

## LOK SABHA

Monday, April 3, 1967/Chaitra 13,  
1889 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair ]

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

भारतीय नेताओं के बारे में अमरीका में  
दिखाया जा रहा अश्लील नाटक

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- \* 199. श्री मधु लिमये :  
श्री हेम बरुणा :  
श्री यशपाल सिंह :  
डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया :  
श्री रामकिशन गुप्त :  
श्री वी० चं० शर्मा :  
श्री प्र० के० देव :  
श्री जी० सी नायक :  
श्री के० पी० सिंह देव :  
श्री ए० वीपा :  
श्री रा० बरुणा :  
श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त :  
श्री हरदयाल देवगुण :

क्या बंबेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की  
कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को भारतीय नेताओं  
के बारे में अमरीका में दिखाये जा रहे अश्लील  
नाटक के सम्बन्ध में कोई जानकारी मिली  
है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो नाटक का विषय  
क्या है तथा उसकी मुख्य बातें क्या हैं; और

(ग) इस मामले में सरकार ने अब  
तक क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

बंबेशिक-कार्य मंत्री (श्री मु० क०  
चागला) : (क) से (ग). विवरण सभा पटल  
पर रख दिया गया है।

## विवरण

एक प्राइवेट थियेटर ग्रुप ने न्यूयार्क  
स्टेट के एक थियेटर क्लब और दो विश्व-  
विद्यालयों में एक नाटक खेला है जिसमें  
भारत तथा भारतीय देवी के बारे में अश्लील  
दृश्य प्रस्तुत किये गये; यह ग्रुप मालूम  
होता है, प्रमुख व्यक्तियों के बारे में अश्लील  
नाटक प्रस्तुत करने में निपुण है। नाटक की  
विषय वस्तु अत्यंत नीरस है और दोहराने  
योग्य नहीं। पिछली सर्दियों में जब यह  
नाटक पहली बार खेला गया था, तब हमारे  
प्रधान कौंसल ने अनौपचारिक तौर पर  
इसे न्यूयार्क सिटी अधिकारियों के साथ  
उठाया था। पिछले साल दिसम्बर में और  
इस साल फरवरी में जब यह दोबारा खेला  
गया तो हमारे प्रधान कौंसल ने न्यूयार्क अधि-  
कारियों से फिर लिखा-पढ़ी की और वारिंग-  
टन-स्थित हमारे राजदूतावास ने इस मामले  
को स्टेट विभाग के साथ उठाया और उनसे  
कहा कि अगर ऐसे नाटक खेले जाते रहे  
तो उनसे निश्चय ही भारत-अमरीकी संबंध  
बिगड़ेंगे। अमरीका के विभिन्न अधिकारियों  
को इस विषय में बहुत परेशानी हुई है और  
उन्होंने हमें इस पर सहानुभूतिपूर्ण ध्यान  
देने का आग्रह किया है लेकिन, अमरीकी  
कानून के अन्तर्गत, सरकारी अधिकारियों  
के पास ऐसे मामलों पर नियंत्रण रखने का  
अधिकार नहीं है। न्यूयार्क सिटी को  
उस थियेटर क्लब द्वारा लाइसेंस सम्बन्धी

नियमों का तकनीकी तौर पर कुछ उल्लंघन करने का पता चला है जिसने पहले पहल वह नाटक तैयार किया था और अग्री कार्ट-वाई के परिणामस्वरूप थियेटर बन्द कर दिया गया है। अमरीका में हमारे मिशन भविष्य में ऐसे नाटक तैयार होने के विषय में सचेत हैं; हमारे विद्यार्थी भी, जिन्हें किसी भी भद्र पुरुष की तरह इस नाटक से आघात पहुंचा है, जागरूक हैं। अगर आगे से इस प्रकार के नाटकों का खेलना रोका जा सका तो रोका जायगा और अगर ऐसा न हो सका तो उन्हें घृणित समझ कर नज़र-दाज़ कर देना पड़ेगा।

**श्री मधु लिमये :** अमरीका या दूसरे प्रजातांत्रिक देशों में जहां वाणी की और लिखने की स्वतंत्रता है बार-बार भारत विरोधी बातें लिखी जाती हैं और बोली जाती हैं और फिर उन सारी बातों को लेकर हमारे देश में असन्तोष फैलता है। मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह इन देशों में अश्लीलता या विदेशियों के खिलाफ लिखी जाने वाली सामग्री सम्बन्धी सभी कानूनों और प्रणालियों का अध्ययन करके उनका विवरण सभा पटल पर रखेगी, ताकि इस सदन और सदस्यों को इस बात का पता लग जाये कि हम किन बातों को उठा सकते हैं और उनके साथ ले सकते हैं।

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** Yes, Sir. I can briefly tell you what the laws are. The obscenity laws in America are very different from English laws, but as far as the theatre is concerned, no licence is necessary for staging a play. In England there is the Lord Chamberlain, and every play has to be passed by him. There, the licence is given to the theatre-owner and not the writer. In this particular case it was staged in a private club, and the rule is that if no admission fees are charged, the obscenity laws do not apply. Fortunately for us, the owner of the club committed some irregu-

larities with regard to the licensing clause, and therefore the club was closed down, and the play could not be staged. Therefore, there is a difference in the laws with regard to plays in the United Kingdom and the United States. This is the position.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** इसकी तफसील वह बाद में सभा-पटल पर रख दें। किसी अन्य देश में भारत-विरोधी जो काम होता है, जो कुछ लिखा जाता है, जो कुछ बोला जाता है, जब उसके खिलाफ कोई कानूनी कार्यवाही सम्भव नहीं है तो उसका जवाब दो तरीकों से ही दिया जा सकता है : एक तो यहां पर हमारा काम अच्छा हो और दूसरे, हमारे दूतावासों के द्वारा जो प्रचार होता है, वह ठीक तरह से हो। ये जो दो पहलू हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान में हम लोग, यानी सरकार और दूसरे लोग, अच्छा काम करें, जिसका दुमिया पर असर पड़े और दूसरे, हमारे दूतावासों के द्वारा भारत के हक में जो प्रचार किया जाता है, उसमें कोई ताकत आये और कार्य-क्षमता आए, क्या इन दोनों पहलुओं पर सरकार ने विचार किया है और क्या इस सम्बन्ध में कोई ठोस कदम उठाया जा रहा है ?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** As far as the first part is concerned, our representatives in the United States took every possible action. The Consul General saw the Mayor of New York and the other authorities, and they expressed regret, they were very sorry that under the law they could not do anything. As far as Washington is concerned, the State Department was approached, and our Ambassador saw the Secretary of State and pointed out to him that a play like this would seriously interfere with Indo-American relations. The Secretary of State expressed his deep regret and he said that he would do whatever he could. And I might tell you that the New York authorities did help us. Unfortunately, not only was this play staged in New York, it was staged in

two universities. The New York authorities wrote to other universities to try and see that this play was not staged there. Fortunately, it was not staged in the two other universities. The position today is that the play is not being staged in the United States. With regard to the second part, I agree with my hon. friend that we need publicity, and more and better publicity, and we are doing whatever we can.

श्री मधु लिनये : श्रीर प्रच्छा कमि ।

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** May I point out that it is not only our Prime Minister and the Congress President who have been lampooned; even people like President Roosevelt, Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, President Johnson's daughter and President DeGaulle have all come in for lampooning. This theatre is called the theatre of the ridiculous. Therefore, I would ask this House to treat such things with contempt. Of course we have done our best to see that this play is not staged, but if it is staged, I think our culture is sufficiently great to ignore plays like this.

**Shri Hem Barua:** This obscene play that scandalises Indian leaders, particularly Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Mr. Kamaraj, has been staged in the American Universities, and attempts made by our Government to stop this play from being staged failed. It is the students of the Colombia University who first drew the attention of our diplomatic personnel in America to this obscene play. This is a two-hour stage piece. In that context, why is it that our diplomatic personnel in America had to be reminded of this play by Indian students doing their studies in the Colombia University, when alone they woke up to this fact; and secondly, when the American authorities said that they could not ban this play, what steps have the Government taken to see that this obscene play scandalising India is stopped?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** It is not quite correct; we had already taken steps when the play was staged in New York. Then it was shown at another university, and the students who saw it were shocked.

**Shri Hem Barua:** My submission is that it was the Indian students who wrote to the diplomatic personnel in America, and our diplomatic personnel woke up to the fact only after the representation came from the Indian students.

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** That is not true; we had already woken up to the fact when it was shown in New York and our diplomatic personnel were taking some action about it when the students representation also came in. We took action as soon as we were told about it. The other universities were advised about the staging of the play and in fact it was not staged in two other universities where they were likely to be staged—one at Chicago and the other at....

**Shri Hem Barua:** Colombia.

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** Therefore, it was not true that we had not taken action before the students drew our attention.

श्री यक्षपाल सिंह : यह ठीक है कि अमरीका में किमी आबसीन प्ले को रोकने के लिये कोई कानून नहीं है, लेकिन जब किसी दूसरे देश की इज्जत पर हमला किया जाये, तो क्या इस तरह के नाटक श्रीर प्ले वहां नहीं रोके जा सकते, ताकि दूसरे देशों की इज्जत को खतरा न हो ?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** As I said, the most that we can do is to make diplomatic representations, and they were made to the highest authorities. There cannot be any higher stage than our Ambassador seeing the Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Rusk. The Secretary of State expressed his regret at the staging of the play, and he

said that he would do whatever he can within his power. What more can our Ambassador or diplomatic representatives do?

**श्री राम किशोर गुप्ता :** इस स्टेटमेंट में यह कहा गया है कि क्लब के झलावा दो यूनिवर्सिटीज में यह खेल दिखलाया गया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह वही खेल था, या कोई दूसरा ड्रामा था।

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** It was the same play.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** I have studied the reply of the hon. Minister carefully. I think the hon. External Affairs Minister has delivered a homily that we should treat it with contempt. May I ask the hon. Minister whether that play has been studied in the External Affairs Ministry and whether he knows all the undertones and the overtones of that play and whether contempt was the only response which we can show or retaliation will be a better response to be given to it?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** I normally do not read obscene publications, but in this case, it was part of my duty, and I have studied reports of the play and I can assure this House it is not only obscene but it is shocking; it is disgraceful; it is disgusting.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** I wanted to know whether our approach has been just contempt or retaliation or some other approach (*Interruption*).

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri R. Barua.

**Shri R. Barua:** In the last sentence in the statement the Government says: "If further stagings can be prevented, they will be; if not, they will have to be ignored, with the contempt they deserve." It shows an attitude of helplessness; is it because our Ambassador has not been careful

enough that the Government has made such a statement?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** No, Sir. I think it is an unfair question. I have said what our Embassy has done. I have said what our Consulate has done. I said within the American law, We cannot do anything more. I ended up by saying that if nothing more can be done, we must treat it with contempt.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Our Consul-General in New York is reported to have said in an interview that he thought that this play had caused unfriendly feelings between two nations that are friendly. My question is, is there any basis of reciprocity in these matters, or is it only in this country that so many plays written by Indians and books written by Indians have been proscribed and prevented from being staged or circulated by our Government, precisely on the ground that they will damage the friendly relations between two friendly countries namely, this country and the United States of America? There was a book or a play which deals with Viet Nam, I am told. May I know whether on this question there is any reciprocity of treatment between the two countries or they are permitted to do anything they like and it is only in our case that our nationals are prevented?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** What is the reciprocity? Am I to requisition the services of a dramatist to write an obscene play about America?

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** There is no question of obscenity. The question is whether any similar law or any similar rule or code prevails in that country?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** We are going by the rule of law and within the rule of law, wherever we can proscribe or ban a book, we do that. They have got their own law which is different from our law, which is based on English law. I do not understand the question of reciprocity:

because some body writes any obscene play about a high Indian personage (*Interruption*).

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** I do not know why the hon. Minister is continually referring to obscenity. I said nothing about obscenity. I said about the standard which we observe here, namely that anything which the Government considers damaging to friendly relations between India and another country should not be staged or published. Does any similar thing obtain in America, or are they permitted to do anything which may damage the relations? (*Interruption*).

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** But it does not unfortunately obtain in America. The laws are different. As I said, plays are written about President Kennedy, President Johnson, his daughter, and so on.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** The question is why we should unilaterally go on doing this.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Shri Devgun.

**श्री हरदयाल देवगुण :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतायेंगे कि अमरीका के समाचार पत्रों और पत्रिकाओं में भारतीय समाज को और विशेष रूप से हिन्दू समाज और उनके धार्मिक विश्वासों पर भी इस प्रकार के आघात होते रहते हैं और सरकार ने उनके विरुद्ध कोई विरोध प्रकट नहीं किया, इस से प्रोत्साहित हो कर इस प्रकार का काम दूसरे लोग भी कर रहे हैं।

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** The American press has articles praising our culture and our traditions. The American press occasionally publishes articles attacking us. It is a free press, just as we tell the foreign representatives when they draw our attention to articles appearing in our papers that they are attacking Russia or the United States, that our country has a free

press and unless they come within the clutches of the law, we are helpless.

सेना के लिये भर्ती

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\* 200. श्री विभूति मिश्र :  
श्री क० ना० तिवारी :

क्या प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री यह बातने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सेना के लिये भर्ती भारत के सभी राज्यों में से नहीं की जाती है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सब राज्यों के व्यक्तियों को भर्ती के मामले में समान अवसर देने के लिये सरकार द्वारा कोई उपयुक्त योजना तैयार की जा रही है ?

**The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सुरक्षा मंत्री जी ये आंकड़े दे सकते हैं कि हर स्टेट के कितने आदमी जल सेना में, स्थल सेना में और हवाई सेना में हैं और क्या यह सही नहीं है कि बिहार की आबादी 5 करोड़ होते हुए भी बिहार से भर्ती कम होती है, क्योंकि वही लोग भर्ती करने वाले जाते हैं जो अपनी स्टेटों से ज्यादा लोग भर्ती करते हैं और बिहार से कम करते हैं।

**Shri Swaran Singh:** No State is ignored. There is no State-wise restriction. The recruitment is open to all persons, irrespective of caste, creed, religion or State to which they belong. Maybe the response from certain States is not as considerable and as much as from some other States.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** अध्यक्ष जी, उन्होंने जवाब नहीं दिया है। हर स्टेट से कितने कितने आदमी हैं, क्या वे इसका उत्तर