

NOTIFICATION *re*: DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES IN J. & K.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI GOVINDA MENON): On behalf of Shri M. Yunus Saleem, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. S. O. 827 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 1970 making certain amendments in Schedule VI to the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1966 in respect of Jammu and Kashmir, under sub-section (2) of section 9 of the Representation of the People Act 1950. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3124/70.]

13.38 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

NINETY-SECOND REPORT

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (बलरामपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्रिमण्डल सचिवालय (भारतीय सांख्यिकी संस्थान) से सम्बद्ध प्रतिवेदन (सिविल), 1968 के बारे में लोक लेखा समिति के 59 वें प्रतिवेदन में दर्ज सिफारिशों पर सरकार द्वारा की गई कार्यवाही के बारे में समिति का 92 वां प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत करता हूँ।

13.39 hrs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MEMBER

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH (Buxar): My attention has been drawn to a radio-talk by Shri P. Tharyan, Assistant Editor, National Herald, on the All India Radio on 4th November, 1969, making certain aspersions on me and the Congress Working Committee of the Indian National Congress of which I am a member.

As regards myself, the broadcast says "if he was opposed to India's participation in the Rabat Conference, why did he not express his resentment when the Union Cabinet decided to send a delegation to Rabat."

That fact is that the matter of sending any delegation to Rabat never came before the Cabinet meeting. So, the question of expressing my resentment

did not arise. The Minister for Information & Broadcasting is himself a Cabinet Minister. I would like him—I would rather challenge him and the Prime Minister—to prove that the delegation was sent after consulting the Cabinet. This being the fact I fail to understand why this broadcast was allowed by his Ministry to be made on the All India Radio on 4th November, 1969, whose script has been placed on the table of the House in reply to Unstarred Question No. 703 dated 26th February, 1970 in the name of Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting.

The aspersion cast on the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress, of which I happen to be a Member, is equally baseless.

The accommodation of such a tendentious broadcast in the programmes indicates that the All India Radio is being mis-utilised by the Government for carrying on baseless propaganda against its political opponents. I deprecate this activity of this Ministry and the All India Radio.

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA (Barh): And demand an independent corporation for All India Radio.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): The talk to which the Leader of the Opposition has made a reference was broadcast in the 'Spotlight' programme of All India Radio on 4th November, 1969. As the House is aware, the 'Spotlight' programme of All India Radio is a forum where controversial issues of the day are discussed. For this purpose AIR invites well known journalists to speak on those issues. The views expressed in a particular talk are those of the author and not of the Government or of All India Radio. When controversial subjects are discussed an attempt is made to project different points of view. (Interruption)

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: This is a white lie. Why it was allowed to be broadcast? It is because Government wants to defame us by spreading lies. The Cabinet Ministers are there, Sardar Swaran Singh, Mr. Menon, Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha—let them say whether any Cabinet meeting was held

for sending delegation to Rabat. The broadcast by the Asst. Editor of National Herald was purposely done. The Prime Minister has collected Rs. 50 lakhs from the capitalists of this country for this paper of the Prime Minister. A big mansion has been raised here for National Herald and the Editor and the Asst. Editor of National Herald are being invited by the A. I. R. The broadcast is not controversial, he says; it is white lie.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I can prove it.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: You are a liar. You are misutilising the All-India Radio for the sake of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister and you have collected money from the capitalists for National Herald which employs such journalists. What you do with All-India Radio, I know. You are using it for your own ends. It has become All-India Radio.

अव्यक्त महोदय : आपस में इस तरह से बर्मी नही दिखानी चाहिये ।

You may lay it on the Table.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I would like to read it. Sir, since they have raised the question. On several occasions, Government's policies too have been criticised in these talks. Subject to the observance of AIR code, the persons invited to talk on a particular subject is free to express his views.

In this case the subject of the talk was Congress Constitution. It contained an analysis of relevant provisions of Congress Partys Constitution in the light of the controversy then obtaining between the two wings of the Congress. It may well be that one point of view was expressed in this talk. But the other points of view were also given subsequently in discussion programmes on 16th November and 23rd November, 1969. The subject of these discussions were 'The divided congress' and 'The requisitioned AICC sessions'. In these two discussions, points of view critical of the ruling congress party were freely expressed.

On the question of Dr. Ram Subhag Singh's stand on India's participation in Rabat conference the author was obviously giving his analysis on the basis of the correspondence between

the Prime Minister and Dr. Ram Subhag Singh which had been published in the Press that morning.

The talk represented the views of the script-writer and it would not be correct to infer that the Government was using All India Radio for propaganda against its political opponents.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: You may ask the Cabinet Minister who is here whether any mention was made whether at all there was any discussion in the matter whether any delegation should be sent to Rabat or not. Without consulting Cabinet this deleaigaon was sent. (*Interruption*).

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINGHA: The point of fact has to be guarded and it is the duty of the All India Radio to guard the accuracy of the factual information. Otherwise anybody can broadcast any information which is not a fact.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Thirumala Rao. Item No. 9.

13.44 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(i) ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

SHRI THIRUMALA RAO (Kakinada): I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committees on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1970 and ending on the 30th April, 1971."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1970 and ending on the 30th April, 1971."

The motion was adopted.