

12.12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(i) **REPORTED UNEARTHING OF A PAKISTANI SPY RING IN DELHI.**

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the reported unearthing of a Pakistani spy ring in Delhi and arrest of seven persons with secret military documents.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Nanda): Sir, I can understand the anxiety of Members over what has been reported . . .

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Why only Members? The whole country.

Shri Nanda: Yes, the whole country. I can understand the anxiety of Members and the whole country over what has been reported in the papers as the operation of a spy ring in the country. All that I can say at the present stage of investigation is that seven persons have been arrested under section 3 of the Official Secrets Act as there were reasonable grounds to believe that they had passed on information bearing on secret matters to an officer of a diplomatic mission in Delhi.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): Which one?

Shri Nanda: All the available clues and material are being closely examined with a view to ascertaining the full ramifications of this case. It is necessary in the public interest . . .

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Public interest has now become private interest.

Shri Nanda: It is necessary in the public interest, including proper investigation of the case, that no further information should be made public at this stage. I would, therefore, appeal to the hon. Members not to press me to disclose more details.

This is a serious and delicate case and I do not wish to underestimate its implications. At the same time, I would like the House to take the fact of its detection as evidence of the continuous and painstaking vigilance being exercised over matters relating to national security.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): There is no vigilance.

Shri Nanda: I can give an assurance that this vigilance will continue to be exercised.

Apart from vigorous investigation in progress, appropriate diplomatic action has been taken.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I do not want to say something about this which will prejudice the inquiry. But I would only request the hon. Minister to kindly tell us whether he has seen the press release issued by the Information Section of the High Commission for Pakistan in India on 15th December 1964, under the heading: RUMOURS OF ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA DENIED which says:

"Some newspaper reports regarding the arrest of seven persons for alleged violation of Section 3 of the Official Secrets Act have named the Pakistan High Commission as involved with the persons in question. The High Commission emphatically repudiates the suggestion contained in these reports, and affirms that no officer of the Pakistan High Commission or anyone connected with it has indulged or is indulging in such activities. The implication of the Pakistan High Commission in these arrests is not only fanciful but mischievous."

Again, he has criticized us by saying:—

"The High Commission of Pakistan has noted with regret that though the Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs' answer yesterday'"

that is, on the 14th etc. This reminds me of a saying in Hindi, namely, *chor ki dadhi men tinka*.

Mr. Speaker: No such comments are needed.

Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana): They are denying anything being said against Pakistan. Why should we complicate matters unnecessarily?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether.....

Mr. Speaker: This is just being investigated.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I am not saying about the investigation at all.

Mr. Speaker: Why should he make such comments?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether his attention has been drawn to this press release of Pakistan and, if so, what is the reaction of Government to that?

Shri Nanda: I see comments of this kind which appear in the press every day.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Not appearing in the press; it has been circulated.

Shri Nanda: Yes; I have seen it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What is your reaction to that?

Shri Nanda: I have answered that.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: This is mischievous.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if, in view of the fact that there is a spy ring in this country and its ramifications are being investigated and the Home Minister is not prepared to reveal anything in the public interest, what extraordinary precautions have been taken in the form of police personnel or in the form of something else in order that this enquiry is conducted in the best possible manner and the spy ring is unearthed in the shortest possible time?

Shri Nanda: They will cease to be precautions if I disclose them here; but the best possible efforts are being made in this matter.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : (बिजनौर): राज्य के रहस्यों को प्रकट करने के सम्बन्ध में ये सात अभियुक्त गिरफ्तार किये गये हैं। पहले भी भारत सरकार के कुछ रहस्यों को प्रकट करते हुए व्यक्ति पकड़े गये थे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन के साथ इनकी श्रंखला कुछ मिलती जुलती है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो इनवैस्टीगेशन से पता चलेगा ।

श्री न दा : सब कुछ देखते हुए चलेंगे ।

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Has Government received reports from civil Intelligence and other more reliable sources to the effect that Pakistani spies—these who have been apprehended; maybe, others also—are acting in collusion or collaboration or in close liaison with the Chinese Embassy here and with Missions of some other countries whose governments are more friendly to China than to India, and does the Minister propose to clarify what he said in his statement that the Official Secrets Act has been invoked against these spies? Why should they, the Pakistani spies not be arraigned for treason to this country?

Shri Nanda: It is a very long statement about farflung ramifications. I cannot say anything about it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The first part of the question was whether he has received reports from Intelligence that Pakistani spies are acting in close liaison or collaboration with the Chinese Embassy here and with Missions of other countries whose governments are more friendly to China than to India.

Mr. Speaker: Would that also not be discovered after the enquiry is completed?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Enquiry

[Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath]

is against the spies now arrested; but the Government is supposed to be a wide-awake government. They receive reports from time to time.

Mr. Speaker: He feels that that might prejudice the enquiry at this moment if he discloses some other facts.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I have not mentioned any country. I have said "some countries which are more friendly to China than to India".

Mr. Speaker: At this time probably he does not wish to give more details. He has appealed to the hon Members . . .

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Does he propose to prosecute them for treason and not merely under the Official Secrets Act?

Mr. Speaker: That is hypothetical. Let the result of the inquiry be known.

Shri Nath Pai: Sir, earlier when another spy, an official of the Air Force was caught, the Parliament had demanded that the most deterrent punishment should be awarded to these traitors. A lenient view was taken by the late Prime Minister and now we are paying the penalty and their crop is growing in the country. If we get sufficient evidence, will the most deterrent punishment be awarded to these traitors?

Shri Nanda: Does that need any assurance? I think no leniency, no mercy, can be shown of any kind to them. The worst that can be done to these persons will be done.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Death penalty; hang them.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): In view of the fact that anti-India activities by Pakistan inside this country have mounted up, namely, (a) Pakistani agents indulging in sabotage, in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, (b) the existing Pakistan High Com-

missioner's office in Shillong engaging in sabotage there and at the same time encouraging the Naga hostiles in their demand for independence . . . and (c) . . .

Shri D. C. Sharma: On a point of order, Sir.

Shri Hem Barua: . . . and (c) the Pakistani High Commissioner in the capital organising a deep-seated spy ring in the country in collusion with Indians, in view of all that, may I know why is it Government instead of succumbing to this organised will of the Pakistanis in this country have not so far prosecuted any of these Indians involved in this nefarious activity for treason and hanged them, if necessary?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Let them be hanged.

Shri D. C. Sharma: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Minister made an appeal that we should not put such embarrassing questions. I accepted the plea but I want to ask one question . . . (*Interruption*). I cannot address the hon. Members. I can address the hon. Members only through you, Sir. We are here discussing the unearthing of a spy ring in Delhi and the gentleman has brought in Jammu and Kashmir, has brought in Nagaland and has brought in previous cases. Is that fair to the hon. Member or to the hon. Minister or to the hon. Government?

Shri Hem Barua: May I submit, Sir,

Mr. Speaker: No, Sir.

Shri Hem Barua: There was an allegation made. . . .

Mr. Speaker: No, Sir. So far as the appeal is concerned, it is left to the good sense of the hon. Members. I cannot enforce it. (*Interruption*) When I speak, then too I am interrupted. I am very sorry in that respect. It is for the Members whether they heed that appeal or not. I cannot enforce that. I have no powers

to do that. So far as the other question is concerned, I agree with Mr. Sharma that those other things were not relevant here just in the question that was put. Shri Sidhanti.

Shri Hem Barua: May I clarify my position?

Mr. Speaker: I have called Mr. Sidhanti. He will kindly resume his seat.

श्री जगदेव सिंह सिद्धान्ती : (अज्जर) : क्या भारत सरकार को इस बात का पता है कि पाकिस्तानी जासूसों के इस प्रकार माहस करने का कार्य भारत रहने वाले कुछ विशिष्ट नागरिकों के कारण हुआ है। यदि ऐसा सिद्ध हो जाये तो क्या गृह मंत्री कठोरता से उन को दंड देने के लिये पग बढ़ायेंगे ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह सवाल तो हो गया और जवाब भी हो गया ।

Shri Kapur Singh: Since my party stands for Indo-Pakistan amity, I yield to the appeal made by the Home Minister and I do not put any question.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Onkarlal Berwa.

Shri D. C. Sharma: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. On every question a point of order?

Shri D. C. Sharma: My point of order is this....

Mr. Speaker: There is no point of order.

Shri D. C. Sharma: You have ruled that no policy statement be made in this House in the Question Hour. How, that gentleman is giving vent to the policy of his Party. We also want Indo-Pakistan amity....

Mr. Speaker: There is no point of order. He will kindly resume his seat.

I will appeal to the Members that they should not do so. Whenever an hon. Member rises in his seat, that

gives me an impression that he wants to put some question and when I call him, he has only to say that he does not want to put any question.

Shri Kapur Singh: May I explain...

Mr. Speaker: That is not necessary.

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा (कोटा) : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो पाकिस्तानियों का मान आदमियों का गिरोह पकड़ा गया है वह कब से ऐसी हरकतें कर रहा था, और क्या उस में दिल्ली के नागरिकों का भी कोई हाथ था ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस बात का पता तो एन्क्वायरी में चलेगा ।

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : वह कब से ऐसी हरकतें कर रहा था क्या यह भी पता नहीं है ?

Shri Hem Barua: On a point of personal explanation....

Mr. Speaker: Nothing has been said against the hon. Member.

Shrimati Yashoda Reddy (Kurnool): I do not want to put any embarrassing question . . .

Mr. Speaker: Why this preface? It would be judged from the question that she puts whether it is embarrassing or not.

Shrimati Yashoda Reddy: I would like to have an assurance from the hon. Home Minister. The Members of Parliament and the people of India feel that the Ministry of Home Affairs have not been very active with regard to their Intelligence on this matter. I hope that at least in the future the Ministry will come up to our expectations and will not let these things happen again.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member has not asked any question. Now, next item.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द (करनाल) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा भी नाम था ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : स्वामी जी को तो जो अपील की गई उसे सूनना चाहिये था ।

“नमन्ति फलिनो वृक्षाः नमन्ति गुणिनो जनाः”

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : अगर आप मुझ पर ही यह श्लोक लागू करते हैं तो मैं माने लेता हूँ, लेकिन और कोई इस उपदेश को मानने के लिये तैयार नहीं है ।

(ii) **STRIKE BY DELHI MILK SCHEME EMPLOYEES—contd.**

Mr. Speaker: We shall now take up the calling-attention notice relating to the Delhi Milk Scheme. The hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture may make his statement now.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): I am sorry I was not present in the House yesterday when this matter was raised.

I would like to give a few facts to the House so that it may appreciate the situation better with regard to the Delhi Milk Scheme.

In June, after I took over this portfolio, I made a scrutiny of the state of affairs in the Delhi Milk Scheme, and I thought that it should be properly investigated by an expert committee. An expert committee under the chairmanship of Shri Kurien of Anand was appointed to go into the affairs of the Delhi Milk Scheme and make recommendations for the betterment of the Delhi Milk Scheme. The committee did make many recommendations, the two main recommendations being as follows. The first was that the Delhi Milk Scheme instead of being run as a part of the Department of Agriculture should be converted into a commercial organisation by being registered as a company, under the company law, to be owned completely by Government, and the other was with reference to the contract system for the supply of milk to the Delhi Milk Scheme, which has been causing difficulties with regard to the supply of milk to the Delhi Milk Scheme.

It is in pursuance of the first recommendation that we have been exploring the possibility of the Delhi Milk

Scheme being converted into a public limited company.

In August, when I visited the Delhi Milk Scheme, I gave expression to this point of view that there was a proposal to convert the Delhi Milk Scheme into a public limited company, when apprehensions were expressed by the workers there that by this conversion, their terms and service conditions might get affected. Then I gave an assurance to the workers there in a public meeting that as far as the present employees were concerned, Government would do everything to see that their service conditions were not adversely affected by this conversion, and I thought that the workers also were satisfied with this assurance. In addition to this, at that time, because we had also to make some changes in the management since we thought that the management was not efficient enough to conduct the affairs of the Delhi Milk Scheme, we got on loan the services of a very able officer from Gujarat, who has now been put in charge of the Delhi Milk Scheme.

Last month, there was a demonstration in front of my house by some workers of the Delhi Milk Scheme protesting against this conversion. I sent for some of the representatives of the workers who had assembled there and reiterated to them the assurance which I had already given.

Again, this month the workers wanted to see me in this connection. On the 15th, I gave an appointment to those representatives of the employees there. Again I assured them that in case the conversion was going through, the service conditions, rights and privileges of the existing employees would not, in any way, be adversely affected, and they need not have any apprehension about it. They again expressed their view that this conversion should not go through, that they should continue to work as part of the Department of Agriculture, to which I said that we had to consider this from the aspect of the interests of the community for whose benefit