

12.22 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCEArrest of an IAF employee in con-
nection with espionage

श्री एस० एम० जोशी (पूना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के निम्नलिखित विषय का श्री गृह-कार्य मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वे इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें :

“जानूसा के विनसिले में भारतवा वायुसेना के एक कर्मचारी की निरपहारी जिनके कारण हाल ही में पाकिस्तान उच्चयोग के एक कर्तव्य को निलाल दिया गया।”

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Y. B. Chavan): Sir, an airman of the Indian Air Force was apprehended on 16th July, 1967, while he was passing some documents containing official secrets to one Sabir Ali Shah, an official of the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi. A case under section 3 of the Official Secrets Act was immediately registered. On the 19th July, 1967, the Ministry of External Affairs lodged a protest with the Pakistan High Commission against the abuse of the immunity granted to a member of the High Commission which was a serious violation of international practice and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. It was demanded that the said Sabir Ali Shah should leave Indian territory within 48 hours. He left India on the 20th. In the course of investigations into the alleged offences another airman of the Indian Air Force was arrested on 21st July. The investigation is being pursued. In the interest of investigation I would request the honourable members not to press me to disclose any further details.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतला सकते हैं कि यह मामला

सिर्फ एक व्यक्तिगत है या इसके पीछे कोई गुट है जो इन कुकर्मों को चला रहा है और पाकिस्तान की ओर से जो जवाब आप के पास आया हुआ है इस मामले को लेकर वह तसल्लीबख्त है, अगर नहीं है तो इस खतरे से बचने के लिए आप ने क्या प्रबन्ध किया है जब हमें पता है कि पाकिस्तान और चीनी हुकूमत की सांठगांठ है तब क्या हम ने चीनी दूतावास से होने वाली जासूसी को रोकने के लिए जो बंदोबस्त किया है और जो कदम उठाये हैं वहीं कदम क्या पाकिस्तान के बारे में भी हम उठाने जा रहे हैं ?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: The hon. Member first asked me whether there was only an individual involved or there was some sort of conspiracy involved in this. The investigation is on, and as a result of it one more airman was also arrested. I do not think I can disclose any further information on that because that would have to be found out. The other point that he has raised is a very important one, namely what we are doing to prevent such things and whether we are taking the same steps regarding espionage by China. As regards China, we have taken steps. I think we have arrangements for finding out espionage activities by every country and not only by Pakistan and China, but naturally we shall have to be more particular about the activities of these two countries. It is as a result of those arrangements that we could find out this particular espionage activity.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): It appears that previously also some air force officers were involved in cases of espionage. Apart from that, we find that the number of espionage cases has considerably increased with that of Mohit Chowdhury and Sunil Das who have not been punished yet. Is it a fact that after their release from custody, one of these two, at least Mohit Chowdhury, was in Delhi and was connected with the passing on of some documents to the Pakistan High Commission?

Mr. Speaker: This is about IAF employees.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It is a spy ring operating and cases are on the increase. Mohit Chowdhury, Sunil Das and some others are connected with it. This has given an impetus to the saboteurs. So I would like to know whether this has any connection with the ring which is working, including Mohit Chowdhury and Sunil Das.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: As far as the first part is concerned, I have said the matter is under investigation and I cannot say yes or no at this stage.

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंबई) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, कुछ दिन पहले अखबारों में यह समाचार छपा था कि जिन तरह हिन्दुस्तान की हवाई सेना के एक कर्मचारी को गिरफ्तार किया गया उसी तरह एक प्लाइट साजेंट और कारपोरल को भी गिरफ्तार किया गया था। ऐसे समाचार अखबारों में आये थे। अध्यक्ष महोदय, पिछले कुछ वर्षों में बहुत सारे महत्वपूर्ण दस्तावेज विदेशियों के हाथ में, पाकिस्तान के हाथ में चले गये। एक केस तो फरवका बराज के किसी भूतपूर्व चीफ इंजीनियर के खिलाफ चालू होने वाला है। उसी तरह कच्छ सम्बन्धी कागजातों का भी मैंने उल्लेख किया था। आज इस बात को लेकर हम को चिन्ता है कि दो साल पहले जब पाकिस्तान का आक्रमण हुआ था तो हिन्दुस्तान का बचाव करने में सब से बड़ा रोल हमारी हवाई सेना ने भूटा किया था। अब इजरायल लड़ाई के बाद अचानक हवाई हमले का खतरा और ऐसा हमला करने का प्रलोभन इतना ज्यादा बढ़ गया है कि अगर यह जासूसी की बीमारी हमारी हवाई सेना में आ जाती है तो फिर बहुत ही एक गम्भीर हालत पैदा होगी। इसलिए अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जासूसी के जो प्रकार बढ़ते जा रहे हैं उनको रोकने के लिए और ख़ास करके

हवाई सेना का शुद्धिकरण करने के लिए, जिससे यह बीमारी उसमें न आये क्योंकि वह अकेला हमारा अचानक हमले के खिलाफ़ छत्र है। हो सकता है इस साल में या नजदीक में पाकिस्तान और चीन मिल कर हमारे ऊपर पहले हवाई हमला और बाद में फौजी हमला कर सकते हैं। इसलिए मेरी जो चिन्ता है, सारे सदन की चिन्ता है, तो उसके बारे में अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या मंत्री महोदय खुलासा करेंगे ?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I fully share the anxiety of the hon. Member because any espionage activity in the Air Force or any important service headquarters is something very dangerous to the security of the country. It is for that reason that from the very beginning certain steps have been taken. But it seems they are not enough because things are found out again. So in consultation with the Defence Ministry, we are further tightening up these security arrangements in this matter. That is all I can say at the moment. But I fully share his anxiety.

Mr. Speaker: He is aware of it.

Shri Samar Guha (Contai): On a point of order. I did not raise this earlier so as not to cause discomfiture to my hon. friends. I had tabled a calling attention notice almost of the same nature a day earlier than the one which has been admitted for today. But my calling attention notice was disallowed, while this has been admitted.

Mr. Speaker: He cannot discuss that on the floor of the House.

Shri Samar Guha: I want to know what is the rule. My calling attention notice was disallowed...

Mr. Speaker: If I allow him, I will have to allow ten minutes and other members may also want to make their submissions.

Shri Samar Guha: I want your clarification.

Mr. Speaker: There is no point of order. What I have not admitted can be discussed only inside, not here.

12.30 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. PRINTING OF
MADHYA PRADESH BUDGET

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Y. B. Chavan): On 28th July certain questions were raised about the printing of the Madhya Pradesh budget. When I said I had no information, you directed me to get the information from Madhya Pradesh and give that information to the House. That very day I sent a wireless message. In reply to that I got a wireless message on the 29th which I have already conveyed to the Lok Sabha Secretariat. I would like to lay that wireless message on the Table of the House. If the hon. members want me to read the message....

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: It reads:

"Reference your wireless message No. 14459/67-JS(P) of 28th July, 1967 to Chief Secretary regarding adjournment motion about printing of budget literature of Madhya Pradesh. Facts are as follows:—

1. Interim budget 1967-68 of Madhya Pradesh was presented to Vidhan Sabha in March 1967 and vote on account for four months from April to July was obtained. On third July a revised budget of 1967-68 was presented to budget session of Vidhan Sabha which was prorogued on twentieth July while demands on education department were under discussion.

2. As no indication was available regarding the date on which the Vidhan Sabha would meet again and there was uncertainty regarding passage of budget be-

fore thirty-first July, the State administration had to take preliminary steps to meet various contingencies that might arise. These contingencies and the steps taken in regard thereto were.

- (i) after the Vidhan Sabha was resummoned the demands for grants might be voted and the appropriation bill for 1967-68 passed. So the appropriation Bill was prepared and sent to Vidhan Sabha after obtaining Governor's approval.
- (ii) If, after the Vidhan Sabha was resummoned, any of the demands for grants was not voted, the present Government might have to resign and another Government could take its place. In that event the new Government might not like to proceed with the passage of the full year's budget but might take another vote on account for one month till a modified budget was presented to and passed by Vidhan Sabha. For this contingency comma a document for obtaining vote on account from Vidhan Sabha for the month of August was printed and kept ready.
- (iii) The third possibility was issue of a proclamation under article 356 of the Constitution imposing President's rule in the State. If this contingency arose, it would become necessary to present the State budget in Parliament. As it would not be possible to get the full budget passed before thirty-first July, a vote on account for one month would have to be obtained. For this purpose, the budget presented to the Vidhan Sabha was reprinted with suitable modifications incidental to its presentation to Parliament. A document for obtaining vote