

(ii) REPORTED ARREST OF GROUP CAPTAIN PRAKASH CHANDRA ON A CHARGE OF ESPIONAGE

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आर्डर, आर्डर ।

श्री कछवाय (देवास) : मैं प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री का ध्यान निम्न अविलम्बीय लोक महत्व के विषय की ओर आकृष्ट करता हूँ और चाहता हूँ कि वह इस सम्बन्ध में अपना वक्तव्य दें :—

“जामूसी के आरोप में ग्रुप कैप्टेन श्री प्रकाशचन्द्र की तथाकथित गिरफ्तारी”

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on information received....

Some Hon. Members: Hindi.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I shall make an attempt at translation into Hindi. This was prepared at urgent notice....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the Hindi translation available?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I would make an attempt.

श्री रामसेवक यादव (बारबंकी) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है

श्री कछवाय : मैं ने हिन्दी में पूछा है इसलिए मंत्री महोदय हिन्दी में पढ़ें । मुझे जवाब भी पहले हिन्दी में ही दिया जाय । उस के बाद अंग्रेजी में पढ़ा जाय ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : हिन्दी में ही वे बोल रहे हैं आप बैठिये ।

श्री रामसेवक यादव : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा इस सम्बन्ध में एक व्यवस्था अर्थात् प्वाएंट ऑफ आर्डर का प्रश्न है और वह यह कि जब प्रश्न उन से हिन्दी में किया गया था तो उनके मंत्रालय को पहले से ही हिन्दी उत्तर या अंग्रेजी उत्तर का हिन्दी अनुवाद तैयार करवा लेना चाहिए था । इस का तो मतलब यह हुआ कि जो सरकारी मशीनरी है वह बराबर इस उधेड़बुन में रहती है कि जो यहाँ निश्चय स सम्बन्ध में लिया गया है, उसका वह उल्लघन करती रहे . . .

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द (करनाल) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप को सुन तो लेना चाहिए । जिस तरह से अंग्रेजी सवालों का अंग्रेजी उत्तर पहले से तैयार कर लिया जाता है उसी तरह से जबकि मूल प्रश्न हिन्दी का था तो उसका उत्तर भी हिन्दी में पहले होना चाहिए था और वह पहले से तैयार होना चाहिए । क्या यह सरकारी मशीनरी इस बात पर तुली हुई है कि जैसे भी हो अंग्रेजी को कायम रखे रहो । मेरी समझ में ऐसे लोगों के लिए भारत में कोई जगह नहीं होनी चाहिए और इन सब को जहाज में बैठा कर विलायत भेज दिया जाय ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am telling hon. Members that he is replying in Hindi.

श्री यशवन्तराव चव्हाण : भारतीय वायुसेना की एकाउंट्स शाखा का एक अफसर ग्रुप कैप्टेन पी० चन्द्रा भेद पहुंचाने की काय-बाहियों में लगा हुआ पाया गया । यह सूचना मिलने पर उसे नौकरी से बर्खास्त कर दिया गया है । उस के खिलाफ निवारक नज़रबंदी कानून के अन्तर्गत भी कार्यवाही की गई है । इस मामले में और अधिक सूचना देना सार्वजनिक हित में नहीं है ।

On information received that Group Captain P. Chandra, an officer of the IAF in the Accounts Branch, was involved in espionage activities, he has been dismissed from service. Action has also been taken against him under the Preventive Detention Act. It is not in the public interest to disclose any further details regarding this case.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): On a point of order, Sir. In this particular case, the hon. Minister has said that he is unable to give any information in public interest. But this has come out in the newspapers and information is given there about the

espionage. A man has been arrested and he is in detention. Why should this House be deprived of this legitimate information?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the Government responsible for what appears in the papers?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He says it is true that a man has been arrested.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no point of order. Government can say that it is in public interest.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Then why was this calling attention admitted, Sir?

श्री कछवाय : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह व्यक्ति कितने रोज़ से इस तरह का जासूसी का काम कर रहा था और क्या उस मुद्दकमे में और भी ऐसे व्यक्ति हैं जोकि इस तरह का कार्य कर रहे हैं और भारत के प्रति गद्दारी करते हैं ?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: He must have been there for quite a long time. He was a senior officer—Group Captain. He was doing this type of activity for a few weeks when it was noticed and action had been taken.

Shri Swell: In view of the frequency of these cases of espionage by our own people in the defence services, will the hon. Defence Minister assure us that there is no fifth column working in the Indian army against the country?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I can certainly say that there is no fifth column as such in the Indian armed forces. It would be wrong to say that.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that Group Captain Prakash Chandra was acting as a Pakistani spy and has passed on some information and maps to Pakistan concerning our defence strategy?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I do not want to mention any country.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What are we after, Sir, if we do not even know the names of the countries involved in this espionage?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He said he cannot disclose any information in public interest.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Then let him not answer the question. I seek your protection, Sir. In that case, the calling attention should not have been admitted. The Press people know much more than the Members of Parliament.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. You are reflecting on the Chair.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I am not reflecting on the Chair, Sir. I only seek your guidance. Even the country's name is not disclosed.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Yashpal Singh.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : क्या प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री महोदय के ध्यान में यह बात है कि इतना बड़ा जासूसी का काम कोई अकेला शक्य नहीं कर सकता और इस के लिए एक पूरे ग्रुप की जरूरत है ?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: He has not asked for any information. It is just an opinion he has expressed.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: In view of the serious state of affairs disclosed by this third or fourth arrest of officers in the Indian armed forces, has Government reached an awareness of the existence of a joint China-Pakistan spy ring in the capital, in the country and in every department of Government and if so, what steps are being taken by the Government to eliminate all these anti-social elements of spies and agents of China and Pakistan from the country, from the administration and from the Government? No answer, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is making a statement—in the Government, in the country and everywhere there are spies.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am not making any statement, but a charge. First, is the Government aware of it and if so what steps are being taken?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I do not think there is any organised attempt like that. But I can say that the very fact that we could detect this particular espionage itself is proof of our awareness and our efforts.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The Defence Minister is one of the most responsible Ministers in the Cabinet and he should not treat this question with such indifference bordering on disdain. This is not the way of answering questions in Parliament. He says they have arrested one man and that shows their awareness. This officer was arrested on the 4th December and they have suppressed that thing. The Press came out with the news. What is all this coming to? Does it mean that the Government is not serious about the defence of the country, does it mean that they are sleeping on the treasury benches?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Shri Mohan Swarup.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What is "Order, order", Sir? You have called me to order, but this is not the way for the Defence Minister to answer my question.

श्री मोहन स्वरूप (पीलीभीत) : आज की पृष्ठभूमि में जब कि देश के सामने भारी खतरा है, प्रतिरक्षा मंत्रालय में यह दूसरा अवसर है कि इस तरह की भारत के विरुद्ध जासूसी की बात पाई गई है, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस की रोकथाम के लिए क्या कार्यवाही आदि की जा रही है और क्या माननीय मंत्री इस तरह की आपत्तिजनक कार्यवाहियों को रोक सकने के लिए जागरूक हैं ?

श्री यशवन्तराव चव्हाण : मैं ने जवाब में कहा है कि हम जागरूक हैं और यह गिरफ्तारी

और कार्यवाही आदि इस बात का सबूत है कि हम काफी जागरूक हैं ।

(iii) REPORTED TRESPASSING BY PAKISTAN RIFLES INTO LOBACHERRA

Shri Bado (Khargone): I call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The reported trespassing of Pakistan Rifles into Lobacherra in Khasi and Jaintia Hills area and firing on Assam Border Police."

The Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): On the 9th December, reports were received by the Chief Secretary of Assam that at 9:10 in the morning of that day, that an Indian patrol consisting of three men and one Havildar in Lobacherra area in the southern portion of the international boundary in Khasi Hill in Pakistan were encountered and challenged by some Pakistanis claiming this area. The situation developed into an exchange of fire. Immediately the fire was opened. Pakistan patrol fled into their territory. Our men remained in position up to 16.00 hours and returned to the BOP the same day—I suppose BOP means border out-post. On the 10th, an Indian patrol party of one NCO and 9 constables visited the area when Pakistan EPR personnel ambushed them and opened fire. Our party returned the fire. The exchange of fire was continuing at the time the report was received. No casualties on either side were reported. We are awaiting further information from Assam.

I might mention that demarcation in this area has already been completed.