

LOK SABHA

Saturday, September 21, 1963 | Bhadra  
30, 1885 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

Indian Missions Abroad

**S.N.Q. 14 Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:**  
Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the half-an-hour discussion on Indian Missions abroad held on the 13th September, 1963 and state:

(a) the number of officers and members of the staff of Indian Missions abroad in respect of whom the Public Accounts Committee has made charges of financial irregularities and other malpractices since January 1, 1957; and

(b) the nature of action taken in each case, together with the details of the charge made by the Committee in that case?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh):** (a)

Officers 14.

Staff 11.

(b) Suitable action has been taken in most of the cases as mentioned in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT-1796/63].

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** I do not want to refer to all the cases referred to in the three-page statement laid on the Table, but there is one

case which pertains to a Consul General and an Ambassador. In the other cases action was taken, those concerned being either dismissed or removed or issued warning, suspended etc. But in this case not even a warning was issued for misconduct. The Committee observes in its recommendation that it is concerned at the disregard of financial rules by officers in high position. Therefore, may I know the reasons why these cases were treated on a different footing from the others? Not even a warning was issued to the Consul General and the Ambassador.

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** I would submit that this is not a case of misconduct. These people had drawn some advances for the transfer of their goods from one place to another. During this transfer, they had felt that they were entitled to certain allowances for which orders had not gone. They were awaiting orders to adjust this in their bills. When this matter was brought to their notice as mentioned in the statement, they adjusted the amount and refunded it.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Have there been any instances during the period under reference when unanimous recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee for further action or inquiry were brushed aside or shelved in a manner similar to that in which an earlier unanimous recommendation made twice or thrice by the Public Accounts Committee was contemptuously disregarded in respect of the notorious jeep scandal or transaction in which.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. That has nothing to do with this. What has happened here is the point at issue.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** All right, I referred to it as it is a well-known case.

**Mr. Speaker:** May be. But it cannot be decided here.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** I said 'in a manner similar to'.

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** It is very difficult to meet these insinuations and say anything.

**Mr. Speaker:** The only question is whether the unanimous recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee in these cases were brushed aside.

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** Not to my knowledge.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Further inquiry? Not at all?

**Mr. Speaker:** Not at all.

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** In the cases I have mentioned, we have taken action.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Is the list exhaustive? Have there been any instances where the Committee's recommendations have been disregarded and no action taken thereon?

**The Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** If the hon. Member points out any case, we will look into it. It is a long list.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** I shall do so next session.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Hem Barua.

**Shri Tyagi:** Since the Public Accounts Committee has been mentioned.....

**Mr. Speaker:** He cannot rise in this manner.

**Shri Hem Barua:** In view of the fact that the audit report has pointed out gross irregularities of financial accounts in our missions abroad—in one case there was a misappropriation of a sum of Rs. 1.54 lakhs in the

course of just three months—may I know whether the Prime Minister is in a position to assure us that the handling of financial accounts in our missions abroad has been made fool-proof and attempts made to cleanse our diplomatic stables of the dirt and dross that have accumulated over the years?

**Mr. Speaker:** How to remove all that has accumulated in the question?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I can only give an assurance that we shall do our utmost. What more can I say?

**Shri Hem Barua:** But have you done your utmost by now? That is what I wanted to know, because the Audit Report has pointed out these things.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does he expect that any one would say that he has done his utmost?

**Shri Tyagi:** Since the Public Accounts Committee and its recommendations have been mentioned, I might make it clear that whenever any Ministry does not act on the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee, the Ministry comes next year for examination, and it has to submit to the Public Accounts Committee an Action Taken Report on each recommendation. I may assure the House that the Public Accounts Committee has taken a resolve that it is going to be absolutely judicial without any party considerations, and therefore, if there is any lapse on the part of any Ministry the Public Accounts Committee will take care of it.

**Shri Hem Barua:** They have failed to do it. I have read the whole report.

**Shri Daji:** The Prime Minister has stated that he will do his best. May we know what exact steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to see that such defalcations and mistakes in accounts do not occur in other Embassies, what instructions have been issued?

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** All these things are mentioned in detail in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

**दिल्ली के स्कूलों में दशहरे की छुट्टियां**

अ० सू० प्र० १५. श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या शिक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दशहरे की तिथि के विवाद के कारण दिल्ली के स्कूलों में इस बार दशहरे की छुट्टियां दो बार होंगी—पांच दिनों के लिये सितम्बर के दूसरे पखवारे में और सात दिनों के लिये अक्तूबर के दूसरे पखवारे में ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो दो बार थोड़े-थोड़े दिनों के लिये दशहरे की छुट्टियां होने से अध्यापकों और विद्यार्थियों को जो असुविधायें होंगी, उनके निराकरण के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

**The Minister in charge, Ministry of Education (Shri Hamayun Kabir):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : मैं जानता था कि माननीय मंत्री जी यह उत्तर देंगे । लेकिन क्या वह यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि वास्तविक स्थिति क्या है ?

**Shri Hamayun Kabir:** The position is that there is no such thing as Dussehra holidays for the schools. The students get the holidays which are the gazetted holidays. They are autumnal holidays at the end of the second term, and that is some time in September or October, and the dates are decided by the Director every year.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : चूँकि दशहरा और दीवाली के बारे में अभी तक भी ज्योतिषियों में बड़ा भारी वाद-विवाद चल रहा है, यहां तक कि एक दूसरे

को वे शास्त्रार्थ का भी चैलेंज दे रहे हैं, सो क्या शिक्षा मंत्री दोनों पक्षों को बुला करके, उन के बीच में कोई समझौता कराने का प्रयत्न करेंगे ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** I do not allow that. शिक्षा मंत्री भी इस चर्चा में शामिल होंगे ?

श्री यशपाल सिंह : इस मैक्यूलर स्टेट में सरकार हमारे पंडितों की मर्जी के खिलाफ दो दो त्योहार क्यों करती है उनको मर्जी के अनुसार एक त्योहार क्यों नहीं रखता है ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** कहां दो त्योहार रखे हैं ?

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I would like to know whether it is a fact that in some of the States the holidays fall in September and in some of the States it will be in October, whereas an over-all decision has been taken that Dussehra falls in the month of October. I would like to know whether such a uniform decision has been taken by Government to have these holidays either in September or October.

**Shri Hamayun Kabir:** I have already stated that this question refers to Delhi State and there are no such things as Dussehra holidays for the school. They have autumnal holidays.

**Gold in the Country**

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**S.N.Q. 16.** { **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**  
**Shri Raghunath Singh:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of gold so far declared to the Government; and

(b) the total quantity and value of gold, according to the assessment of the Government, available in the country?

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** You will remember, Sir, that when the question of gold control came up, the hon.