

Loss Sustained by Railways by running Empty Wagons

6967. SHRI B. S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimate has been made as to the loss sustained by the Railways in 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74 by running empty wagons from one area to another; and

(b) reasons for the same and steps taken to avoid such unnecessary expenditure?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Empty haulage of wagons is largely inherent in rail transport. Because of unidirectional nature of the traffic, empty wagons have to be moved to load coal, ores, mineral oil etc. Sometimes empty wagons have to be hauled to load essential commodities like foodgrains, fertilisers and salt. Instructions already exist to back-load inward released wagons to the extent possible.

New Railway Line from Ramnagar to Kathgodam

6968. SHRI B. S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether preliminaries have been completed for laying new lines from Ramnagar to Kathgodam; and

(b) when will the work be started?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) The work of providing broad gauge link to Ramnagar and Kathgodam has been included in the Budget for 1974-75. Preliminary engineering-estm-traffic surveys to find out

the best alternative for providing broad gauge link to Ramnagar and Kathgodam will be taken up shortly. Actual construction will commence after the proposed surveys are completed and the project estimates are approved.

12.10 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED SUICIDE BY AN ASSISTANT STATION DIRECTOR OF THE TELEVISION CENTRE, DELHI

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: (Allahpore): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Reported suicide by an Assistant Station Director of the Television Centre on April 11 1974 who jumped to death from the fourth floor of Akashvani Bhavan, New Delhi."

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): On Thursday, the 11th April 1974, at about 11-30 a.m. Shri J. N. Gaur, an Assistant Station Director, working in the Television Centre, Delhi, fell from his room (No. 410) on the 4th floor of Akashvani Bhavan. He was immediately rushed to the Emergency Ward of Willingdon Hospital where he died soon after. The matter is under investigation by the Police authorities.

Since the matter is under police investigation, it would not be proper for me to make any statement about the circumstances of his death. But I would like to share with the House our deep sense of loss at Shri Gaur's death. He was one of the bright officers in our TV Centre greatly dedicated to his work. His reputation as a programme organiser and Producer was high and we were envisaging a brighter future for him when the new TV Organization comes into existence.

[Shri I. K. Gujral]

Shri Gaur's sudden death has caused deep anguish to all his colleagues and co-workers in the TV Centre. Our hearts go out in sympathy to Mrs. Gaur who is also working in AIR. We are deeply concerned about the family of this dedicated artiste and have decided to offer a job in AIR Shri Gaur's son after he completes his studies.

In remembrance of this dedicated worker we have decided to institute an annual Gaur prize for the best TV documentary which was the field in which Shri Gaur's contribution to TV programmes was most outstanding.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, I was just about to say that we have not come here to hear an obituary reference. After all the anguish which Mr. Gujral feels is an anguish which is shared by all of us and by the people of the country. But, I think the Minister is intelligent enough to know that the only thing which could prompt us to bring this subject as a Calling Attention Motion was our desire to be satisfied that the circumstances leading to this very sad event have nothing to do with the conditions of work obtaining at the TV Centre in general and more particularly the conditions in which Mr. Gaur himself was working specially with reference to the facilities that were available to him, the emoluments which he was drawing, the promotional opportunities which were or were not open to him and to other members of the TV Centre staff the sort of administrative or personnel policies which were followed at the Centre, these are all relevant. Sir, because this House is well aware of the fact that there have been some very sad incidents in the past. Everybody here remembers the sad case of Dr. Visod Shah of the ICAER and the fact that ultimately, an enquiry committee had to be appointed to go into the whole matter. It is not a question of police investigation. Of course, there is one aspect—I do not doubt—which the Police have to enquire into, in the nor-

mal course of things. But the Police are surely not, by any stretch of imagination, the best agency or the most suitable agency to judge whether talented people in this country, whether they be scientists or technical people or artists and such other people are being made to work under conditions which are not conducive to a happy state of mind or to a contented state of mind. Is the police going to investigate into this? No. We are primarily interested in that aspect. Of course, as far as the police investigation goes, certain things have appeared in the press. I have no first hand knowledge about it and I expect the Minister to throw some light on it, if he has the requisite information. If he takes shelter behind the fact that this is a subject matter of police enquiry and, therefore, it is better for him not to say anything, well, I cannot compel him to say that.

For example, in today's papers it is suggested that some notes which he had written are missing.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: His trousers are also missing.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Because he left these notes in the pocket of his trousers, which is missing. The Minister may perhaps say this is something which the police is investigating and trying to find out; I do not know. Naturally, these things are worrying us and troubling us.

Moreover, a story has been put out—I do not know whether in a calculated way or not—over the last few days, suggesting that Mr. Gaur was some sort of a mental case, that he had been under psychiatric treatment for some time and that he was a kind of chronic case of some sort of nervous disorder and all that. I am afraid, we are not very much convinced about it, particularly in view of the fact that Mr. Gaur is quoted in the newspaper today as having denied said that nothing of the kind has

ever been there. If I may just mention the fact as it is quoted here in the newspaper:

(Mrs. Gaur emphatically denied that her husband was undergoing psychiatric treatment or had attempted to commit suicide any time in the past.

Mr. Gaur some times look 'calm-pose' when over worked and tired.."

Many people including perhaps many Members of Parliament at some time or other had been directed by their doctors to take tranquillizers like Calmpose, which is mentioned here, which is a very mild tranquillizer.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The way things are going in the House, we have to take it some times!

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Perhaps the Speaker and the Deputy-Speaker have to resort to Calmpose sometimes; I do not know.

Mrs. Gaur has also been quoted as saying that something must have happened to provoke him to take this drastic step and that was not something connected with his family life or domestic reasons. She has also said that to make any such suggestion would really amount to vilification of the late Mr. Gaur.

It is because of these things that we have raised this question. There are reports, complaints and allegations that all is not well with the set-up of the TV Centre and that there is a great deal of discontentment among the TV staff.

For example, there is a complaint that the emoluments of the TV staff are perhaps less than, or at least not more than, those of the radio staff artistes. I presume I am ignorant about this matter and I would like to be enlightened, it seems from common-sense, that the TV staff artistes, who work on the basis of a higher form of

technology, should be expected to get better emoluments.

Then there is the question of promotional opportunities. There have been complaints about lack of equipment and lack of other technical facilities. There have been complaints about the bureaucratic attitude of some of the high-ups in the TV Centre. I may just mention—if you would permit me to quote, because this is also a newspaper report as we have no other source of information, it says:

"It was alleged that the pressure of work had resulted many tragedies for the TV staffers. There was the case of a projectionist who even when he was seriously ill did not get leave and died after he had a severe attack while on duty."

I do not know whether it is true. The hon. Minister can enlighten us. Then it says:

"There was a compere who could not be given leave to be by the side of her dying daughter and she faced the camera minutes after receiving the news of her death over the telephone. There was a programme executive who died because he was not given leave to go to doctor and was taken to a hospital after having collapsed in the office. There was a staff car driver who burnt himself to death because of the treatment meted out to him by an officer, it was alleged."

These are all allegations. I do not say that they are necessarily inter-connected and all that. Nothing would be farther from my intention than to suggest that. But the fact remains, and it has come to light as a result of adequate enquiries that there are a number of such institutions and government bodies in this country, employing a large number of staff, where the administrative procedure, the personnel policy, the attitude of the high-ups towards staff, the question of emoluments, promotional opportunities, facilities or working conditions has created such a vicious atmosphere. Because, there

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seems to be no doubt that Shri Gaur was certainly under some strain and heavy pressure of work. There are these notes which have been referred to not the ones which are missing along with his trowsers. In one of these notes, he is reported to have written to his immediate superior, Mr. Chawla saying, 'I am very sorry, Mr. Chawla. I cannot cope up with the work.' What does it mean? It means he was under an extra-ordinary pressure or work load which he could not cope with.

These things have all disturbed us very much. I had really expected that the Minister would anticipate the type of questions and the type of anxiety which is troubling us and that he would not come forward only with anguish and sorrow. That is not what we expected from him.

I would like to know from him whether, in view of all these allegations and complaints which are now coming to light and which may have a direct or an indirect bearing on the immediate tragedy of Mr. Gaur which has been brought to the public notice—otherwise, it might not have been brought to the public notice at all—the Government will be agreeable to set up some form of Inquiry a Commission of Inquiry, with some respected public persons in charge to go into the whole set-up and the working of the T.V. Centre, to see whether there are any avoidable strains and stresses to which the staff are being subjected to see whether any injustice is being done to them, to see whether there are any justifiable causes of discontent which may be there, so that the whole thing can be, if necessary, properly re-organised and put on a proper, sound and healthy footing. Also, we may be able to learn from such an Inquiry better than from a police investigation which is going on only in things like, fingerprints, clues, missing trowsers, etc. That is all very well for a criminal investigation. But we are more concerned with human values, not with

the figure-prints on the window sill, and we are more concerned with what are perhaps the indelible marks on the soul and the spirit of the talented people who work under all sorts of constraints and pressures in this country.

I want to know from him whether he will be far-sighted enough to consider the setting up of a proper commission of Inquiry to go into entire working of the T.V. Centre and to see that the staff there and the talented people there are given full scope for working according to their talent and are not subjected to avoidable indignities or to any form of pressure or constraint which may lead to such tragedies as that of Mr. Gaur.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, when I made the statement, I was naturally handicapped by two things. One was that the full facts have not yet come out. That does not mean that I was not willing to share with my hon. friends here the general situation about the working of the T.V. Centre.

One thing my hon. friend will particularly agree with me is that the type of persons who make a success in a medium like T.V. must possess a highly sensitive mind and only then the creativity comes. A creative mind which is very sensitive sometimes. Unfortunately in sad circumstances can over-react. A creative mind also is something different that my mind or the mind of some of our friends here or the mind of a normal person. In this particular case, since Mr. Gaur was one of the very few persons who was a very successful creative artiste, if Mr. Gaur reacted to certain things which a normal person may not react to, it is a sad thing for all of us.

So far as the general situation in the T.V. Centre is concerned, I can say with a degree of satisfaction—I cannot say that working conditions anywhere, in any set-up, are ideal—that here is a new discipline which is coming up, a new set-up which is being set-up. We are trying to choose people,

whether from Delhi or Bombay or elsewhere, who have an extra sense of devotion, an extra sense of dedication and extra sensitivity. These people are trying to build a system within limitations also. We have got equipment which is new. We are importing from time to time from abroad. We cannot really make as much investment in the hardware as we would like to. But even then it would be perhaps, a wrong statement on the part of any paper to say that we are handicapped for want of equipment. We are not; by and large, we are able to meet our needs. After all, we are putting out programmes only for four hours far the time being and the school programme. The type of work which Mr. Gaur was doing and in which he was an extra-specialist was outdoor documentaries. Yesterday I had the misfortune of participating in the condolence meeting where the staff members, his friends and admirers were there. One after another spoke how sensitive he was, how dedicated and how much a lover of work he was. He was one of those persons who would like to do more work; he was one of those very unusual type of people who would take on himself more than what he was called upon to do in the normal routine of things. As I said, we were thinking in terms of having a new set-up of TV system and we were hoping that Mr. Gaur would prosper.

Regarding emoluments, I do not say that the emoluments in our set-up are very ideal; but within the limitations that there are, I am told that Mr. Gaur's last emoluments the basic pay and allowances, were of the order of about Rs. 1100. Mrs. Gaur is also working in All India Radio, on another side, and she is drawing approximately Rs. 800. So, from that point of view, it is not as if there were some hard circumstances. The income of the husband and wife, put together, was of the order of Rs. 2,000. They have only one son. So it is not as if the family burden was very heavy on them..

The promotional opportunities for Mr. Gaur were not bad. Mr. Gaur was

on the radio side. He flowered more when he came on the TV side that is why he was promoted to the Assistant Director level quickly. And every one was happy that a man like him was promoted—those who worked under him, those who worked with him and those under whom he was working. Therefore, although we are sad about this, I would not like you to compare this with what may or may not have happened in I.C.A.R. This is a case entirely different from the other cases that have been referred to. Some notes are missing; certain things are missing. The police will look into those things and will definitely come to conclusions, and when they give their report, I would be very glad to share that with my friends here.

The salaries of people who are working in All India Radio have been a subject of discussion of the Pay Commission recently. I would not say that the recommendations made are very ideal; but, to a considerable extent, they are being improved. I think, now these recommendations are being made applicable to this category of people also. Therefore the conditions, so far as salaries are concerned, will be considerably better.

One of the papers, to which Mr. Indrajit Gupta has drawn my attention, has referred to earlier cases. I think, those cases have been quoted somewhat out of context, and particularly in terms of time they are entirely out of focus. He referred to the case of a Projectionist who died in 1967. This gentleman, Mr. Sadasivam, who died of illness. He was admitted in the hospital and he died there. No allegation has been made, so far as I am aware; I have not been able to trace the file, but so far as I am aware....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The allegation is that he was not given leave.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: So far as records go, this is not borne out by any evidence available to us. There were

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other cases also; for instance, in Aug. 1972 we lost a Programme Executive by name Shri Sahal.

Mr. Sahal came to office in the morning. He was hale and hearty. He worked in the morning. He had his lunch in the afternoon. After lunch he suddenly felt sick. He was taken to the hospital. He had a massive heart attack and he could not survive. These are some of the tragedies which overtake human-beings whether they are working in the All India Radio or whether they are not working in the All India Radio. I think, from these two, to come to certain conclusions may not be right.

Another case has been reported in the Press about a lady who is working in the Radio about the sad incident of her daughter's death. I have looked into this this morning after seeing the paper. What I am told is that she came at 6.30 in the evening to the TV studio. She made an opening announcement and then she received a telephone call that her daughter was not well. She went back but unfortunately, her daughter died. But no such case was made out that she was not treated well and in this particular case, she had some difficulties about her promotion and she had been submitting applications for promotion, etc. But never in the last three to four years, have I ever come across an application from her that she was not treated well in the Department as such.

About the driver's case which has been referred to, I have not been able to trace it. I have asked them to let me know whether any such incident took place.

One thing I can assure my friend, Shri Indrajit Gupta particularly and through you the House, that so far as I am concerned and so far as we are concerned, our Ministry is a very small Ministry compared to other Ministries which are vast and

sprawling. Here, we try to work in an atmosphere where we know more about each other comparatively. Here, we try to work in circumstances, because it is a creative Ministry, more conducive and a more family-like atmosphere has to be created so that creativity takes place. I can assure him that by and large it is a very satisfactory atmosphere. Even two days ago I attended a conference of Programme Executives. No complaint of any of this type was made. Earlier, last week I attended a conference of Staff Artistes. Complaints about more salaries etc. were there. But, by and large, there is a feeling of a family atmosphere, friendship and friendliness. Therefore, the question of there being tensions all around is not there. It is so, fortunately, unless my friend Shri Jyotirmoy Bosa feels unhappy wherever he sees that tensions are not there, because he would like tensions to be there. But, in this organisation he cannot find it.

I can only tell Mr. Indrajit Gupta that again I will definitely look into it further and, if need be, I will go into it deeper and if any amendments are needed, definitely they will be undertaken, because we are very keen that this organization should continue to serve the public better.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Why do you think that a person like Mr. Gaur jumped out of his window?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I cannot hazard a guess because it may go wrong and it is not fair.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Because it will lead to the conclusion that he could not have jumped out of the window? Something must be there. His wife says that something must have provoked him to take a step like that.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: So far nothing has come to our notice.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have put two new questions Let him answer.

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र इन परिस्थितियों में सरकार से आग्रह करूंगा कि जैसा गुप्ता जी ने कहा है कि सरकार एक कमीशन नियुक्त करे और उसके जरिये पता लगाने की कोशिश करे कि किन परिस्थितियों में गोड साहब आत्म हत्या करने को बाध्य हुये उनके साथ क्या कठिनाई थी, क्या परेशानी थी और वह परेशानी उसी दिन की थी या उस के पूर्व की थी। यह इस लिये भी आवश्यक है कि जैसे पहले विनोद शाह की आत्म हत्या हुई, कहीं उसी तरह की घटनाओं की पुनरावृत्ति तो नहीं हो रही है।

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER. Let him answer.

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र हमारे कलाकारों की रक्षा के लिये क्या मंत्रालय इस मुद्दाव को उपयुक्त समझता है कि वह अपने यहां एक सेल की स्थापना करे, जो ऐसे लोगों की मांगा को सुना करे और उन का उचित फॉर्मला किया करे जिस से उन के हृदय पर कोई स्ट्रन न पड़े ..

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER. You have already put two and this will be your third question You cannot go on and on I am not saying that it is not a question.

I am not saying that it is not a question It is a question.

SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Thank you, Sir. I am now concluding.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र इन प्रश्नों को मद्देनजर रखते हुए मैं स्पष्टतः मंत्री महोदय से जोकि बड़े कर्मठ और व्यापक हैं अपेक्षा करता हूँ कि मेरे द्वारा उठाये गए सवाल को सतुलित जवाब देंगे जिससे

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let him answer that also whether he is a defamed person or not.

श्री श्री ० के० गुप्ता जी उपाध्यक्ष जी श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र जी ने कड़ीब कड़ीब बड़ी बातें कही हैं जो श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त जी ने पहले कही थी और जिनका जवाब देने की मैंने कोशिश की। आपने जो सवाल उठाया वह तरक्की के मुताल्लिक था। गोड साहब की तरक्की क्या बात है गोड साहब तो पिछले वर्ष ही असिस्टेंट डायरेक्टर बने थे, २ अप्रैल, १९७३ को। (अध्यक्ष) भ्रान्त इडिया रेडियो में वे टी० वी० की तरफ १९६७ में आये थे और पिछले ६-७ सालों से टी० वी० की तरफ से काम कर रहे थे। इमीनिये उनको जर्मनी भेजा गया था काम सीखने और ट्रेनिंग लेने के लिये जहा से वे लौटकर आये तो उनको इस काम में लगाया गया। इस काम से खूद उनको बहुत तसल्ली थी जो कि न आपन आम साबिया से कहा करते थे कि उनका यह काम बहुत पसन्द है। (अध्यक्ष)

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र आपने नोट में लिखा है

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER I shall frame the two, three or four questions which he has asked. His first question is whether there were contempts in that meeting that took place just before he committed suicide, whether Shri Gaur has submitted a scheme which was cold shouldered by the T.V. Organisation; whether you are going to set up a Cell within the T.V. Organisation to look into the salaries and perquisites of workers there and, fourthly, whether he has repeated the same thing which Shri Gupta asked—you are going to set up an inquiry to go into the whole question.

These are your questions Please do not repeat. You will never be satisfied. How respectful I am in noting down every little thing that you said.

SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: So far as the meeting was concerned, as far as I know, there was no reason for any fension being caused. As a matter of fact, the Station Director of the T.V. was not present in that meeting. There was nobody superior to him present at that meeting. Two persons who were seniormost to him and another person of the same rank who was his close friend whom he had promised that he would go with him for a cup of coffee after the meeting before this unfortunate incident took place, were also present.

So far as any plan for T.V. was concerned, I am not aware of any plan having been submitted by him which might have been accepted or rejected. But, I shall again enquire into this. At the moment, I am not aware of it.

So far as setting up of the Cell is concerned, there is already an inbuilt system where all the complaints, difficulties etc. are looked into. I have not been able to come across even a single note, so far as I have seen the papers, where Shri Gaur should have said anything concerning his own service condition and his own difficulties. He never made any oral representation, so far as I know, either to me or to his superiors which could have been rejected or which could have been accepted.

So far as enquiry is concerned, I have to await, before coming to any decision, the findings of that inquiry.

श्री जगन्नाथराव जोशी (शाजापुर) :

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय श्री जो० ए० गौड़ जैसे बड़े अधिकारी का आकस्मिक अन्त केवल दुख का विषय नहीं है किन्तु सभी इसके बारे में कुछ गंभीर चिन्तन करें ऐसा यह विषय है। जो बातें सभी ने कहीं हैं उनमें मैं बिल्कुल नहीं जाऊंगा मैं केवल एक ही बात पूछना चाहता हूँ कि पुलिस की जो जांच हो रही है वह केवल आत्म हत्या के बारे में होगी परन्तु जिस कारणवश वे आत्म हत्या करने तक आत्मघात करने तक प्रवृत्त हो गए उसमें पुलिस जा नहीं सकती है इसलिये जैसा कि श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त जी ने भी सुझाव दिया है क्या वहाँ की सारी व्यवस्था

की पूरी जांच करने का प्रयत्न सरकार करेगी क्योंकि मंत्री महोदय ने क्रिएटिव आर्टिस्ट्स सृजनशील कलाकार का उल्लेख किया था। जहाँ तक सृजनशील कलाकार का संबंध है वह अपनी प्रतिभा का अविष्कार खुले रूप में करना चाहता है। यदि किसी भी रूप में प्रतिभा का अविष्कार करते हुये उसको बाधाएँ खड़ी की जाती हैं तो उसको वह पसन्द नहीं करता। जैसे गौड़ साहब पश्चिम जर्मनी जाकर वहाँ से प्रशिक्षण पाकर आये थे वैसे ही सबसे पहले इसी दिल्ली के लिए महाराष्ट्र के एक ख्यातिनाम वक्ता, नाटककार, लेखक श्री देश पांडे भी इसी के लिए प्रशिक्षण पाने के लिये इंग्लैंड गए थे। वहाँ से शिक्षण पाकर यहाँ दिल्ली में आये लेकिन यहाँ पर वे रह नहीं सके छोड़कर चले गए। तो आत्महत्या तक करने के लिये क्रिएटिव आर्टिस्ट प्रवृत्त क्यों होता है ये एक साइकलोजिकल प्रश्न है मनोवैज्ञानिक प्रश्न है जिसके अन्दर हमको जाना पड़ेगा। आपने कहा डाक्टर विनोद शाह क. सवाल कहा कि इ के साथ संबंध रखता है किन्तु आखिर इस देश में ऐसे जो परिश्रमी वैज्ञानिक हैं वे आत्मघात करने के लिए प्रवृत्त हो जाते हैं यह चिन्ता का विषय है। एक बात मैं यह मंत्री जी की जानकारी में लाना चाहता हूँ कि न केवल वहाँ अव्यवस्था है कुछ अभाव है कुछ और चीजें भी हैं यही नहीं किन्तु इतने मान काम करने के बाद जब वे इस नतीजे पर पहुँचते हैं कि इससे आगे मार्ग नहीं है शासन वत्र के बारे में सोचने हैं कि हमको न्याय नहीं मिलेगा कुछ ठीक नहीं होगा इस प्रकार जब वे निराश हो जाते हैं तभी आत्मघात करने के लिए प्रवृत्त होते हैं। जब उसको कदम कदम पर घुटन महसूस होती है उसकी प्रतिभा कुंठित की जाती है तभी जाकर यह सारा होता है। इसलिये मैं दो चीज क्रिएटिव आर्टिस्ट के बारे में पूछना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि इसके बारे में सवाल पैदा होता है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि चन्दा कमेटी ने सिफारिश की थी कि सरकार उसको मुक्त करके

[श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी]

स्वतन्त्र रूप में खड़ा कर किन्तु सरकार ने अभी तक उस पर विचार नहीं किया। जहाँ तक आर्टिस्ट का सवाल है वृत्ति जो सरकार है वह तो हर बात के लिये कमिटेड चाहती है।
An artist will never be Committed.
He will be Committed to his art only

वह अपनी कला का प्रविष्कार कैसे करे यह स्वयं देख लेगा। इसलिये वह भी सरकार को बताना चाहता हूँ जब वह इस नतीजे पर पहुँचता है कि अब कोई रास्ता नहीं सब रास्ते बन्द हैं न्याय नहीं मिलेगा कोई जांच नहीं होगी कम से कम इस प्रवृत्ति के बारे में भी सरकार सह्राई से जाकर सीधे विचार करे। श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त जी ने जो सवाल उठाया था उसका उन्होंने पूरा जबाब नहीं दिया इस लिए मैं फिर दोहराना चाहता हूँ कि उसकी पूरी जांच की जाये ताकि व्यवस्था ठीक ढंग से रहे और धाये चल कर ऐसी घटना न हो।

श्री आई० के० गुजराल : जोशी जी ने दो बातों को मिलाने की कोशिश की है—क्रिएटिव आर्टिस्ट्स और फिर सरकार की नीतियां। अच्छा होता आज हम मौके पर पर कम से कम हम सरकार की और बातों के मुतालिक न कहते तो आज की बहस कुछ और शकल ले लेती। (ध्वजघान)

श्री इषामनंदन मिश्र (बेगुसराय) : आप सबसे बड़े क्रिएटिव व्यक्ति है।

श्री आई० के० गुजराल : मिश्रा जी मैं और मुझ में एक बीज साझी है कि हम दोनों क्रिएटिव आर्टिस्ट हैं हम खबरों को क्रिएट करते हैं। (ध्वजघान) लेकिन यहाँ जोशी जी ने क्रिएटिव आर्टिस्ट के बारे में जो बताया वह बहुत हद तक ठीक है क्योंकि क्रिएटिव आर्टिस्ट का मन सेंसिटिव होता है। लेकिन दो बातों का ध्यान रखना चाहिए। क्रिएटिव आर्टिस्ट दो तरह के होते हैं एक तो वे जो ऐसे काम करते हैं जो व्यक्तिगत होते हैं कोई अपने कमरे में बैठ कर पेंटिंग करता है कोई अपने कमरे में

बैठकर किताब लिखता है या कविता लिखता है लेकिन एक दूसरी तरह का क्रिएटिव वर्क होता है जिसमें दूसरों के साथ सहयोग ने काम करना होता है चाहे थिएटर की बात हो टी० वी० के प्रोग्राम की बात हो या फिल्म बनाने की बात हो उसमें बैन देना चलता है और जब बैन-देना चलता है तो उसमें कुछ बैना होता है और कुछ देना होता है। कई लोग उस फ्रेम के बाहर निकल जाते हैं कई लोग छोड़ जाते हैं देशपांडे जी जैसे या जैसे रविशंकर जी रेडियो में धाये और नहीं चले।

कई लोग फिल्म में आते हैं, लेकिन बाहर चले जाते हैं। मुझे उन से कोई शिकायत नहीं है। नहीं यह कहना है कि जो सिस्टम सरकार चलाती है, या जो लोक अपना जाती काम करते हैं गलत काम करते हैं। लेकिन जरूर इस देश में ऐसा माहौल पैदा होना चाहिए कि क्रिएटिव आर्टिस्ट को मौका मिले अपनी पूरी क्रिएटिविटी को लोगों के सामने लाने का। इसलिये एजस्टमेंट की खास बात है। टी० वी० सिस्टम जो नया नया आपके सामने लाने की कोशिश कर रहा है वह सही है कि इसको अटोनामस कर डालें। इसको अटोनामस कर डालेंगे तो सरकार के बहुत से रून्स अलग हो जायेंगे लेकिन फिर भी जब तक समाज के अन्दर एक आर्टिस्ट को रहना पड़ता है तो कुछ न कुछ बैन देना करना ही पड़ता है कुछ न कुछ जहनी बोल उठाना ही पड़ता है।

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): The hon. Minister has already clarified that Shri Gaur was not a patient of any mental disorder either now or before....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We are not sure about 'now'. I think he means 'before his death'.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: By 'now' I meant 'at the time of the death'.

PROF. MADHU DANBAVATE (Rajapur): Now, he is suffering from nothing.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Now, he is at peace.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I hope so. Now, the question that arises is this. Why should a creative artiste like him be forced to take this extreme step? I would like to refer to the very touching note which he had sent to his wife where he had said 'Hope, darling, if summer is so bad for me, how bad will winter be for you?'

Has the hon. Minister tried to find out what interpretation 'Hope' has to give about this note sent to her? Why was he feeling that summer was so bad? As a creative artiste, I believe he meant this as a poetic reference and not a literal reference to the summer which we are seeing:

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It sounds very poetic.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The creative artiste that he was, that is the only way in which we can look at it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Could it be the other way round as Shelley has put it:

"If winter comes, can spring be far behind?"?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: In that theme this seems to have been written, it shows what concern he must have been having for his family also. The hon. Minister had said that he was getting Rs. 1100 and his wife was getting Rs. 800 and that seemed to be all right. I feel sorry at that. Here was a creative artist doing work in TV where he had to do films and documentaries; the normal comparison should have been with an artist like him in other countries or even in the film industry. Does the hon. Minister think that Rs. 1100 which a senior stenographer would draw these days is the pay that he should pay to an artist, an Assistant Station Director who was producing, as the hon. Minister himself had said, such marvellous creative documentaries and other films....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Even an MP gets more.

**SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN (Kan-
gra):** An MP gets less.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I would like to know from the hon. Minister how he is going to reorganise the TV centre which is different from AIR. The hon. Minister has stated that he has an idea of reorganising it. Is he going to have sufficient funds for the reorganisation and put it on a proper footing?

I am told that the TV equipment is not up to date. I am also told that the staff is not adequate. Here also there is the domination of the bureaucracy. There is a report that the hon. Minister inaugurated a convention and one of the resolutions adopted at the convention had demanded an end to the practice of deputing AIS officers to the posts of Deputy Director-General (Administration) and Director-General. This is surprising. Do you have this pernicious practice of sending IAS people even to the Radio and TV? Are you going to stop it or not? Please intervene and see that at least in this sphere we have professional men. Are you going to consider this aspect?

These are the basic questions that arise in the context of the very tragic death of a great artist.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: When I mentioned about the salary, perhaps my hon. friend did not get me aright. I have not said that this was a very satisfactory salary. I only said that between husband and wife they were earning about Rs. 2,000 and this did not seem to be something to cause a strain on his mind which could push him to this very sad situation.

I do know that the salaries for artists working in the governmental set-up cannot compare with those of people who work outside. But may I say this? One of the newspapers has written that we pay fabulously to those who come from outside for doing

I. K. Gujral]

TV documentaries. This is not correct. The amount we pay for a TV documentary varies from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 3,000. So it is not as if the comparison is that remote, that persons working here get far lesser amounts. Not that I am pleading that what they are getting is all right. I am particularly keen that my hon. colleague, the hon. Finance Minister should help us in this matter (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Do you not think that there should be some parallel between an IAS officer's salary and that of an officer of the same rank here?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: This is a discussion which has to be held with somebody else. I am not the deciding authority as to what should be the salary.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Can you get more funds so that you can do justice to your staff?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul): Is there resentment against the IAS officers in your Ministry?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: We have got only two IAS officers in the whole AIR set-up, the Director General and the Deputy Director-General (Administration). So far as TV is concerned, the Deputy Director General in charge of it is a professional person. All the professional jobs are being held by Deputy Director-General who are professionals. Only the Deputy-Director General (Administration) is an IAS officer. He was inducted in very sad circumstances, some years ago. You know the AIR has different disciplines, engineers, staff artists programme executives and so on. Each one of them felt that if a Deputy-Director General in charge of Administration was appointed from one of these disciplines, he would not do justice to the other disciplines. It was because of this mutual sort of suspicion that way back in the 60's Government decided to have the Deputy Director General

(Administration) from service outside. That was why he was inducted. But if mutual friendliness increases—it seems to be increasing—I will be very glad to readjust on that account.

So far as professionalism is concerned, I am all for it because I do feel that professional services like AIR must be definitely and totally professionalised. This was the line I took when I attended their conference. In the presidential address when they put across the idea that we should have only professional people and also the idea that we should have a more autonomous set-up, I said they were having plagiarist thoughts because I was thinking on the same lines. I am going to enforce this and push it through. I will consider myself lucky if within my tenure in this Ministry we are in a position to reorganise the Radio and TV both on more autonomous lines, which I am taking steps to do.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What about equipment?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: When Shri Indrajit Gupta was asking about it, I had said and I repeat, that I do not have reason to feel that the equipment we have is in any way sub-standard. Recently we have imported some equipment. Our difficulty is not in regard to equipment but in regard to studios because we are working in improvised studios. Fortunately, in this Plan we have been sanctioned a new studio in Mandi House, the design for which has already been approved, and steps are being taken thereon.

12.59 hrs.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

ALLEGED MISLEADING INFORMATION GIVEN BY THE MINISTER

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): I thank you for giving your consent to raise a question involving a serious breach of privilege