

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, July 21, 1998/Asadha 30, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Sir, I have given a notice for suspending the Question Hour to take up the Maharashtra issue ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you after the Question Hour.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK (Buldana) : There is a total failure of the law and order. There is a total failure of Constitutional machinery. The Ministers have been threatened. The life of a Minister is at stake. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you after the Question Hour.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : Sir, I have given a notice for suspending the Question Hour. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you after the Question Hour.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have given a notice to suspend the question hour ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you all after the question hour. ... (Interruptions) Mr. Muttemwar I will allow you after the question hour. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, now you please take your seat.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance

*482. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the name of voluntary organisations receiving foreign assistance;

(b) the criteria followed by the Government to grant permission to such organisations for receiving foreign assistance;

(c) whether any mechanism exists for regular auditing of accounts of such organisations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) 12,136 associations filed returns under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 during 1996-97. Their names are contained in the Annual Report on the receipt of foreign contribution by voluntary associations for 1996-97, copies of which have been placed in the Parliament Library.

(b) Permission under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 to receive foreign contribution is granted keeping in mind, *inter-alia*, the nature of the association, its aims and objectives, details of its past activities, composition of its executive committee/Governing Council, contravention, if any, of the provisions of the Act and whether or not it falls in a category prohibited from accepting foreign contribution.

(c) and (d) Associations covered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 are required to furnish intimation of the receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution received by them during each financial year, alongwith a baiance sheet and statement of receipt and payment, duly certified by a Chartered Accountant. Besides this, the accounts of certain associations are also scrutinised by officers of this Ministry authorised to inspect the accounts/records maintained by the said association.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is written in the reply that the statement is laid on the table, but we do not get that, kindly arrange this for us.

SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether many non-governmental voluntary organisations are receiving foreign aid in India at present. For name sake these institutions are working for public welfare but it has become a business today. According to a report of a Bombay based Economic and political weekly these institutions, receive an amount of Rs. 10 thousand crore. It is not known as to which purpose these funds are used for. These funds are provided to the countries like India due to its poverty. Some countries try to influence through it and the others send funds for espionage. No investigation is done by the Government in this regard. Neither our state Governments nor the Government organisation can receive such funds directly. There is no such machinery in our country to investigate these things, and as a result of the same, these organisations after getting the foreign funds are spending these funds lavishly, whereas the African countries have a control over them and such funds are monitored. Tanzania have published the names of such organisations.

MR. SPEAKER : You ask the question.

SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister through you about the amount of foreign funds received by R.S.S. and whether any investigation has been done into it?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : To R.S.S.?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMED : Please tell me as to how much funds did the R.S.S. receive?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a discussion. Please understand this.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked about the names of all the voluntary organisations under this question. As I have already stated that there are many such institutions in the country.

There are 12136 Associations which have been registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act and have obtained permission to receive foreign assistance. The details of the entire list and the total amount received is published in the annual report which is kept in the library. If the hon. Member would like to raise a question on any particular organisation then he may have to give a separate notice for it.

SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned about Foreign Regulation Act, 1976 in reply to part B of my question. I would like to know through my supplementary question about the number of organisations against which action has been taken under this act since 1976 till date and the outcome thereof?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 1976 till date is a long notice. This act was passed in 1976. I shall collect the information and place before the House. I can only say that before granting permission to any organisation information about the background of the organisation and the names of the members and their personal background is collected. Besides, each institution registered under it has statutory obligation to file their return which would be audited by a Chartered Accountant at the end of every year. Details of the income and the expenditure is given in it. While giving permission the source of funding and the purpose for which the money is to be utilised is also examined. There is a detailed plan under which it is monitored.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to part 'A' of the question it is stated that the list of these institutions, which are getting foreign aid, is placed in the library and their audit is certified by the Chartered Accountants. I have two questions. Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that there are many such institutions, educational institutions which have not been mentioned in this list, but it is known to all that they are funded for carrying out acts against the interests of many countries. I want to know whether the Government is aware of the fact and if so, may I have the details of the action taken? My second question is as it is mentioned in the answer that it can be audited by any Chartered Accountant.

[Translation]

We know that how Chartered Accountant provide certificates? Whether the Government will make arrangements for test audit through CAG in six months, seven months or in a year?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : We also do auditing and checking time to time before your suggestion. We also conduct surprise checking time to time through monitoring arrangement but as a whole the number of institutions is large. Their practical form have gradually increased. An apex department of our Ministry checks it. Hon. Member has said that some institutions get money for wrong doings, perhaps the members are aware of the fact that fund comes from regular sources, but a large amount also comes from irregular sources. The Government and investigating agencies of the Government enquire all these things.

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I did go to the Library this morning after seeing the statement that was laid there. The annual Report only gives a list of organisations. The Report which is available in the library does not mention the amounts against the organisations.

The question is in two parts. The person who filed the question has asked about RSS funding. ... (Interruptions)

I can answer that question also.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot answer a Question. You have to put a supplementary.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I can answer that question also. So, they should not ask me a Question. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, he is not supposed to answer the question. He is supposed to ask the question. ... (Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : They should not ask me a question. I am not yet a Minister. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not disturb him.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not disturb him.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Home Minister that how much money they have got from CIA.

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Is RSS unparliamentary that I cannot mention the name? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Dr. Swamy's supplementary question.

... (Interruptions) *

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : That is why I know about you. I only came to know about *Duryodhana* by going to the same school. I also came to know about that. I know their nefarious activities.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Swamy, please ask your supplementary.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : The question should have been posed in two parts. Firstly, I want to know whether RSS is a front organisation of which B.J.P. is one, and whether the front organisations like Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Antar-rashtriya Sahyog Parishad, etc., have received any money. If so, how much? It is because the Annual Report does not mention the amounts.

Secondly, the NRIs who operate Indian accounts here whether the money, that they give, will come under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act or not.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : So far as political parties are concerned, one of whom the hon. Member has referred to as a front organisation, they are barred from receiving any foreign contributions, so also MPs, MLAs, Journalists, judges and such other categories which are statutorily prohibited from receiving any foreign contribution. There

is a list in which there are organisations which are somewhat political, but are not political parties. For example, there are certain trade unions and certain youth organisations who also have to seek prior permission before they receive any foreign contribution. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : The question is specific about V.H.P.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : V.H.P. is one of those organisations which comes in this category. It has to seek prior permission from the Government before it receives any foreign contribution. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Please also tell the account of Congress.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Hon. Speaker Sir, if the questions will be asked about the VHP or RSS specifically. I must reply them but as I know these are not in those receipts.

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I have asked a question whether the NRIs operating Indian accounts here also come under the FCRA or not.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : It is more of a legal question. But as far as I can see it, if a person has an account here and contributes in rupees to anyone here, perhaps that would not come. It is more of a legal question.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Home Minister tell us that had the Congress taken permission?

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There is one organisation called Ananda Marg which is engaged in anti-national, anti-Government and nefarious activities. It dropped a large number of arms in December, 1995. Those arms came from foreign countries. I would like to know whether the Government is aware that this organisation is receiving a large amount of money from foreign countries, and they are utilised for anti-national, anti-Government and anti-social activities. If so, whether the Government propose to take any action against that organisation, and put a ban on receiving foreign contributions by that organisation.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The hon. Member has referred to the Ananda Marg. This I find is one of the 129 organisations which perhaps had been identified and permitted to receive funds with prior permission.

It is in that category. This decision, the hon. Member will appreciate, had been taken earlier. As has been the case of the RSS or the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, it is not this Government which has decided that. If there is any specific question, I will certainly reply to that later.

So far as anti-national activities are concerned, if any organisation indulges in anti-national activities, this Government would take serious note of it and take necessary action.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the CBI has already inquired into the dropping of arms.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Speaker Sir, Vishwa Hindu Parishad is one of those 12000 institutions which are registered under FCRA. According to my knowledge, there is a big scandal in crores of dollars collected by Vishwa Hindu Parishad from foreign. That has not been utilised properly and a notice from Income Tax Department a notice of violation of FCRA has been served on VHP for this but both of the actions have been postponed. I want to know from the Minister through you that what actions have been taken against VHP which is one of the 12000 registered institutions and have received crores of dollars from Foreign after registration under FCRA and have told that they had received this funds for construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. But have not utilised, the same for construction of mandir and have been served on notices from Income Tax Department and FCRA.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I believe that had an organisation been involved in mal-practices since so long, then this organisation would never been excused by the earlier Governments.

[English]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Sir, is he denying that there is no inquiry? I have asked a specific question. There are inquiries. Is he denying that there is no inquiry?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, I am sure that the Department concerned must be pursuing the matter.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Yes, say like that. The Government had ordered some investigation and the Department was inquiring. His question is whether the Government is going on with those inquiries or they have stopped them.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : No one who violates the law will be spared.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ADITYANATH : Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister through you that more than 12000 non-governmental organisations are getting foreign aid amongst them which are those organisations active in conversion on India-Nepal border and in North-Eastern States, they are alongwith conversion playing equal role in anti-national activities, and they are still continuing these activities? To know that how much aid these organisations are getting, will the Government set up an enquiry or hand over it to the CBI so that conversion or anti-national activities can be prevented?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am agree with the views of hon. Member that if someone misuses the money in this way then action should be taken against him but I also request him that he must realise this thing there are several organisations among 12000 which contribute funds to hospitals, orphanages and utilise in other good work. Therefore it is not good for the country to say generally that all the amount received under FCRA from foreign countries are misused.

SHRI ADITYA NATH : Hon. Speaker Sir, what is the views of the hon. Minister regarding conversion in the country? Is the money being misused in this country on large scales people are being converted into Christian or Muslim, what action, the Government is taking to prevent all these things? ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : This has already been replied.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Sir, in the name of tribals, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, in the name of religion, and in the name of [*Translation*] ... Publicity of Ramayan, you will see that the America printed Ramayana comes in India which are those organisations? Big temples are being constructed worth crores of rupees. Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the Minister that India is a country of different

religions. Gods are exported from here. What is the need that these non-Government organisations are doing so in the name of God. 356 crore God—Goddesses are in this country. ... (*Interruptions*) There are three Gods on every Indian ... (*Interruptions*) I am telling you ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please see that this is Question Hour. This is not a discussion.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? Please take your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Laluji, please ask your supplementary.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please resume your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is the question hour. Mr. Lalu has made it joke hour. Will the Parliament will be made a mockery. Is this the occasion of joke hour, Laluji has made the question hour like that. It is the question hour. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you. Please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : This cannot be done in this manner. Nobody has the right to insult the God. ... *(Interruptions)* Whether one believes in God or not, but one should not behave like this ... *(Interruptions)* He should seek forgiveness ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Lajuji, please ask the supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I would like to ask the steps to be taken by Government to stop the inflow of foreign exchange into the country? What are the needs of these social service organizations for which funds are coming from foreign countries ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will expunge from the record if there is anything objectionable.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : It should not be done, none of the Hon'ble Member has the right to do this. Hon'ble Member could not do this. ... *(Interruptions)* Expunge it from the record.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Katheria, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : You cannot insult the God.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : And you are honouring. ... *(Interruptions)* What is wrong I have done. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please resume your seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Take your seat first. I will allow you.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Lajuji, please finish your supplementary

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Lajuji, please complete your supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD YADAV : What is going on in these 12,000 institutions. ... *(Interruptions)* Will they not allow me to ask the question? ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Lajuji, please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please resume your seat.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Sir, what is the need of this foreign money which is coming into the country. To stop that ... (Interruptions) I have not said anything wrong. ... (Interruptions) I would like to know as to what is the problem of the Government to stop this foreign exchange which is coming into India in different names. ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Sir, Laluji has said that we export the God. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All right, I will expunge it after going through the record. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : If you have courage then raise a slogan of Shri Ram. ... (Interruptions) You are insulting the God in the name of God. ... (Interruptions) Why are you insulting the God ... (Interruptions) It is not a proper way. This is our right. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : What is this, will you not allow us to speak ... (Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : What is this, will you not let me speak? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we demand that you please get the supplementary question of Shri Laluji answered ... (Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : When I speak, they stand up. Will they not let others speak. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Laluji, please ask your Members to take their seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : They belongs to R.S.S. will they not let me speak by making noise. Are they custodian of God. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he was asking a question. They should allow him to ask the full question. It is not correct. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seat. Why are you provoking each other?

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD YADAV : I have not said anything wrong. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member should be allowed to ask the question. Let him ask the question.

MR. SPEAKER : He has already asked the question.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Laluji, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this law determines in detail as to which institutions can obtain money from foreign country. There are other guidelines to decide whether any institution should be registered or not. I have seen that the ministries take so much time in vetting of applications received from institutions. Sometimes they take one or one and half year in this process because it has been mentioned in the guidelines also. Such provision is already there in the Act:—

[English]

"If the activities of the association are found to be aimed at conversion, through inducement or force either directly or indirectly from one religious faith to another."

[Translation]

Such institutions which get money for conversion either by inducement or by force are not registered. Even if they get somehow, they remain under scrutiny. We think that F.C.R.A. should be used properly. Action should be taken if any institution make an improper use of F.C.R.A.

[English]

South African Airhostesses Into Bar

*483. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "South African Airhostesses face apartheid in Mumbai" appearing in the *Asian Age*, New Delhi, dated June 21, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(d) whether the Union Government have sought a report from the concerned State in this regard; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

As per the report obtained from the State Govt. about the alleged incident, on 19.06.98 at around 2.00 PM, two youths were having drinks on the ground floor of the Café Leopold, Colaba, Mumbai. At that time, two women came to the restaurant and ordered eatables to take away

in a parcel. While eatables were being packed, the two young men approached the two women who were sitting at a nearby table and requested the ladies to accompany them to the permit room (bar) of the restaurant on the mezzanine floor. As these two men were frequent visitors to the restaurant, the staff of the restaurant were aware of their quarrelsome nature. Accordingly, they did not allow these men and the two women to enter the permit room. While the ladies left the Café without argument, the men left the Café threatening to take revenge on the hotel.

Although no complaint regarding this incident was lodged with the police, the State Government after the publication of the news report regarding the incident has got the matter enquired into by the police. The Enquiry by the police revealed that there was no discrimination on the basis of colour or race in this incident.

(e) In view of the above facts there is no need for any other step to be taken by the Union Government.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Sir, India has always played a major role in fighting against apartheid wherever it has existed the world over. But the news item appearing in the *Asian Age*, captioned 'South African Airhostesses face apartheid in Mumbai' was a very damaging report. It damaged to such an extent that it has resulted in creating a lot of misunderstanding in the minds of the people. I appreciate the reply which the hon. Minister has given. But whatever facts he has conveyed through his reply convey the other side of the story.

In view of this, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the factual situation, as stated in his reply, will be conveyed to the Embassy of South Africa in New Delhi as well as to the Embassy of India in South Africa so that there is no scope for any misunderstanding on such a delicate and important issue?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The hon. Member has very rightly said that so far as India is concerned, we have been foremost in opposing apartheid in any form as it exists all over the world. Therefore, it was a very natural thing that when the Constitution of India was framed, our Constitution-makers incorporated this strong opposition of the country to apartheid into the Constitution itself when it said: 'no discrimination of any kind on grounds of race or religion'. In fact, article 15(2) of the Constitution says:

"No, citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to—