national consensus. This nuclear option is open. Nobody has talked about to close this. Somebody can say that it should be exercised. But nobody has talked about closing it. An officer, who suggests the international community that they should pressurise India to close its option and bring about a Constitutional amendment to close the nuclear option. I feel that it is objectionable. You might be knowing that the Parliament of India had passed a resolution unanimously that we must acquire the Pakistan occupied Kashmir. This proposal was moved with general consensus. But now he says that to search a solution for the problem of Kashmir. Siachin should be given to Pakistan. There is one more issue of general consensus in our foreign policy that CTBT must not be signed and in his opinion he urges that CTBT must be signed. Therefore, this officer's views are completely against the general national consensus on issues like Nuclear option, CTBT, Kashmir issue etc.

In America, they have adopted a system for the appointment of higher officers. According to that system they have to appear before a select Committee and their

credentials are examined. They discuss about them thoroughly and after the discussion some times candidates are rejected. Sometimes they discuss this for three to four days. We may or may not introduce that system here but we can make deliberations on that system. This system might not be here; just now Jaswant Singhji was saying that we demand police report for the appointment of a sepoy in the army; even in the appointment of the clerk we demand police report. We donot issue passport for several months on the non-availability of police report. In this case we do not know what is the information available with IB which look after the Department of Foreign Affairs in PMO. But appointing such an officer is wrong. You may ask the Prime Minister regarding this appointment. But we feel that Hon. Prime Minister should give an explanation before the House or cancel the appointment of this officer.

[English]

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA (Amritsar) : Sir, with regard to the appointment of this gentleman as an Officer on Special Duty, objections have been raised by senior leaders. I do not want to go into this because his views are well known. I have been reading not one article but a number of articles in which it is very clear that his views do not agree with our national policy. That is a fact*(Interruptions)*

With this appointment, there are certain doubts which have arisen in our minds. Is it that in our effort to have good relations with Pakistan this gentleman has been used to throw a feeler to the nation with regard to Siachen? Is this Government going to have good relations with Pakistan by giving away Siachen and is a feeler being sent through this appointment to the nation so that they may see the pulse of this nation? This is the doubt before us. The Prime Minister must make it clear that this appointment does not mean any change at all in our established international policy, based on the consensus of this nation. I want this assurance from the Prime Minister.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Our former Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar has raised a very important question in this House.

Only yesterday, there was an occasion for me to watch the Zee TV News in which the appointment of a person has been announced. They have announced his policies; they have also particularly mentioned that Shri I.K. Gujral always seeks his advise and that he being one of his best friends, his appointment has been made. This is how the announcement was made in the Zee TV News.

I do not know the background of that particular gentleman and I will not say anything about that also. But a very important and a vital point is that when persons like Shri Chandra Shekhar, Shri Vajpayee, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev and others raised objections, it appears to me that the person seems to be a very controversial person. When the

interest of national policy is involved in that question, may I know whether the Government should make such an appointment which is controversial? Unless we know the full background of that particular gentleman, it is not in the interest of the nation, that such an appointment should be made.

So, it is absolutely necessary that the Prime Minister should come before the House and remove whatever doubts that have been raised. Unless those doubts are cleared, such an appointment should not be made. That is my humble submission.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, we have discussed it enough. Subject to the convenience of the Prime Minister, I tentatively fix two o'clock for the Prime Minister to come and inform the House.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

12.30 hrs.

Annual Report on the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corpn. etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 for the year 1993, under sub-section (4) of section 15A of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1832/97]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of the section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1833/97]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (4) Two Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1834/97]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1835/97]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Account.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, for the year 1995-96.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1836/97]

Notification under essential commodities Act, 1955 and Annual Report and Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 287 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1997 containing Order indicating the Supplies of fertilizers to be made by the domestic