

12.22 hrs.

BROADCAST OF MAY DAY SPEECH OF
LABOUR MINISTER OF WEST BENGAL

Mr. Speaker: We will take up the calling attention notice. I was expecting the Minister to come, because he is answering the same question in the other House. Therefore, I gave extra time for the Short Notice Question.

Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterji (Howrah): The fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution has been violated in the constituency which I have the privilege to represent here today. The owner of a hut, it is reported in the newspaper....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have got the adjournment motion about Bengal, but I have not allowed it. It is a law and order problem—a State subject. Once you bring it up here, the Home Minister will be held responsible for the law and order situation in every State. If something is happening there, a member of the Assembly of that State can call the attention of the State Government to it. I am sorry; I have disallowed it. (Interruptions).

Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterji: A fundamental right has been trampled upon.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): It should be expunged.

Mr. Speaker: I request all the members to sit down. Law and order is a State subject. Once you take it up here, there will be no end to it. Members from every State will begin to ask. (Interruptions). The hon. Deputy Minister will read the statement. Questions may be put at two o'clock or some time later. The hon. Minister is not here. He is answering a similar Calling Attention Notice in the other House. He can be either there or here at one time. (Interruptions).

Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterji: Sir, it is not a question of law and order.

Mr. Speaker: I have disallowed it (Interruptions). By raising that again and again you are only encouraging disorder in the House and nothing else (Interruptions). Now, Shri Banerjee may read his Calling Attention Notice.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the following matter of urgent public importance and request him to make a statement thereon:

"The refusal by All India Radio authorities at Calcutta to Labour Minister West Bengal to broadcast on 1st May, 1967 on May Day."

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Shrimati Nandini Satpathy): Sir, on 29th April, 1967, Station Director, All India Radio, Calcutta, requested the Labour Minister, West Bengal if he would agree to participate in a discussion programme which All India Radio was arranging on 'Gheraos'. The Labour Minister, agreed to record a talk which was scheduled for the 30th April, 1967. As is customary, a copy of the script was asked for in advance by the Station Director. On going through the script the Station Director found the following sentences:—

"For this, a revolution is necessary, election is no revolution though we have formed the Government through Election. Secondly, if we want to get rid of exploitation, there is need for changing political system. A change in Government does not imply a change in the political system...."

An hon. Member: Wonderful.

Shrimati Nandini Satpathy: Then:

"It is necessary to understand what is the meaning of the word 'legitimate'. Legitimate and lawful are not synonymous. Under

the existing social system of exploitation, there are many things which are legal but not legitimate. Therefore, it cannot be ruled out that whatever is considered as illegal is not necessarily unjust."

Shri Namblar (Tiruchirappalli):
Who is the Station Director to decide?

Shrimati Nandini Satpathy: Again:

"To intensify the liberation movement, to remove the cancerous growth in the administration as a result of Congress rule to gear up the administrative machinery, even the judiciary which lost its neutrality during the long Congress Administration, the defeat of the congress was necessary."

These references violate established conventions. The Station Director rang up the Labour Minister, West Bengal and pointed out that there were difficulties in regard to certain portions of his script. He offered to go to the Minister and discuss with him. The Minister said he would not agree to any change and that he would not broadcast. The Station Director offered to draw his attention to certain portions of the script. The Minister, however, refused to discuss the matter and cancelled the broadcast.

The script went against the code accepted by All India Radio which is in the interest of all parties. This code applies to all irrespective of party affiliations. It will be conceded that this code is in the interest of smooth working of democratic institutions. If one party is allowed to attack another party the other party will have to be allowed to do likewise. There will, thus, be no end to it and each party will ask for more opportunities which will lead to perpetual bickering. It is also necessary for functioning of democratic institutions that no party is allowed to attack the Constitution or plead for a change in the Government except through constitutional means. It is also necessary to

prevent any aspersion or derogatory references to judiciary.

Since the Station Director was satisfied that the said references were against the accepted policy of All India Radio he was obliged to request the Labour Minister to hear him, so that the script could be amended. He had offered to go to the Labour Minister but unfortunately the latter refused to listen to him and cancelled his broadcast.

Instances are not wanting when similar situations arose in the past also. On 8th July, 1949, for example, Shri C. Rajagopalachari, the then Governor General of India, had to amend his script which contained eulogistic reference to the Congress Party. The Governor General in the first instance refused to be guided by the Station Director and preferred to cancel his broadcast rather than delete certain portions of his script. However, he later accepted the rationality of the position placed before him and agreed to drop any special reference being made to Congress Party against which the Station Director had taken objection.

Last year, another incident occurred when the Chief Minister of Bihar insisted upon referring to S.S.P. and Communist Party of India by name. The Station Director tried to persuade the Chief Minister to omit the names of the Political Parties. As the Chief Minister did not agree to change the script even after the implication of reference to Political Parties by name was explained to him, the Station Director contacted the Director General, All India Radio to seek his advice. The Director General instructed him to hold over the broadcast until he received further instructions. After satisfying himself that the stand taken by the Station Director, Patna, was correct, Director General tried to contact him on telephone and accord approval to his decision but as the telephone lines had temporarily failed, the Station Director, Patna could not be contacted. In the absence of instruc-

[Shrimati Nandini Satpathy]

tions from Director General, All India Radio, the broadcast of Chief Minister went through the air, but this action of the Chief Minister was taken note of and his attention was drawn to it. The Chief Minister in protest wrote back to say that since it was the deliberate policy of All India Radio that Political Parties should not be named in any speech to be delivered on the radio, he had decided not to speak on All India Radio at all. This made it necessary for the Ministry to issue the following instructions in more emphatic terms to Director General, All India Radio:

"The Government desire that you may advise Station Directors to explain to any broadcaster, irrespective of his or her rank, station or authority, why it is necessary to refrain from mentioning any political party or group by name even when it is clear that the disturbances are going to be organised by specific political parties or groups. If the intending broadcaster insists on naming any political party or parties or group or groups, the Station Director should decline to record his/her broadcast, after all persuasion to refrain from naming political parties or groups has failed. Exceptions will be made only under clearly authorised orders issued by the Ministry on each specific case of exemption of this advice."

These instances have been mentioned to show that the action of the Station Director, Calcutta, was not arbitrary. It was in full accord with the healthy conventions which have grown regarding such broadcasts.

Mr. Speaker: The hon Members may put questions on this statement at 3 O'clock.

Shri Jyesthraj Bhasu (Diamond Harbour): May I make a submission, Sir? We have had three railway accidents in the last three days...

Mr. Speaker: He may please sit down. The Railway Budget is being taken up and you may censure the Government by defeating the Railway Demands. I will not allow it like this.

12.35 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

AGITATION BY DELHI POLICE

Mr. Speaker: I have received four notices of adjournment motions regarding agitation by Delhi Police. The first is by Shri Ram Sewak Yadav and Dr. Lohia. I give my consent under rule 56. Shri Ram Sewak Yadav is not here. Dr. Lohia may now ask for leave of the House to move his motion.

डा० राज बरबहर लोहिया (कलकत्ता) :
माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं दिल्ली पुलिस
संबंधी स्वयं प्रस्ताव को पेश करने की
अनमति मांग रहा हूँ।

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Y. B. Chavan): Sir, as far as I am concerned, I welcome every opportunity to discuss the problems of Delhi Police.

Mr. Speaker: So, we shall take it up at 4 O'clock.

श्री कंचर बाल मुक्त (दिग्गो मठ) :
तीन घंटे के लिए रुकिए।

Mr. Speaker: No, no. The adjournment motion is taken up at 4 O'clock. Papers to be laid.

12.36 hrs.

RE: CALL ATTENTION NOTICES

Shri Bal Raj Madhok (South Delhi):
We have tabled a Call Attention
Notice on the situation in West Asia...

Mr. Speaker: How can he take it up like that? There are a number of Call Attention Notices before me. If