

SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (c). No specific agreement has been concluded recently between the Government of India and the Government of Japan for export of raw materials in the large quantities for Japanese Industries.

Trade Delegation to Sudan

2522. **SHRI MUHAMMAD SHERIFF :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Trade Delegation visited Sudan in June, 1969 ;

(b) the names of the personnel of the delegation who visited Sudan ; and

(c) whether any agreement was signed and if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) :

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) This delegation was led by me and included Shri S.K. Singh of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Supply and Shri R. Ramaswamy Iyer of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs).

(c) No new trade agreement was signed but in the course of making the trade arrangement for 1969-70, it was decided to increase the volume of trade by 45%.

Soviet Land Nehru Award Winners

2523. **SHRI MADHU LIMAYE :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that winners of this year's Soviet Land Nehru Award prizes were described as India's "Young Ambassadors" to the Soviet Union ;

(b) whether they were to depart from Delhi by air on 11th June, 1969 ;

(c) whether they were informed through a letter sent under the instructions of the former Deputy Prime Minister that they could not be given 'P' forms because they were minors and Government did not think that they should visit Soviet Union at such a tender age ;

(d) whether the children and their parents protested against this last minute refusal ;

(e) whether on the Prime Minister's intervention they were allowed to leave on the 11th June, 1969 and were given foreign exchange without 'P' forms being produced ; and

(f) if so, the reasons for earlier refusal and last minute reversal of the refusal ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f). The matter was considered at the highest level and the children were allowed to go and 'P' form facilities were accordingly given to them.

15 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Protest by Education Minister of West Bengal against forfeiture of copies of Hindi Hindustan of Delhi.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK (South Delhi) : Sir, I rise to a point of order. Sir, you were pleased to suggest a number of times here that any question which pertains to a State Government should not be brought in here. In the first place this question pertains to a State Government and the Centre has nothing to do with it. Secondly the order that has been mentioned was withdrawn by the Delhi State Government long ago. We have as much respect

for Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyya as anybody else has. I wonder whether these people who call him Rishi of Bandemantaram have any respect for him. Today these people come forward as champions of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyya and castigate the Delhi Administration for something for which it has already made amends. I think, Sir, this is wrong and this should not have been admitted. Even if it is admitted, I want to reiterate that we have as much respect for Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyya as anybody else, and the order about which the Calling Attention Notice has been given and about which the Bengal Minister was constrained to protest has already been withdrawn.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : So far as the admission of this Calling Attention Notice is concerned we have taken all things into consideration. If a certain section gets offended with a certain action of any Government and the Centre's attention is drawn to it, we are perfectly within our rights to take it up.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contol) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :—

"Reported protest letter sent by the Education Minister of West Bengal against forfeiture of copies of Hindi Hindustan of Delhi for publishing Hindi translation of an article captioned 'Ramayan Ki Belayeti Alochana' by the 'Rishi of Bandemantaram', Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyya."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : Sir, the letter dated 19th July, 1969, was received from Shri Satya Priya Roy, Minister in charge of Education Department, Government of West Bengal, regarding action taken by Delhi Administration in respect of an article by Shri Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyya which appeared under the caption 'Ramayan Ki Belayeti Alochana' in the HINDI HINDUSTAN of Delhi on 22nd March, 1969.

By an order dated 9th June, 1969 under section 99-A of the Code of Criminal Procedure the Administrator Union Territory of Delhi had declared forfeited to the Government every copy of the said issue of the daily "Hindustan", on the ground that the article "Ramayan Ki Ek Vilayati Alochna" contained matter which came within the mischief of provisions of section 295-A IPC and therefore, was actionable under section 99-A Cr. PC. Upon reconsideration of the matter, the said order has been rescinded by the Administrator on 19th July, 1969.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : The order that was passed by the Lt. Governor, Delhi Administration, reads :

"Whereas the Lt. Governor of the Union Territory of Delhi is satisfied"

- note the word 'satisfied'—

"that an article captioned 'Ramayan Ki Vilayati Alochana' by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, appearing in Hindi Daily Hindustan of 23-69 (Sunday Edition) printed and published at Hindustan Times Press, New Delhi, contains matter which is deliberately and maliciously intended to outrage the religious feeling of Hindus by insulting their religious beliefs and the publication of which is punishablethe Lt. Governor of the Union Territory of Delhi hereby declares every copy of the said newspaper containing the said article to be forfeited to Government."

Just after this news was published, an editorial was written in a Gujarat paper in which it was stated : दिल्ली दरबार में बंकिम चंद्र की पेशी, Bankim Chandra produced before Delhi Court. The Lt. Governor, Shri Jha, comes from Mithila and I have been told that he is a Sanskrit scholar. As you know, the well-known poet Vidyapathi comes from Mithila who is known as the common poet of Mithila and Bengal, I do not understand why the Lt. Governor did not care to ask for the original writing of Bankim Chandra included in his Lok Rahasya' series and read it before passing such an order. Without going through that he immediately ordered that the issue be

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forfeited to government. Bankim Chandra wrote an article which was satirical piece intended to be some kind of broadside against the ugly utterance and slanderous calumny that had been conducted by half-baked or pseudo-Indologists against Ramayana, Mahabharata, Gita and other Hindu scriptures. His writing in the form of a satirical was directed as a snipe against those pseudo-Indologists. Neither the Lt. Governor, nor Shri Malhotra, who is the Chief Executive Councillor of the Delhi Administration, cared to know what Bankim Chandra wrote in Lok Rahasya. Not only that, there was a talk in the Delhi Administration that immediate orders should be issued for the arrest of Bankim Chandra. One very inspiring Member of Parliament, who is always very much jealous of cow protection, sent a batch of Sadhus to the office of Hindi *Hindustan* when they reached that office, they asked the Editor of the daily:

बंकिम चन्द्र कहाँ है ? हम उसकी बोटी-बोटी उड़ा देंगे :

"Where is Bankim Chandra? We will cut him to pieces." The editor happened to be a humourous person. So, he said: yes;

बंकिम चन्द्र बड़े नज़दीक है, यहाँ से अभी कूद पड़ो ।

Then only realised that Bankim Chandra is no more. This is what I heard. I have with me so many press clippings from all over the country, from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Bihar, expressing resentment over the action of the Delhi Administration. How folly and idiocy can run amuck in an Administration can be seen from it explanation of July 10th? What do they say in that explanation?

".....It created a misunderstanding that Bengali writer Bankim Chandra Chatterjee had criticised the Ramayana.....An official spokesman said the case against the Editor and Proprietor of the newspaper had already been withdrawn."

Again, a press-note was issued by the Delhi Administration—it is funny—

saying:

"But the article as reproduced in Hindi in the daily makes it appear as if the view expressed in the original text were Bankim's own. Such an impression was very derogatory to the reputation our beloved literature Bankim Chandra enjoys all over the country."

Further, it says:

"In his book 'Lok Rahasya' Bankim Chandra has given a title which when translated into English would read as 'Criticism of Ramayana as written by a foreign critic'. But in the article that was published in *Hindustan* the title is 'Ramayan Ki Ek Vilayati Alochana' by Bankim Chandra....."

It was with the pious intention of safeguarding the fair name of Bankim Chandra from being maligned and discredited that the forfeiture of the copies of the issue of the daily was ordered."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Come to the question now.

SHRI SAMAR GUPTA: I am coming to question.

Lastly, this is a letter written by the Lt. Governor:

प्रिय जोशी जी,

"हिन्दुस्तान" में प्रकाशित "रामायण की विलायती आलोचना" लेख के सम्बन्ध में दिल्ली प्रशासन द्वारा जो मामला चलाया गया था उसके सम्बन्ध में उप-राज्यपाल महोदय ने मामले को वापस लेने के आदेश जारी कर दिये हैं। साथ ही "हिन्दुस्तान" की जो प्रतियाँ जब्त की गई थीं उनको वापस किये जाने के भी आदेश उप-राज्यपाल महोदय ने दिये हैं।"

Now, I come to the question. I want to know who is the officer who advised the Lt. Governor to forfeit the copies of *Hindustan*. Secondly may I know whether the Delhi

Administration has taken any step against this officer and whether they are going to institute an inquiry against the officer. Lastly, I want to know whether this House will reprimand the officer who dared to censure the writings of the 'Rishi of Bandemataram'. Even in the letter of the Lt. Governor or the press note issued by Delhi Administration, there is not a word of regret or apology expressed by the Lt. Governor. I demand that regret apology should be expressed by the Lt. Governor.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (हापुड़) : मंत्री महोदय जरा यह भी बतलायें कि जो उनकी गिरफ्तारी का सम्मन जारी हुआ था वह स्वर्ग में लौट आया है अथवा नहीं ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Obviously, there has been a gross misunderstanding in the Delhi Administration about this and a mistaken action was taken which has now been rescinded. I would like to inform the House that two hon. Members belonging to Opposition of this very House had also taken up this matter with us asking for action against the Editor and the person who has written the article.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Who are they? Give their names (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, order.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: May I complete my answer?

We examined the matter and we said, there lies no action and no action can be taken because our view was almost the same as that of Mr. Samar Guha. So, we did not take any action. Then, we found in newspapers that some action had been taken by the Delhi Administration about this matter. We were not consulted about that matter and they had taken some action. After the criticism appeared, we examined this question. They found it was taken under some kind of obvious misunderstanding and they hastily withdrew the order. It is very difficult for me to say which officer of the Delhi Administration gave the advice. There might be a process in which several people might have given advice in this matter and, I think, it is a very regrettable incident and it should now be treated as closed.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: We should demand a regret from the Lt. Governor; an apology has to be expressed by him. This is one of our national songs.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: There could be no disagreement on the sentiments that Prof. Samar Guha has expressed here. I am quite sure that everybody concerned will take due note of the feelings expressed in this House.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: At least he should communicate our views that the House demands an apology from him.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Jyotirmoy Basu.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour): For a change.

I find something to support in what Mr. Samar Guha said. Frankly speaking, we have no anger in this matter. We laughed our heads off at Jan Sangh after we had read about this action. Some Britishers had tried to have a dig at Ramayana by saying that Ram plus Ravana made Ramayana. 'Ravana' means a non-Hindu or Muslim. They got some smell of Muslim and that might have infuriated them.

About Mr. Jha who is a confirmed civil servant—I do not know how he passed his examination; he should have been more knowledgeable; what an ignorant man he is—I want to know what steps Government propose to take against him. We have heard of 'Dhobi Chaap' i.e. you shut your eyes and sign on anything. He had done that. This Jan Sangh, which had been advised by such Pandits, aspire to rule this country. Imagine what a bad day that would be for us! I would like to ask the hon. Minister to tell us what he is going to do in the context of what he had done. (Interruptions).

In the Mahabharata, there is a chapter called 'Karna Salya Vivadh'. There is a wordy before the actual battle. This 'Salya' had come from the area which was known as Madra, i.e., Delhi and its north. In that

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wordy duel, Karna had said something very uncomplimentary, scathing, about the people who lived in Madra area. In view of this, will the Jana Sangh try to ban the Mahabharata or expunge that particular chapter, Karna Salya Vivah ?

Another thing that is worrying is that they have nationalised text-books... (*Interruptions*) The text-books will be drafted and edited by the same set of pondits, no doubt, who had advised them about Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya. Imagine what will be the fate of the boys and girls who will be reading these books!

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He may ask his question.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: There is one very important thing. In the *Times of India* of 4th May there is an article, 'Nirad Chaudhuri on Sadhus, Sex & Students', There, Mr. Nirad Chaudhuri says:

"Do you know what I told some American students when I spoke to them the other day? I said, 'I am very pleased to meet you because I have come to address our future rulers,' I suppose you know that the U.S. embassy in Delhi is already referred to as the White House.

This sort of articles are allowed to be printed and published freely under the name of 'free Press', solely financed by Americans. The Jana Sangh and the Home Ministry shut their eyes to these things. We are domoralising our students...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That does not arise out of this question.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: And you are jumping at an author who died 80 years ago.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: How do you expect him to reply to this?

Will the hon. Minister tell us :

(a) What precise steps he is taking against the Lt. Governor for his utter failure?

(b) Will he name the two hon. Members of this House who had written to the administration in this regard?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The only question that I can make out from his question is whether Government contemplate any action against the Lt. Governor. I have said in my answer before that this was a *bona fide* mistake and we cannot punish *bona fide* mistakes. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If there is anything left, please reply. Otherwise, I will pass on to the next item.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I cannot make out any other question to which I can give a reply. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NAMBIAR (Tiruchirapalli) : I rise on a point of order. During the course of the reply the hon. Minister has said that two members had written. After all the letter written by the two members is not a confidential document and by disclosing their names there is no privilege involved, There is no harm if the hon. Minister gives the names. The House is entitled to know the names. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I cannot compel the Minister.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी (भोपाल) : हम मन्त्री लोगों के पास कई बार जाते हैं और वहाँ कई तरह की बातें होती हैं। इसलिए नाम बतलाना ठीक नहीं है।

SHRI J. M. BISWAS (Bankaura) : The hon. Minister referred to two Members of the Opposition, I request him to tell the House to which political Party they belong if he has any objection to disclose the names.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We now go to the next question of privilege. I cannot take it up now as the Law Minister is busy in the other House.