

[Secretary]

March, 1969, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

the current session and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 18th February, 1969.

12.48 hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILL

SECRETARY : Sir, I also lay on the Table the Public Employment (Requirement as to Residence) Amendment Bill, 1969 passed by the Houses of Parliament during

MR. SPEAKER: The committee on Absence of Members from the Sitting of the House in their Ninth Report have recommended that leave of absence to be granted to the following members for the periods indicated in the Report as under.

(1) Shri Erasmo de Sequeira	11th November to 20th December, 1968 (Sixth Session).
(2) Shrimati Vijaya Raje	11th November to 20th December, 1968 (Sixth Session).
(3) Shri V. Y. Tamaskar	11th November to 20th December, 1968 (Sixth Session).
(4) Shri Abdul Ghani Dar	19th February to 14th March, 1969 (Seventh Session).
(5) Maulana Ishaq Sambhali	19th February to 15th March, 1969 (Seventh Session).
(6) Shri Mohammad Yusuf	19th February to 11th March, 1969 (Seventh Session).
(7) Shri Ram Sewak Yadav	17th February to 16th April, 1969 (Seventh Session).
(8) Maharani Vijayamala Rajaram Chhatrapati Bhonsale	17th February for 18th March, 1969 (Seventh Session).
(9) Shri Mahadevappa Rampure	19th February to 1st April, 1969 (Seventh Session).
(10) Shri Piloo Mody	25th February to 28th March, 1969 (Seventh Session).
(11) Shri Pashabhai Patel	17th February to 22nd March, 1969 (Seventh Session).

I take it that the House agrees with the recommendations of the Committee.

12.49 hrs.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS UNDER DIRECTION 115 AND MINISTERS REPLY THERETO

MR. SPEAKER : The members will be informed accordingly.

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR (Palghat) : Mr. Speaker Sir, during the question Hour on

5th Augst, 1968 while replying to my question regarding the grievances of Harijans in Andhra, the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare Mr. J. B. Muthyal Rao made a remark that some State Governments like Kerala were misusing the funds allotted for Harijan welfare. The Dy. Minister made reference particularly against Kerala Government. I protested against the Minister's remark. Hon'ble Members Messrs. A.B. Vajpayee, H. N. Mukherjee and A. Sridharan also protested against the remarks made by the Deputy Minister and some members demanded the withdrawal of the remark on the floor.

Sir, you intervened in the proceedings and appealed to the Cabinet Minister to collect the information and place it before the House.

Even after three months neither Senior Minister nor the Deputy Minister revealed the facts before the House and not acted according to the speaker's request.

On August 12, 1968, Harijan Department of the Kerala Government issued the following Press release :

"The statement of Shri Muthyal Rao, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, in Parliament in an answer to a question from Shri E. K. Nayanar, M.P., that the Kerala Government are misusing the funds earmarked for Harijan Welfare activities is absolutely false and baseless. It may be pointed out that the Harijan welfare schemes whether plan or non-plan are implemented by the State government through the Harijan welfare department on the basis of definite rules and regulations issued for implementation of such schemes. As far as Government of India's assistance is concerned periodical returns are also sent to the Government of India as required by them. The accounts of the department are subjected to independent audit by the Accountant General."

Again this issue came up before the floor of the Parliament on 12th December, 1968,

Here I would like to recall the proceedings of the House on that particular day, extracts of which are given below and which will throw ample light on the subject :

"SHRI E. K. NAYANAR : In the last session, the Hon'ble Minister Shri Muthyal Rao accused the Kerala Government that it did not spend the money allotted to the Scheduled Castes. The speaker assured us that the Minister would enquire from Kerala Government and get the information and place it before the Actually the Parliament...Kerala Government help the Scheduled castes and Scheduled ment needs more money to Tribes. May I know whether the hon'ble Minister will give a reply to Parliament regarding his accusation against Kerala Government in the last session of Parliament misleading the Parliament ?

"SHRI MUTHYAL RAO : We have received a lot of complaints from the public of Kerala. We will come with specific proposals and I will show that the Kerala Government is misusing the funds.

"MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is a serious matter. He has made an accusation and the Speaker has directed him to make enquiries and either substantiate or withdraw it.

"SHRI MUTHYAL RAO : It will be done.

"DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has accepted, he will enquire.

"DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : In about a month's time, it will be done.

"SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDI : .. Before we adjourn we would like to have a statement from the Government whether the accusation was correct and if it is not correct he should tender an apology."

A statement in this respect before adjourning that session was also demanded by Messrs. R. Umanath and Vasudevan Nair.

Even the Law Minister Shri Govinda Menon said during the debate as under ;

[Shri E. K. Nayanar]

"It is upto the Government to come before the House and either withdraw the statement or to substantiate it."

From the authentic figures of Kerala Government it is evident that the United Front Government spent half a lakh rupees more for the uplift of the Harijans than the anticipated budget estimates of Rs. 2,68,26,500/-in the year 1967-68 in Kerala.

The above facts clearly deny the charges voiced by the Deputy Minister against the Kerala United Front Government. As such he misled the whole House by giving repeatedly inaccurate charges against the Kerala Government.

I received a reply from the Deputy Minister on 25th February in which he has directed my attention to the Starred Question No. 75 answered on the 20th February. He maintains that the answer to the above Starred Question does reply to the various points raised in my statement cited above.

In fact, however, the points raised in my statement still remain unanswered. A perusal of the answer to the Starred Question will reveal this thing clearly.

None of the six points substantiate or indicate any sort of misuse of the funds allotted to the Kerala State Social Welfare Department. These points relate to some of the doings of the previous government and it has nothing to do with the present United Front Government of Kerala. What the Deputy Minister alleged on the floor of the House is that the present United Front Government has misused these funds, as can be seen from the proceedings of the Lok Sabha on 5.8.1968 and 12.8.68 when, in reply to me, he stated :

On 5.8.68 Shri Muthyal Rao stated like this "There is a certain amount of money being mis-used; for example, his own government in Kerala and some of the State Governments are misusing the amount."

On 12th December, he stated again as under;

"We have received a lot of complaints from the public of Kerala. We will come with specific proposals and I will show that the Kerala Government is misusing the funds".

The above two excerpts from the proceedings of the Lok Sabha amply prove that the Deputy Minister accused the present Kerala United Front Government of misusing the funds, when he used the words such as "His own government" and "Kerala government is misusing the funds."

My appeal that the Deputy Minister should either tender his apology or substantiate the allegation which he had levelled against the present Kerala United Front government still remains valid.

It is under these circumstances that I again appeal to the Hon'ble Speaker to instruct the Deputy Minister either to sufficiently substantiate his unfounded allegation or to withdraw his allegation and tender an apology before the House.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN (Badagara) : The Deputy Minister is not even present. He should have been.

AN HON. MEMBER : He is very much present.

SHRI P. GOPALAN (Tellichery) : The Deputy Minister should give the explanation not the Minister.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI GOVINDA MENON) : I have been directed by you to make the explanation. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the suggestion of the hon. Member that while making his reference to the misuse of funds, the Deputy Minister had specifically in mind the present Government of Kerala is not correct.

SHRI P. GOPALAN : Why is it not correct ?

SHRI GOVINDA MENON : Because I think it is not correct. The normal mean-

ing of the words "your own government of Kerala" is "the government of your own State of Kerala". The reference, therefore was to Kerala as the State to which the hon. Member belonged, and not to the fact that the Government of Kerala was a United Front Government. In fact that word was not used. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : It is very improper. During the discussion, a specific allegation was made by the Minister that it was the existing Government of Kerala.

SHRI GOVINDA MENON : The hon. Member has tacitly accepted the fact that there has been misuse of funds allotted for the welfare of Backward Classes in Kerala. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR : I deny that charge.

SHRI GOVINDA MENON : The hon. Member has tacitly accepted the fact that there has been misuse of funds allotted for the welfare of Backward Classes in Kerala. (*Interruptions*) The hon. Member has tacitly accepted the fact that there has been misuse of funds allotted for the welfare of Backward Classes in Kerala.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : We do not accept it.

SHRI GOVINDA MENON : It is in the statement.

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. I will ask him to lay it on the Table of the House if you do not want to hear.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : He can correct himself; that must have been the impression that he has borne in mind, that he has tacitly accepted it. But when the hon. Member protests and say "I have not said it", he can correct himself. (*Interruption*)

SHRI GOVINDA MENON : He has to wait till the next sentence. His only objection is that this misuse has not occurred during the time his party was in power in

the State but, as already explained there was no intention of calling to question the acts of any particular party. In the statement read, he said all that has occurred long ago.

MR. SPEAKER : Not after the United Front Government came into office, but before that.

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR : Before also. I deny that charge. Even in 1961, it happened. (*Interruption*)

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : We have to make a submission, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing. The hon. Minister is reading his statement. I will ask him to lay it on the Table if you do not want to hear him.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : He is making an allegation. I want your protection.

MR. SPEAKER : You do not need any protection for this.

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR : I must make my submission.

MR. SPEAKER : Your statement was heard with rapt attention. And now he says it is not your Government but the earlier Government.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : Let him prove which part of the statement refers to that. (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : If they are not anxious to hear it, you can place it on the Table of the House.

SHRI GOVINDA MENON : Yes, Sir. I lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : The statement is laid on the Table of the House. Several Hon. Members rose.

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. May I request you, may I appeal to you to sit down now ?

STATEMENT

The suggestion of the Hon'ble Member that while making his reference to the misuse of funds, the Deputy Minister had specifically in mind the present Government of Kerala is not correct. The normal meaning of the words "your own government of Kerala" is "the government of your own state of Kerala". The reference, therefore, was to Kerala as the state to which the Hon'ble Member belonged, and not to the fact that the Government of Kerala was a United Front Government.

The Hon'ble Member has tacitly accepted the fact that there has been misuse of funds allotted for the welfare of Backward Classes in Kerala. His only objection is that this misuse has not occurred during the time his party was in power in the State but as already explained there was no intention of calling to question the acts of any particular party.

But while these irregularities may have begun under previous regime succeeding Government have also the duty to rectify the defects. For example, the deposits in favour of beneficiaries of housing and Co-operative schemes were *bona fide* at the time they were made, and could be assumed to be so for a reasonable period thereafter. As many of the beneficiaries originally listed are no longer traceable and the fact that the societies in whose favour these deposits have been made have ceased to be active for many years, it is the responsibility of the present government to see that the deposits are not retained and the share of the Central Government in these deposits refunded or applied for a better purpose in consultation with the Central Government.

The following specific information has also reached the Government of India:—

(a) Out of 330 Harijan cooperatives financially assisted and registered by the State Government, as many as 188 are completely dormant for many years.

(b) As on 30. 6. 1968 a sum of Rs. 4,54,000 was lying idle with district co-operative banks towards un-utilised working

capital grants of as many as 146 Harijan cooperative societies.

Again, assets including 19 vehicles, several buildings and items of equipment which were financed through the Central Social Welfare Board of the Government of India have been unilaterally taken over by the Government of Kerala with effect from 1. 8. 1968. These assets are not being utilised for welfare activities for which they were created and grants released.

From what I have said it is clear that there has been misuse of funds. There has been no intention to malign any particular government or party in power and the Hon'ble Member's apprehension with a particular reference to the present United Front Government in Kerala was intended is unfounded. In the circumstances, there is no reason to withdraw the statement made.

12. 58 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THIRTY SECOND REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH):
Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 20th March, 1969."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 20th March, 1969."

The motion was adopted.

RE: CALLING ATTENTION
NOTICES ETC.

MR. SPEAKER : Before I go to the next item—Appropriation (Railways) Bill