

को खूब बढ़ाया है। ऐसा हम भी कर सकते थे। लेकिन हमने ऐसा करना मुनासिब नहीं समझा।

14 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

PRE-ELECTION POLITICAL SITUATION IN JAMMU & KASHMIR AND POSTPONEMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ELECTION.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“Pre-election political situation in Jammu and Kashmir and reported postponement of the Assembly election scheduled to be held from June 30 to July 3, 1977.”

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, Elections to the Legislature of Jammu and Kashmir are held under the provisions of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir and the laws made thereunder. The functions of the Election Commission of India also extend to the elections to the State Legislature. It is open only to the Election Commission to postpone the dates of polling by a notification under section 155 of the Jammu & Kashmir Representation of the People Act, 1957 for reasons which it considers sufficient. As it is, the elections to the State Legislative Assembly are scheduled to be held on June 30, July 2 and 3. These dates were fixed by the Election Commission of India under section 41 of the J & K Representation of People Act, 1957.

There has been considerable resort to violence in the Kashmir Valley in the course of the election campaign for some time now. Several clashes have already taken place between rival political groups.

The present series of incidents of disorder started with Shri Sheikh Abdulillah's entry into the Valley early

यह भी कहा गया है कि स्टेट सैक्टर पर ज्यादा ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है। आप देखें कि भिलाई कारखाने के लिए प्राविजन बढ़ा दिया गया है। कारण यह है कि हम चाहते हैं कि पब्लिक सैक्टर आगे बढ़े। जहां तक ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों का सवाल है, वहां बेकारी का सवाल है, खेतीहर किसानों का सवाल है, उनके बारे में इस बजट में एक दिशा देने का प्रयास किया गया है। एग्रीकल्चर वेस्ट और फारेस्ट वेस्ट इण्डस्ट्रीज को बढ़ावा देने की बात इस बजट में कही गई है। ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में रोजगार मिलने इस बात की भी व्यवस्था करने का प्रयास किया गया। यह बहुत सफ़िशियेंट है ऐसा मैं नहीं मानता हूं। किन्तु कुछ बातों की तरफ ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है। जैसे कि जंगलों में अनेक चीजें पैदा होती हैं, मिसाल के लिए लाख है जो जंगलों में पैदा होती है जिसकी वजह से लोगों को उद्योग और जो मजदूरी मिलती है वह काफी नहीं है। बहुत कम मात्रा में उनको मजदूरी मिलती है। स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन ने जंगलों में रहने वाले आदिवासियों को, जो लाख का काम करते हैं, तीन रुपया देने की बात कही। लेकिन तीन रुपया किसानों को कभी नहीं मिला। लाख से हम को फॉरेन एक्सचेंज मिलती है। किन्तु अनेक प्रान्तों में अलग अलग प्रकार की नीति आदिवासियों और गरीबों के लिए रखी जाती है। जिन लोगों का जीवन ही जंगलों में पैदा होने वाली चीजों पर चलता है उन पर ऐसे नियंत्रण डाले गए हैं जिसकी वजह से आदिवासी लोगों को और जंगलों में रहने वालों को कोई लाभ नहीं मिलता है।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can continue later because at two O'clock, we have to take up Calling Attention, Shri Chitta Basu.

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in April. There was a clash between a large number of his followers who had been brought in buses to escort him from Qazi Gund to Srinagar on the one hand and students of Anantnag Degree College who were demonstrating against him on the other. Various allegations about police and national Conference Workers having entered the College premises and beaten up girl students and staff were made and are presently under judicial enquiry. Following the Sheikh's arrival in Srinagar there were demonstrations and counter demonstrations accompanied by a little violence mainly in Srinagar City. As election tempo picked up incidents of occasional disorder continued in Srinagar City in the form of clashes between the followers of Shri Sheikh Abdullah on the one hand and those of Maulvi Farooq on the other. In one major incident, a lady Janata candidate Dr. Jagat Mohini sustained serious fractures at the hands of National Conference workers. A further incident occurred when Maulvi Farooq of Awami Action Committee went to Anantnag on 11th June. There were clashes between his people and the local National Conference supporters at Anantnag and also on their return journey at two or three places enroute. At one place, Awantipur, an incident of arson also occurred which is under investigation. Series of measures have been taken from time to time to tighten law and order arrangements and curb violence.

There is no proposal before the Election Commission for the postponement of the dates of election. Neither the State Government nor anybody else has approached the Election Commission for such postponement. Since the superintendence, direction and control of the conduct of elections vests in the Election Commission of India under section 138 of the Jammu & Kashmir Constitution, the Election Commission is expected to keep a close watch over the situation to see that a free and fair election takes place.

The Central Government have been providing the fullest possible assistance to the State Government in maintaining law and order. Both the Governments are anxious to ensure peaceful conditions in which fair and free elections can be held. The effort of both the Governments is to curb violence firmly and to ensure free and fair elections.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, it has been admitted in the statement that the pre-election situation in Kashmir is very tense and also alarming. Unlike the other States, there have been widespread disorder, violence, murder, arson, loot, etc. The reasons behind certain incidents have been mentioned by the hon. Minister in the course of his statement, but those causes are not the result of foolproof and complete investigation. In the interest of the country's integration, one has to go into the depth of the Kashmir situation now. May I know, in this context, from the hon. Minister whether the following events are the causes for the present flare-up in Kashmir, namely, (i) the suggestion for abrogation of article 370 of the Constitution of India made by certain spokesmen of the Janata Party; (ii) the sudden and arbitrary stoppage of subsidies in respect of rice to the people of Kashmir; (iii) admission into the Janata Party of certain erstwhile rabid communalists and protagonists of secession of Kashmir and inclusion of some of them in the list of candidates of the Janata Party; (iv) provocative speeches made by the leaders of different political parties adding to the tension and imparting communal overtones to the election campaign; and (v) apprehension of the people of Kashmir of large scale rigging as in the past elections.

I also want to now from the hon. Minister whether any code of conduct for the election campaign was decided upon by all the political parties in Kashmir after mutual consultations

and consent, and if so, what was the code and who were responsible for the violation of the agreed code.

It is understood that the Governor has made a report to the Government of India about the political situation, particularly about the pre-election political situation, in Kashmir. May I know from the hon. Minister whether any report has been received by the Government of India from the Governor of Jammu & Kashmir? If any report has been received, it should be laid on the Table of the House.

In view of the fact that the currents and crosscurrents in Kashmir are likely to have wide repercussions on the national polity of our country and also in view of the fact that Kashmir occupies a very sensitive and strategic position in our country, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India would agree that a conference of the representatives of all political parties of Kashmir as well as of the country be held immediately to devise ways and means to restore normalcy in Kashmir and ensure free and fair elections?

In conclusion, I would like the Government to take note of the fact that a situation of this nature cannot be tackled properly only at the administrative level; it should be tackled at the political level also. In that context, may I know whether Government, in the interest of democratic polity of our country, in the interest of national integration, would depend more on political skill than on administrative ruthlessness?

SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN: The Hon. Member has raised various points as to whether these are the causes which might have contributed to the present situation which is obtaining in Jammu & Kashmir. He has, in the first instance, referred to something about abrogation of Art. 370. May I say, on behalf of the Government, that very categori-

cal assurances have been given on several occasions by the External Affairs Minister and other Ministers on behalf of the Government of India, that there is no question of abrogation of Art. 370. It is for the people of Jammu & Kashmir to decide and it is only is no question of imposing the abrogation so that any question of the abrogation of Art. 370 can arise: otherwise, there is no question of imposing the abrogation of Art. 370 on the people of Kashmir. So the question of abrogating Art. 370 arbitrarily does not arise. This assurance was given on behalf of the Government on several occasions and, in that light, it is rather surprising that on behalf of Sheikh Abdullah quite a lot of election campaigning was done on the basis of Art. 370. There was some kind of an apprehension which was wholly imaginary, even after such a categorical assurance had been given on behalf of the Government by members of the Government that there was no question of abrogating Art. 370. It is not understood why so much attention was being given on behalf of the National Conference in the election campaigning to making references to Art. 370.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): How does the External Affairs Minister come into the picture?

SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN: The Government acts with combined responsibility and if a Cabinet Minister makes a statement, he makes it on behalf of the Government. I had said that several Ministers have made the statement: it is not only the External Affairs Minister but the House Minister and the Prime Minister also who made it. I referred to the Minister of External Affairs because my impression was that he was the first one to make the statement on behalf of the Government. Otherwise, not only he but the Home Minister and the Prime Minister also have made very categorical statements in that regard, that there need not be any apprehension from that point of view in the mind of any person.

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Then, the Hon. Member also referred to 'arbitrary stoppage of subsidy'. So far as that is concerned, the Hon. Member would recall that before the Legislature was dissolved and there was a Government in the State which was headed by Sheikh Abdullah himself, it was that Government which had stopped the subsidy being received by the Jammu & Kashmir Government. So, the Government of India does not come into the picture here. I believe, again, that the Home Minister had occasion to say, in this connection that it will be for the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, when it is formed, to consider this question of subsidy being received from the Government of India.

Then, the Hon. Member also referred to the fact as to whether the admission to the Janata Party of some rabid Communalists is also a factor which was responsible. I, at least am not aware of any rabid communalists having been admitted to the Janata Party. If the Hon. Member's definition of 'rabid Communalists' is that all secular persons are rabid Communalists or that those who do not make any distinction between the treatment meted out to various communities should be regarded as rabid Communalists, perhaps there might be some point in his making a reference to it; otherwise, Government is not aware of any rabid Communalists having been admitted to the Janata Party.

Then, the Hon. Member also referred to some trouble about the list of the Janata Party candidates. Now, so far as any trouble arising out of the list of the Janata Party is concerned, if there had been any reports of trouble between different sections of the Janata Party, then perhaps one could have thought that there has been some interference—somebody not being given a ticket and another person being given a ticket by the High Command of the Janata Party. But so far as the clashes which have occurred and the breaches of peace which have occurred are concerned, they have been between

members of different political Parties, mainly between members of the National Conference and members of the Awami Action Committee and also between members of the National conference and those of the Janata Party: they were not *inter se* clashes between one section and another section of the Janata Party. Therefore, this is also not a factor which is responsible for the present situation in Jammu & Kashmir.

Then, the Hon. Member has said that there is some apprehension about rigging in the elections, which is responsible for the present situation or turmoil or breach of peace in Jammu & Kashmir. So far as this is concerned, I would say on behalf of the Government that after the manner in which the last elections were held to the Lok Sabha in March this year and the way in which the State Assembly elections have been held only very recently, not only this country but other democratic countries are also proud of the manner in which elections have been held in this country, both in March last and also quite recently. Therefore, nobody either in this country or outside in any other country could have any apprehension of any kind of rigging in the elections that are going to take place in Jammu and Kashmir. I do not see how the present situation obtaining in Jammu and Kashmir can be attributed to any kind of apprehension in any quarters about the rigging of the elections.

The hon. Member has also enquired as to whether any report has been received from the Governor about the political situation there. So far as reports from the Governor are concerned, reports have been received from time to time about the law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir whenever any situation has developed because it is for the Government of India also to lend all assistance which may be necessary to the State Government to maintain the law and order situation, to maintain peace in the

State of Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, the Governor from time to time has been sending reports about the law and order situation to the Ministry of Home Affairs, and a report about all these incidents which have taken place has also been received.

The hon. Member has also enquired, as to whether it would be considered feasible to have a conference of all political parties in Jammu and Kashmir and all political parties in the whole country in order to deal with the situation. So far as this is concerned, it depends on the situation how it develops. It is not one single party which can achieve something in regard to that.

The hon. Member also referred to the code of conduct. I am speaking on the basis of the impressions that I have that perhaps there was an effort to evolve a code of conduct between the various political parties, but perhaps a complete agreement between the various political parties about that was not found possible. If there is a desire among all the political parties about this, then it is open to all the political parties to meet and discuss this matter, but it is not for one political party to do that. And, it is not possible for the Government to arrange for a conference between all political parties to evolve any code of conduct between all political parties.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, after having read the statement made by the hon. Minister, I have a feeling that in the first three-fourths of his statement, he seems to have tried to throw the entire blame for the situation in Jammu and Kashmir on Sheikh Abdullah and the National Conference. The entire tenor is that since Sheikh Abdullah and the into the Valley in April, the clashes began. Universities were raided, girl students were beaten up and other disorders started with the attacks and clashes between Sheikh Abdullah on one hand and Maulvi Farooq on the

other. Even a lady doctor of the Janata Party, Dr. Jagat Mohini sustained serious fractures. The hon. Member has, however, not given any facts about the other side of the picture. Government is expected to give a statement with full facts. I have here with me a report appearing in the *Times of India* today, where Mrs. Abdullah has joined issue, with the Home Minister when he also made a similar reference in electioneering speeches recently in Jammu & Kashmir, she says:

"The Home Minister had gone out of his way to talk of the alleged attack on Janata Party candidate, Dr. Jagat Mohini and even Maulvi Farooq's public meeting in Anantnag, but had not said a word about the burning of the houses of National Conference workers in Awantipura, the murder of a National Conference worker near Narbal."

Now, therefore, it does not appear as if it is one political party which is responsible for creating such a situation in Kashmir.

The hon. Minister also made a reference to the confusion created about Article 370. But there also there is a reference in a news item in the *Hindustan Times* of yesterday which says:

"The Home Minister said that in the morning when the Vice-president of the National Conference, Mirza Afzal Beg and three other leaders of the party had met him, they had assured him that they accepted the accession and had made no speeches criticising it. They also clarified that they had been talking of Art 370 only after a demand had been made by a Janata Party MP...."

And a very prominent MP.

...Mr. Subramaniam Swami asking for its abrogation."

So, the whole mischief began from there when a prominent member, a

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self-declared think-tank, brain-tank, economist and a very big man asked for its abrogation. It goes on saying:

"The National Conference leaders also blamed the workers of the Janata Party for the recent violence."

Now, I would like to know. When you are in charge of Jammu & Kashmir—Governor's rule is there—you cannot say that it is some other government which is in authority there and they are responsible for law and order. How can the government of India absolve itself of their duty and responsibility to protect the lives of the citizens there, to see that law and order is maintained, and to take protective measures? Can you say that the Election Commission is responsible for this because it is the Election Commission which is responsible for conducting the elections in a free and fair manner and, therefore, we are not responsible for this? Can the Government get away by saying this?

The entire tenor of your statement appears to be, what can we do? We are helpless. It is these political forces! I would like to know from the learned Law Minister. Your statement gives an impression of helplessness on your part. There is a failure on the part of the government. While you say that you are responsible for law and order and have the fullest authority, attacks like this are being made, and you try to explain it saying that this was not something internal between Janata Party, it is between two political parties, then it has to be allowed and only if it is internal between the Janata Party, you will be responsible. There is law and order to be maintained. Whichever the political force, any clash which creates a disturbance of law and order must be prevented. That is the duty of

the Government. You have totally failed in discharging this duty. In this statement although you have said that there is no proposal from the State Government, reading between the lines, I have a lurking feeling that a situation is deliberately being created, high-lighted by the hon. Home Minister as we find in this statement that 'the situation is deteriorating fast'. The Home Minister in his statement in Jammu & Kashmir has said and I quote again the *Hindustan Times*:

"The Union Home Minister Shri Charan Singh also remarked at the end of his visit to Srinagar to-day that the law and order situation was worse in Jammu & Kashmir than what it was in other States before the elections there."

So, therefore, what is the picture that emerges from this? On the one hand you are saying that the law and order situation is deteriorating, becoming worse and yet you say "at present there is no proposal. We do not know what the Election Commission will do. It is for the Election Commission to decide."

My fear is that there is something up your sleeves because it is on your recommendation—the Governor's recommendation—that the Election Commissioner will act. He is not responsible for law and order. If there is complete break of law and order situation, what can the Election Commission do? How can he hold the election?

You were saying what can we do. Law and order situation has also become worse. Now it is for the Governor to say what he wants. He has given his factual report. It is for the Election Commission to decide and the Election Commission has taken this decision. This is how you stated in the statement. That is why prominent papers like the *Times of*

India have reports on the front page I quote:

"While there has been some report suggesting postponement of the poll, the Election Commission said, they had received no such proposal."

At present where are you? No proposals are there. But Srinagar Correspondent added:

"Election to Jammu & Kashmir Assembly scheduled to take place between June 30 and July 3 are likely to be postponed."

I cannot attribute irresponsibility to a correspondent of the *Times of India*. There must be some basis. Further, he says:

"A decision to this effect is understood to have been taken during the week end visit of Union Home Minister, Shri Charan Singh to Srinagar."

This is a categorical statement. Further it has been said:

"The Governor Shri L. K. Jha has not so far asked the Election Commission for postponement. But he is likely to do so shortly pending the consent of the Prime Minister."

So your statement 'no proposal has been made' is neither here nor there. I would like to have a categorical statement. I am glad that the hon. Minister Shri Charan Singh is here. I would like a categorical statement that there will be no postponement and you will take care to see that law and order situation does not deteriorate and free and fair election is made possible. You do not make any proposal but ensure that the election is not postponed. If it is postponed, it will be a highly retrograde step for democracy and for this Government. I would like a categorical assurance. I do not mind if it comes from the hon. Law Minister.

SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN: Mr. Sathe has first raised the point that the statement which I have just made creates an impression in his mind that there has been an attempt to cast all responsibility on Sheikh Abdullah for the clashes. Even though it may be Sheikh Abdullah or his party which might or might not have been responsible for some of the clashes, he has made that statement. Now, he has referred to my statement in that connection. I would invite his attention to the last line in the first page of my statement. I have said this:

Various allegations about police and national conference workers having entered the college premises and beaten up girl students and staff were made and are presently under judicial enquiry.

Obviously if certain allegations have been made, those allegations have been supported by concrete material. I have certain photographers here of the serious injuries to certain ladies and girl students etc. who are in hospital. If the hon. Member is anxious he may have a look at that. To his charge that attempt is made to fix the responsibility only on the quarter, on behalf of the Government I would say that that is not correct. It has been said that all facts have not been given. It has been said that a lady Janata candidate Dr. Jagat Mohini sustained serious fractures. Obviously it will not be the Janata workers who will cause a serious fracture on Dr. Jagat Mohini, their own candidate. Now, regarding the allegations and so on, this is a matter for investigation. He said that no reference is made to the Awantipur incident. I have said in my statement as follows:

At one place, Awantipur, an incident of arson also occurred which is under investigation.

So, it has been stated by me that this is being investigated.

Then it has been said that Mrs. Sheikh Abdullah has joined issue with

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the Home Minister. It is always open to Begum Abdullah to join issue with the Home Minister who would be very happy with it. But then, as I said, all these matters will be investigated and conclusions will be arrived at. Whoever is guilty will be punished under the law. Action will be taken against those persons.

The hon. Member quoted from the *Hindustan Times* of 21st June with reference to Article 370. He said that it was only when a member of Parliament of Janata party, Mr. Subramaniam Swamy, asked for abrogation that this campaign in respect of Article 370 was built up; but what I submit with great respect is this. May be a single member or may be one belonging to Janata party might have raised this. But there is democracy in this country and every single member is free to express his views. But it is not the individual member's view, however high or low he may be, which constitutes the policy of the government. It is for the spokesmen of the Government to spell out this policy in regard to Article 370. This has been very clearly spelt out by Cabinet Ministers including even the Home Minister and the Prime Minister. And if that has been done then in that case there was no justification to make a reference to a statement, made, prior to that, by one Member of Parliament even though belonging to the Janata party. If subsequent to that an authorised statement at the level of the Prime Minister has been made then in that case there was no justification to build up any campaign on the basis of Article 370 and to pollute the atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir on that basis and try to ruffle the feelings of the people.

It was also said by the hon. Member: Is it that only when there would be some trouble between the Janata party members *inter se* than only the Government of India protect the lives and if there is trouble between one party and another party then the Government of India will not be in the pic-

ture at all? I would like to submit that the hon. Member has misunderstood what I said. Earlier a question had been posed to me. Is it that the present political situation in Jammu and Kashmir has arisen because of some trouble on account of distribution of tickets? In that connection I said that that was not a fact because then there would be trouble between the different sections of Janata party.

Sir, it was said: Why is it that the Government of India is not accountable if some clashes occur? So far as the constitutional position is concerned I would like, Sir, through you to remind the hon. Member that when the legislative assembly of J & K was dissolved of course, later the legislative assemblies in other States were dissolved too—there was a constitutional distinction between the two cases. So far as other States were concerned, President's rule had been imposed under Article 356 of the Constitution. So far as J & K is concerned, President's rule was never imposed on J&K. It was dissolution by the Governor himself and it was the Governor's rule which has been imposed on Jammu and Kashmir so that Jammu and Kashmir is not being administered by the Government of India, Government of India, therefore, is not responsible for the running of the government in Jammu and Kashmir. At the same time I am saying, whenever any State is being run and the law and order situation is the responsibility of the State Government whatever assistance is required from the Government of India, the Government of India is always willing to give that assistance and my statement said that the Government of India have always been giving that assistance to the Jammu and Kashmir government for solving these problems which have arisen so that an atmosphere of peace may prevail and a completely free and fair election may be the outcome.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Under whose authority does the Governor function?

SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN: The provision is different. That difference in the provision was discussed when the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly was dissolved and the Governor's rule came. There is provision for Governor's rule. It is not the Government of India which runs the administration there unlike in the other States. That is the constitutional position.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: As far as law and order is concerned, what is the sanction of Governor except you?

SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN: If he does not recognise the constitutional position but recognises the extra-constitutional position then the position is different. So far as we on our side are concerned, we only recognise the Constitution and Constitutional authorities, not extra-Constitutional things and extra-Constitutional centres of power.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrack-pore): We are asking who appoints the Governor and who gives him the authority.

SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN: The Governor is appointed by Government. Even the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is appointed by the Government, even the Election Commissioner is appointed by the Government. But does it mean that they cease to be independent authorities just because they are appointed by the Government and therefore the Government will be responsible for whatever judgement may be given by the Chief Justice of the High Court or the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or the Government of India would be responsible for the discharge of the Election Commission's functions? Therefore, what I pointed out was that so far as the postponement of the dates of the poll was concerned, the Government does not come into the picture except in the sense, in the theoretical sense, just as any indi-

vidual citizen, any individual member of the political party, any political party can approach the Election Commission and draw the attention of the Election Commission to a certain fact, it is open to anybody, it is even open to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to approach the Election Commission. But as for the reference which has been made by the hon. Member relying upon certain press reports as if the Home Minister has taken a decision that the Elections in Jammu and Kashmir must be postponed, I wish to make a strong statement on behalf of the Government that this is entirely untrue. The Home Minister has not taken any decision, namely, that the elections in Jammu and Kashmir would be postponed. In fact--I would like to say ultimately that we are extremely hopeful that the elections in Jammu and Kashmir would be held on time (*interruption*) naturally, because I would not like to make a definite statement. The hon. Member wants an assurance from the Government that the elections would be held on time. May I ask the hon. Member, can the Government arrogate to itself the functioning of an independent Constitutional authority, namely, the Election Commission? The law is quite clear on that point. It is only for the Election Commission to fix the dates of the election and to postpone the dates of the election. Who is the Government to give an assurance to anybody or to this House on behalf of the Election Commission? It would be highly improper, I submit, for the Government to extend any kind of assurance. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You kindly give an assurance only on your behalf. Let the Election Commission take care of itself and give us an assurance that you will not recommend to the Election Commission for the postponement, as there is a lurking feeling about the Home Minister's mind.

SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN: Since my esteemed Colleague is present here,

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on my own behalf, on behalf of my esteemed colleague and on behalf of the Government, I give an assurance that the Government would not approach the Election Commission for the postponement of the election. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I hope that that will include the Governor also. I hope that will include Mr. L. K. Jha.

SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN: No, that is for the Governor to do (*Interruptions*). I am not suggesting that the Governor will approach. I should not be taken in that sense. I am speaking only on behalf of the Government of India. I cannot speak on anybody else's behalf because there might have been occasions when somebody might have tried to speak on behalf of everybody. But so far as we are concerned, we cannot speak on behalf of others. I am making a statement on behalf of the Government of India that the Government of India does not want the postponement of elections; the Government of India will not approach Election Commission for the postponement of the elections, and if I may be allowed to say so, I am very hopeful that the election will take place on time. But I am not a sooth-sayer and I do not claim to be an expert in the art of fortune telling, etc., because that is the function of the Election Commission. The law gives the Election Commission all the responsibility to arrange for free and fair election and if at a certain stage some such circumstances arise in which the Election Commission thinks that free and fair election cannot take place, it will be the responsibility of the Election Commission to take an appropriate decision in that regard. But as things stand at the moment, well we are very hopeful that the election will take place on time.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
Can the Governor approach the Election Commission?

SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN: Yes, anybody can approach. Mr. Kamath can approach, Mr. Sathe can approach... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Law Minister, don't fall into the trap of Mr. Kamath. He is an experienced parliamentarian.

SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN: I appreciate the attitude of the members of a party which has been losing election after election that they may not be anxious to face another election very soon. Therefore, it may be quite open to the hon. member, Mr. Sathe, to approach the Election Commission. Nobody can come in his way.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Man-
kar may continue his speech on the budget.

14.47 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 1977-78—GEN-
ERAL DISCUSSION—Contd.

श्री लक्ष्मण राव मानकर उपाध्यक्ष
महोदय, मैं ग्रामीण उद्योगों की बात कर रहा हूँ। केन्द्रीय सरकार ने खादी ग्रामोद्योग मण्डल के लिए भी इसमें 35 करोड़ का प्रावधान किया है। वह प्रावधान कमीशन का है, ऐसा मैं मानता नहीं हूँ। ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में जो एग््रीकल्चर वेस्ट इण्डस्ट्रीज हैं, उनमें जो दिक्कत है, वह शासन के ध्यान में लानी आवश्यक है।

जिसे अनेक वर्षों से हम देश में जो अग्रगण्य फला है, उसका कारण तो अनेक प्रकार के नियंत्रण है। आज भी गांव का कोई तरुण कोई इण्डस्ट्री खोलने की बात करता है तो उसके लिए अनेक नियंत्रण है, इतने परमिट प्राप्त ना होनेवाले चक्कर में उसे जाना पड़ता है कि वह उस कार्य को कर नहीं सकता है। इसलिये ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में जो उद्योग करने वाले हैं या एग््रीकल्चर वेस्ट इण्डस्ट्रीज हैं या फारेन इण्डस्ट्रीज हैं, उनको इन नियंत्रणों से निकालना होगा, तभी गांव का तरुण वहाँ पर आसानी से ठीक प्रकार से अपना उद्योग प्रस्तावित कर सकेगा, इसकी छानबीन करें।