

Mr. Speaker: I cannot say at this moment. I will think over it. This new development is there. That is what I am telling.

श्री बागड़ी : 25 तारीख रख दें तो बहुत अच्छा होगा ।

12.36 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

DEATH OF SOME SCHOOLCHILDREN AFTER TAKING CARE SUPPLIED MIDDAY MEALS

Shri Yashpal Singh (Kairana): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Education to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

“Reported death of a number of school children in a village near Karnool after allegedly having taken mid-day meals prepared out of CARE supplies.”

श्री यू० सि० चौधरी (महन्नागढ़) : हमने भी कालिग एटेंशन का नोटिस दिया था । आपके स्टाफ के एक आदमी ने आ कर कहा कि यह अंडर कंसिड्रेशन है । अभी पांच मिनट पहले आ कर हमें यह बात बतलाई गई है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जो कुछ हुआ है दुस्त हुआ है । एडजर्नमेंट मोशन तभी आ सकती है अगर मुझे कुछ वाकाल का पता चल जाए ।

श्री यू० सि० चौधरी : कालिग एटेंशन नोटिस था ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपके नाम दर्भान में होंगे, आप धबरा क्यों गये हैं ?

श्री यू० सि० चौधरी : हमें इतिला यह दी गई थी कि इसको अभी नहीं लिया जाएगा ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर इस वक्त ले लिया है और मिनिस्टर साहब जवाब देने के लिए तैयार हैं और आपके नाथ साख लिखे हुए हैं तो

श्री यू० सि० चौधरी : सही बात तो कम से कम बता देनी चाहिये था ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप सुनिये प्राया वह जवाब भी पूरा दे सकते हैं या नहीं । उनके पास पूरी इनफार्मेशन भी है या नहीं । शायद इसको बाद के लिए रखना पड़े ।

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): I submit that the Education Minister should make the statement and not the Health Minister.

Mr. Speaker: The Education Minister is replying.

Shri Hem Barua: But it is addressed to the Health Minister . . . (*Interruptions*).

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): During the Question Hour, it had been rejected by you and I request that they may also be allowed to put questions.

Mr. Speaker: I will see to it.

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): Mr. Speaker, Sir. . . .

श्री यशपाल सिंह : हैल्य मिनिस्टर साहब को जवाब देना चाहिये ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कोई दे दे, इस में कौन सी जिद् की बात है । आपका क्या खयाल है कि हैल्य मिनिस्टरकोई ज्यादा (*Interruptions*).

Shri M. C. Chagla: We must all deplore the tragic event that has taken place which has been reported in the papers, namely, the death of 25 children. We have got in touch both with the State of Andhra and with the CARE office.

Mr. Speaker: Even before the answer is given, certainly I would request the hon. Minister to convey our condolences to those parents. We all feel very sorry that this tragic event has happened. The whole country is certainly agitated over it.

Shri M. C. Chagla: All our sympathies go to the parents of these children, between 5 and 10 years of age who have met with death under the tragic circumstances.

As I said we have got in touch with the State of Andhra and also the CARE office. The officer in charge of this CARE programme in Andhra is in Hyderabad and he has rushed to the particular village to enquire into the matter. Now, the CARE mid-day meals programme is working in several States; they have worked in the States of Kerala, Madras, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Punjab. The CARE has an officer in each one of the States and the scheme is that the State Government pays two-thirds of the administrative cost and we pay one-third. I hope we will withhold our judgment as to what the cause is till investigations had been made. I understand from my hon. friend here that a similar incident took place in Madras sometime ago and it was found that it was not due to the commodities supplied by CARE but it was due to faulty cooking. We do not know what the causes are. We are in touch with the State Government and the CARE office and as soon as I have some more facts I will place them before the House.

Mr. Speaker: Should I hold it up for some days till the hon. Minister is able to get some facts from that State? I should think that it should be held over until the hon. Minister gets the full facts; I am sure he will try to collect the full facts and inform the House.

Shri M. C. Chagla: As soon as I get them I shall come to the House and place them on the Table of the House.

Shri Ranga: There is a representative of the United Nations office in Hyderabad who is in charge of this child welfare. Would it not be possible for the hon. Minister to ask him also to look into this matter and then submit a report? He is specially stationed there.

Mr. Speaker: He will do everything.

Shri Ranga: That representative is independent of the State Government.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid I will not be able to allow any more questions.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I only want to invite his kind attention to the report in the *Times of India* today which says:

"The Times of India News Service adds that CARE Administrator, Mr. Dale Harrison, in a press statement tonight said 'it was impossible that the deaths of the 25 school children were after eating CARE food.'"

Mr. Speaker: All of us have read that.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He has made a sweeping statement that "when such allegations have been made, they have been proved false." There should be a proper enquiry into the matter.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Members should sit down, and unless I identify the Member, he should not begin to speak. Shri Daji.

Shri Daji (Indore): I only want to know what precautions have been taken so that such incidents may not be repeated in future. Our anxiety is that a proper investigation should be made and adequate precautions should be taken to see that this is not repeated.

Mr. Speaker: This mid-day meal is not being given to the children any

further till we arrive at some conclusions and find out the cause.

Shri M. C. Chaglia: They have also suspended the distribution of CARE supplies of mid-day meals to schools throughout Andhra Pradesh.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : (फख्खाबाद) मंत्री जी ने कौन सा शब्द इस्तेमाल किया मद्रास के बारे में । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने फाल्टी कुकिंग कहा या क्या कहा ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस वक्त मद्रास में जाने की जरूरत नहीं है ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : उस को जानने के बाद फिर हम अपना दिमाग बनायेंगे ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस पर आपको दिमाग खर्च करने की जरूरत नहीं है, इस वक्त जरूरत नहीं है ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : तो फिर सवाल कैसे होंगे ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं इस वक्त सवाल नहीं करने दे रहा हूँ ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : मैं सवाल नहीं करूँगा । मैं तो सिर्फ यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने फाल्टी कुकिंग कहा या क्या कहा ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय यह मालूम नहीं, उन्होंने कुछ कहा हो, इस वक्त तो तहकीकात होनी है कि क्या होगा ।

Shri Hem Barua: Such a deplorable incident took place in a school in Assam also sometime back, and an enquiry was held. When this enquiry is being held, may I request the hon. Minister to see—it has been reported in the press that the death of these children occurred because of their eating the food prepared with powdered milk supplied by CARE—and find out whether this CARE food was

contaminated at the source or whether whether it was contaminated there, at the spot—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Only if some Members want to make any suggestion, which may help the enquiry, I will allow that much. I am not going to allow any discussion on it. Shri Bagri.

Shri P. V. Venkatasubbaiah rose—

Mr. Speaker: When I have called one Member here, why should another hon. Member there rise?

श्री बागड़ी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस से पहले भी एक दिन मैंने ध्यान आकर्षण प्रश्न द्वारा आप का ध्यान आकर्षित किया था कि पंजाब में इस तरीके से कुछ घादमियों की मृत्यु हुई थी खेत के अन्दर . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बागड़ी साहब, इस का इस से क्या सम्बन्ध है । आप क्या एन्क्वायरी के बारे में कुछ कहना चाहते हैं ।

श्री बागड़ी : मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता था कि इस तरीके से जो इन्सानी मौतें होती हैं उन के बारे में आप जो एन्क्वायरी करवा रहे हैं, उस के अन्दर सिर्फ एजुकेशन के महकमे को ही शामिल न करें बल्कि खाद्य और कृषि मंत्रालय को भी शामिल करें । उस के बाद अच्छी तरह से देखा जाये कि जो इन्सानी जिन्दगियां जाती हैं उनको किस तरीके से बचाया जाये और इस के लिये क्या कार्रवाई हो । मैं चाहता हूँ कि इन तीनों महकमों को मिला कर काम करें ।

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: Unfortunately this tragic event has happened in my constituency. I would like to know this: 150 students are still in danger and they have been admitted into the hospital. I would like to know from the hon. Minister—

Mr. Speaker: I am not allowing questions. He should rather render help in coming to the right conclusion. He should assist the enquiry.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: I would request the hon. Minister to get information from the State Government as to what immediate medical arrangements have been done to those children who are still in great danger.

Mr. Speaker: He will collect all this information.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Who is conducting the inquiry: whether it is a sort of roving enquiry, or whether any terms of reference have been given to the officer or the person who is to conduct the enquiry? I would like to know.

Shri M. C. Chagla: Every relevant enquiry will be made; every relevant information will be obtained, and all that will be placed before the House.

Mr. Speaker: He has yet to get the information from the State.

Shrimati Yashoda Reddy (Kurnool): May I know whether he has got any information—this happened in a small village—as to the difference in time, the time when this tragedy occurred and the time when medical aid was given?

Mr. Speaker: That is yet to be known.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : मेरी सरकार से प्रश्न यह है कि जब चारों तरफ से मांग आ रही है कि कोई हाई कोर्ट का रिटायर्ड जज हो जो इस एन्क्वायरी को करे, तो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि शिक्षा मंत्री जो खुद हाई कोर्ट के जज भी रहे हैं और खुद ही इस मामले को देख रहे हैं तो वे खुद ही इस एन्क्वायरी को अपने हाथ में क्यों न ले लें ।

12.45 hrs.

RE: CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE (*Query*)

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, our Calling Attention Notice on the arrest of Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad has been rejected. We find that it is on the Centre's advice which was given to the State Government that he was arrested, and—

Mr. Speaker: I am very sorry I have again and again to tell this hon. Member that once I have rejected some notice, the question cannot be raised here.

Shri Hem Barua: Then how to raise it, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: He should write to me if he is not prepared to come again. (*Interruption*). Order, order.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It has become a story.

Mr. Speaker: Whether it has become a story or not, I do not allow it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He has been arrested under the Centre's advice.

Mr. Speaker: I would not allow it to be raised here. I cannot depart from the procedure. He can write to me immediately and I will certainly look into it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I am going away today, and so—

Mr. Speaker: I have no powers to detain him if he is going away! (*Interruption*).

Shri Hem Barua: I beg to submit that, about the Calling Attention Notice in regard to the arrest of Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, we hear that he was arrested under the DIR and therefore, it comes under the purview of this Parliament—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. What I have said to Shri Banerjee equally