

Therefore, we are trying to enable them to build their own houses.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : From the facts now gathered it appears that one Akooji and Company which have monopolised the entire trade in Andaman and Nicobar Islands in collusion with officers there have been raising the prices of essential commodities and they wanted to sabotage the just rights and demands of the people there. Therefore, they intervened, pressurised and influenced the officers to see that the Prime Minister did not receive the people's deputation and also to see that the rights and just demands of the people there were suppressed. May I know whether this Government would see to it that the licence of this company is immediately suspended and an inquiry is held into this matter ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : It is a very unfortunate kind of insinuation that the hon. Member has made. The memorandum that has been presented to the hon. Prime Minister has nothing to do with the activities of Messrs. Akooji & Company. As far as the activities of that company are concerned, as I have already indicated, we have cancelled their licence. That has been done at the instance of the local officers there. Therefore, there is no question of any collusion between the local officers there and the company. This company, as I said, went to the Calcutta High Court and got a stay order on a writ petition. Proceedings are going on and as soon as the stay is lifted we will take necessary action.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : They have changed the name. The same company is functioning under some other name. Some benami transaction is going on. Under these circumstances, May I know whether the Government will stop all these things and open a super bazar or some co-operative market there ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : We have done that also.

MR. SPEAKER : He has already stated that a co-operative has been started there. The hon. Member was perhaps not present in the House when that reply was

given. He also said then that the licence has been cancelled.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Benami transactions are going on.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : We are aware of such malpractices and we have taken action to stop this kind of benami transactions by this company. When we took that action this Akooji & Company went to the Calcutta High Court and filed a contempt of court application saying that in spite of the stay order the Government was still interfering with their business on the pretext that they were doing benami transactions. The officers have been convicted on contempt of court charges because they interfered to stop all these malpractices there.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : May I know whether the hon. Minister realises that the industrial relations in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, specially among the government employees, are far from satisfactory and recently there have been strikes and hunger strikes ; if so, may I know whether this joint consultative machinery idea or scheme will also be extended to those two islands so that the worker there can possibly ventilate their grievances on the model of Delhi ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : There is no such proposal (*Interruption*).

Prime Minister's Visit to Calcutta

+

*1325. **SHRI RABI RAY :**
SHRI HIMATSINGKA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister visited Calcutta on the 17th March, 1968 ;

(b) if so, the purpose of her visit and the people who met her in connection with the disturbances there ; and

(c) the result of her talks with different leaders of public opinion there and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). The Prime Minister visited Calcutta on

17th March, 1968 in the wake of the communal disturbances which had broken out in that State. She met representatives of different communities, leaders of various political parties and members of Peace Committees from the affected areas.

(c) The Prime Minister made an appeal to those who met her for the maintenance of communal harmony and peace. She also invited the large majority of right-thinking citizens to take an active hand in isolating and dealing with the few who fomented such trouble.

Prime Minister impressed upon the State authorities that stern measures be taken to deal with the trouble.

श्री रवि राय : प्रधान मन्त्री का कलकत्ता का दौरा इतना रहस्यमय था कि कुछ अखबारों ने यह भी लिखा कि खुद श्री चव्हाण को भी यह पता नहीं था कि वह वहां क्यों गई हैं। पश्चिमी बंगाल में इस समय राष्ट्रपति शासन चल रहा है। क्या प्रधान मन्त्री के वहां जाने का यह मतलब है कि चूंकि गवर्नर, श्री धर्मवीर, की असफलता की वजह से वहां साम्प्रदायिक दंगे हो गए, इस लिए प्रधान मन्त्री को कलकत्ता जाना पड़ा? क्या गृह मन्त्री बतायेंगे कि वह श्री धर्मवीर को गवर्नर के पद से हटाने के सिलसिले में क्या सोच रहे हैं?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : The hon. Member is asking an absolutely meaningless question.

श्री रवि राय : जो अच्छा क्वेश्चन होता है, वह इन के लिए मीनिंगलेस होता है।

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : The Prime Minister naturally was concerned as to what was happening there and she has herself explained why she decided to go there. As I was not in New Delhi at that time and she had some free time, she thought possibly she could go and see for herself what was happening there. Instead of taking pride over the matter that the Prime Minister immediately responded to this thing, for people to talk in this manner is something very unfair.

श्री रवि राय : क्या मन्त्री महोदय का ध्यान कलकत्ता के अखबार, हिन्दुस्तान स्टैंडर्ड,

जो कांग्रेस-समर्थक अखबार कहलाता है, में प्रकाशित इस लेख की ओर गया है में क्वोट करता हूँ :

"The administrative and the political circles, however, have the feeling that the Prime Minister's air-dash to Calcutta has helped nobody; it has only made many people unhappy. Possibly there is a touch of exhibitionism in it; and definitely it has given a somewhat exaggerated importance to the disturbances, which the Prime Minister herself admitted were not 'very great'".

क्या यह सही है कि खुद प्रधान मन्त्री ने पत्रकार सम्मेलन में यह माना था कि कलकत्ता में साम्प्रदायिक दंगे कोई बड़े पैमाने पर नहीं हुए थे?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Naturally, when communal trouble starts in a city like Calcutta, and communal troubles in Calcutta have their own history, it is quite natural that the Prime Minister should have felt very concerned about it. He mentioned of some people being unhappy. There are people who have got a knack to be unhappy for everything. What can I do about it?

श्री रवि राय : हिन्दुस्तान स्टैंडर्ड तो कांग्रेस का अखबार है।

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHATTERJI : Is it not a fact that for the last few months under the UF Government law and order broke down and communal disturbances of this nature created serious difficulties in the State; if so, will the hon. Minister enlighten this House whether the visit of the Prime Minister had the effect of immediately curbing that communal tension and creating conditions peaceful in that area of the country? It is not a fact that her visit was brought about because of urgent necessity to meet a particular situation? Is it not a fact that because Calcutta is known to be very often faced with communal disturbances of a serious nature and in view of the general elections that have to be faced by the State this visit was absolutely necessary for national reasons?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I think the Prime Minister's visit had a salutary effect on the situation.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Ordinarily, I would have appreciated the visit of the Prime Minister to Calcutta. But I was then in Calcutta; I know the situation there. I hope the Home Minister also knows the peculiar goo-political situation of Bengal, a border State connected with East Pakistan. Actions and reactions in East Pakistan and West Bengal are always happening. Immediately after the return of the Prime Minister from Calcutta I wrote a letter to her, requesting her to make a public statement about her visit because her visit to Calcutta has created an adverse reaction in the public mind and it was also commented adversely upon in the daily papers. The reason is this. The sudden visit of the Prime Minister to Calcutta created an impression as if the whole of Calcutta was ablaze although the riots were confined to only certain very small pockets. The whole of Calcutta was normal except two or three pockets. I wrote to her that taking advantage of her visit to Calcutta the Pakistan Radio was making a virulent propaganda as a result of which already communal trouble started in Sylhet, Khulna and some other areas and but for the valiant Bengali Muslim youngmen, progressive Muslim young men, there would have been serious riots in East Pakistan. In that letter I requested her that she should make a full statement about the extent of the riots, the damage caused and the cause of the riots. Why did she not make a full report, a public report, about the communal troubles in West Bengal? Why did she not do that?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : It is again a question of misreading the things. Only because some Pakistan Radio makes some comment and, therefore, the Prime Minister should not make any movements in her own country is a fantastic suggestion to make. When to visit and not to visit is a matter of judgment. Is it the suggestion that she should make a visit to Calcutta only when Calcutta is in a blaze? That is a wrong suggestion to make. The Prime Minister did go there in time and, really speaking, it ought to be a matter of appreciation that when there was a sign of trouble she decided to go there to have an on-the-spot study, and her visit did make an impact on the local situation there. I have no doubt about it. And

about what happened in Calcutta, I have made a statement here as to the extent of the damage done, cause of the trouble and so on. That information was not concealed from anybody.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : She should have issued a statement, earlier. It was issued after a long time which created the impression that there was some mystery there. After partition, you do not care for the people living in East Pakistan.

SHRI D. C. SHARMA : It is not a fact that the visit of the Prime Minister, as reported in so many papers which are published from Calcutta and elsewhere, has created a very favourable impression, so far as the law and order situation is concerned? Is it also not a fact that but for her visit the law and order situation would have gone on deteriorating? Is it also not a fact that on account of her visit the East Pakistan Government did have a new approach to the problem or East Bengal Hindus? If so, may I suggest...

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the time for making a suggestion. This is the question hour.

SHRI D. C. SHARMA : So, will she make her visits as often as she can because it creates a better law and order situation?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I am inclined to agree with the hon. Member.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : The hon. Minister just now stated that the Prime Minister's visit to Calcutta should be appreciated. I would have appreciated her visit to Calcutta if she had also visited Meerut and Allahabad, which are much nearer home. The thing is that it was a politically-motivated visit. The intention was not just to restore law and order or restore confidence but something else, and that is what creates doubt. Secondly, I want to know whether it is not a fact that our Central Ministers dash to Calcutta and try to magnify the problem and try to present to the world the problem in a much bigger form, which creates an impression in East Pakistan and other areas that something very big has happened

and reaction starts there and in that way, unwittingly perhaps, they not only not serve the purpose but have quite the opposite effect. In that context, I want to know whether instead of making an air dash or an exhibitionist visit, whether an inquiry will be held in Calcutta, in Allahabad, in Meerut, a judicial inquiry at the level of High Court Judge so that the full facts, how it has happened who started it, everything could be brought to the notice of the public. This I say because riots took place at Jabalpur some time back, a judicial inquiry was ordered and a judge was appointed. That inquiry report is yet to see the light of day. Similarly, in other places riots took place but inquiries were never held. I want a clear answer whether in Allahabad, Meerut and Calcutta a judicial inquiry will be held at the level of a High Court Judge to find out the facts and fix responsibility and whether the reports of those inquiries will be made public so that the people know who are the people who are starting the riots and who are behind them ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : My answer to the latter part of the question is "No". There is no question of having any further inquiry about what happened in Calcutta because the information has already been there. As for as Allahabad is concerned, an inquiry has been ordered and a senior member of the service is looking in to the matter. Regarding the other part of the question, the Prime Minister not making a visit to Allahabad and Meerut, she did visit Allahabad, as the hon. Member knows. He conveniently forgets the fact that the Prime Minister did visit Allahabad. Meerut she did not visit. At the time when some of us should have gone there, the Chief Minister Shri Charan Singh, himself was stopping at Meerut and he was keeping us informed from time to time. We did not want to complicate the matter at that time. So, there was no question of any political motivation. If at all there is any political motivation, the suggestion that the hon. Member is making is politically motivated.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Whenever the people of Calcutta make some genuine demand, like the circular railways or the

second bridge over the river Hooghly, government turns its face away. But even when a slight disturbance starts there is a scramble for the Ministers to rush to Calcutta, I do not know why. It is said that this mysterious trip of the Prime Minister was at the instance of Shri Jyoti Basu and there are talks going on in Calcutta on all corners that the Prime Minister has deliberately given a very long handle to the Communists because of certain understanding reached with them. These talks also gain further ground from the fact that when Shri Dinesh Singh went to Calcutta recently, Shri Jyoti Basu left a Communist Party Meeting at Asansol and came all the way to Calcutta to meet Shri Dinesh Singh and then went back to the meeting. May I, therefore, know from the Minister whether (a) he will categorically say that since the trouble was not very serious, as he himself said, her trip was not politically motivated and (b) whether it is also a fact that she met certain leaders in Calcutta during this trip with whom she did not discuss communal disturbances at all, there was only a discussion about mid-term elections, one such name being Shri P. C. Ghosh, with whom when she met him she did not talk about the disturbances but only talked about the mid-term elections ? So, firstly, was there any political motive and, secondly, who were the people whom she met and talked to anything except the communal disturbances ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I am very sorry that the hon. Member should have asked such questions or made such wrong suggestions. It is a wrong thing to suggest that the Prime Minister made a visit to Calcutta to meet Shri Jyoti Basu. It is completely false. Naturally, she was there only for a few hours and whomsoever she met, she discussed with them the communal tension. If some other people have come and asked other questions, she could not have said "no" to meeting those people. The hon. Member is asking a question as if he has got his own ghost to see what was happening there. How does he know that she did not discuss communal trouble but only other matters ? This is an absolutely politically motivated question and a wrong suggestion.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : It is guilty conscience.

श्री शशि भूषण बाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो कम्यूनल रायट्स हुये इनमें क्या आमतौर पर फकीर, रिकशे वाले, पागल और दूसरे गरीब लोग मारे गये ? इस देश में अगर अमीरों पर कुछ हो जाये तो बड़ी फिर हो जाती है लेकिन अगर गरीबी के बच्चे मारे जायं तो भी ममानी साहब को भी और मधोक साहब को भी जाना चाहिये, यह हम सब का कर्तव्य है, घटनाओं को मिनिमाइज़ करने से इस चीज को हम खत्म नहीं कर सकते हैं, क्या आप इस से सहमत हैं ?

श्री यशवन्त राव चव्हाण : हां, मैं आपकी बात से सहमत हूँ

SHRI HEM BARUA : The hon. Home Minister has just now said that the Prime Minister visited Allahabad, but even after her visit to Allahabad there has been communal rioting in the city where members of the minority community are attacked and their shops are looted. What steps have Government taken so far to stop communal rioting in the country ? The Government has said that India is a vast country and that these things are only minor affairs. Is it not a fact that these things happen because Government are taking a very light view of the situation?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : A little while ago the suggestion was that we were maximising and glorifying communal riots. Now here is a suggestion that we are under estimating it. Two very extreme views are expressed. It is not true. We are taking proper steps and are making proper assessment. Unfortunately, the undercurrent of tension in Allahabad did not subside. Even recently there was some trouble. But now much more strict measures have been taken and the thing appears to be under control.

QUESTION UNDER RULE 40

Action taken on 32nd Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on
Mormugao Port

3. SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA : Will the CHAIRMAN, ESTIMATES COMMITTEE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any follow-up report has been received by the Estimates Committee

from Government with regard to the recommendations which have been accepted by Government listed in Chapter II of the 32nd Report of the Committee on Mormugao Port;

(b) if so, the recommendations on which Government have taken action considered adequate; and

(c) whether Committee propose to pursue action taken on their recommendations in particular with reference to the recommendation at S. No. 42, para 88 of the original Report ?

THE CHAIRMAN, ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH) : (a) No, Sir. Normally, once the Committee has presented its report to the House giving its comments on the action taken by the Ministry concerned on the original report, that is regarded as the completion of the process of examination as far as the Committee is concerned. It is thereafter left to the House itself or individual members to seek further information as to the actual implementation of the Committee's recommendations which have been accepted by the Government and listed in Chapter II of Action Taken Reports.

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

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TNCC President's statement Re :
D.M.K.'s Activities

*1321. SHRI NARAYANAN :
SHRI SUBRAVELU :
SHRI DHANDAPANI :
SHRI MAYAVAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Governments's attention has been drawn to the statement of the President of the TNCC at a Press Conference in Delhi on the 2nd March, 1968 that some DMK leaders are sponsoring and encouraging the separatist movement in Tamilnad;

(b) whether Government have taken any action to find out the veracity or otherwise of this grave allegation ; and

(c) if so, their reaction thereto ?