

वासियों को जमीन दी जाये, उस जमीन को नीलाम किया गया है। नीलाम में गरीब आदमी जमीन कैसे ले सकता है। उस को तो बड़े आदमी, जिन के बड़े बड़े पेट हैं, ही ले सकते हैं। जिन लोगों के पास बड़ी बड़ी रकमें हैं, वही नीलाम में जमीन ले सकते हैं—गरीब हरिजन और आदिवासी उस को नहीं ले सकते हैं। जब वहां पर जमीन को नीलाम किया गया, तो चालीस एकड़ जमीन के एक टुकड़े की कीमत को कई बड़े आदमी बढ़ाते रहे, लेकिन एक हरिजन ने बड़ी मुश्किल से उस जमीन को 1,13,500 रुपये में ले लिया, जिस का अर्थ यह है कि वह जमीन ढाई हजार रुपये प्रति एकड़ पड़ी। आप ही सोचिए कि उस हरिजन पर यह जमीन खरीदने से जो कर्जा होगा, वह उस को कैसे चुकायेगा। उस जमीन का मूल्य वसूल करने के लिए उस की सारी पैदावार को सरकार ही ले लेगी। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस प्रकार जमीन को नीलाम कर के हरिजनों और आदिवासियों के साथ बड़ा अत्याचार हो रहा है। जब गर्वनमेंट ने यह आर्डर दिया है कि हरिजनों और आदिवासियों को जमीन देनी चाहिए, तो उस आर्डर पर अमल करना चाहिए, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं किया जाता है।

हरिजनों और आदिवासियों के कल्याण और विकास के लिए लाखों रुपये रखे जाते हैं, लेकिन वह रुपया उन के कल्याण या लाभ के लिए इस्तेमाल नहीं होता है। वह रुपया न जाने कौन से पत्र में चला जाता है। पढ़े लिखे हरिजन आदिवासी हैं तो उन को नौकरी नहीं मिलती है। अभी हाल ही का मैं बताता हूँ कि करीब 5 सौ लड़के निकलेंगे टीकमगढ़ के, तरपुर के, और एक को भी जगह नहीं मिलती है। अब जगह खाली है, जैसे अस्पताल में खाली है। तो बेचारों ने फार्म भरा। लेकिन डाक्टर कहते हैं कि 5 सौ रुपया रिश्वत के लाओ। तो हरिजन और आदिवासियों के पास कहां इतना रुपया धरा

है ? न 5 सौ रुपया होगा और न उन को नौकरी मिलेगी। यह अत्याचार मचा है, रिश्वतखोरी मची है। समझ में नहीं आता कि गर्वनमेंट क्या करती है क्या नहीं करती है? तो श्रीमन्, मैं स्पीकर साहब को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि मुझे बोलने के लिए समय मिल गया।

सभापति महोदय : इस पर बहस और होगी जो दिन स्पीकर साहब मقرر करेंगे।

17 hrs.

* AIR CORPORATIONS

Shri Daji (Indore): I seek to raise a discussion arising out of the Question on 9th August regarding certain matters connected with Air India International.

We have discussed the same subject on the 9th August also, but even then the discussion, according to us, did not result in any satisfactory clarifications. Therefore, we have once again sought this opportunity to raise a discussion.

At the very outset I want to assure the House and the Minister through you that we have got not the slightest intention of sort of throwing dust on the public sector corporation Air India. In fact, it is a sector which is competing with foreign companies and corporations and is holding its own and doing good. We all appreciate that. Our intention is to purge the corporation of its defects and some of the bureaucratic irregularities of the officers so that the name of Air India can rise still higher in the counsels of the nations. So, about that there is no issue, and we need not unnecessarily get bogged down.

I would today, instead of living a speech, put certain pointed questions to the Minister so that pointed replies can come, instead of my repeating the arguments.

[Shri Daji]

The first question is: is it not a fact that one of the managers who is suspended pending an enquiry is being given 75 per cent. of his pay as subsistence allowance, whereas the normal rule is to give 50 per cent or so? This 75 per cent is a special discretionary power vested with the directors. Why was the special discretion exercised in favour of that officer who is suspended for irregularities and in connection with very serious misdemeanour? It is not meant to benefit the officers. Last time the Minister said he would make enquiries, I want to know if that is so.

Secondly, I would like to ask some other questions. It was said that one officer has been reprimanded. I suggested during the Question Hour that the offence of the officer is too serious for him to be let off merely on a reprimand. The hon. Minister was pleased to say that the extent of punishment could not be gone into because the Corporation has considered everything and has come to a certain decision, but this is not an ordinary matter.

Shri Sheo Narain (Bansi): There is no quorum in the House.

Mr. Chairman: The bell is being rung.

Mr. Chairman: Now there is quorum; Shri Daji may continue.

Shri Daji: I was referring to the case of smuggled ammunition. True normally Parliament would not be exercised over disciplinary proceedings of the Corporation. But in this case, the manager is alleged to have smuggled ammunition violating many rules, violating the foreign exchange regulations, customs rules, air safety rules. He smuggled ammunition which was discovered at the airport. Now we are told that there was an enquiry against him and he was reprimanded. It is such a serious offence; he is such a senior officer; he has violated so many rules; he smuggled ammunitions endangering the safety of the plane. In such a case is it proper to allow a senior officer, a high officer to be let

of merely with reprimand? It was not declared before the customs authorities by that officer. He said that it was a cargo which had come in by mistake and that it should be returned. Has it been returned? We have our information this this is a very common practice adopted by some of the senior officials of the Air India Corporation to get packages in friolous names and then no one comes to take delivery of them. Sometimes they are booked properly; sometimes, not. This ammunition case was not even shown on the cargo list of the plane. Therefore, the question is whether it was returned or not. This is an obvious case of smuggling.

Thirdly, there was an official in Hong Kong who has defalcated to the tune of more than Rs. 1 lakh Hong Kong dollars. He has been caught in other matters. We learn that he has been sentenced. The Minister replied that he is being prosecuted. We want to know specifically where he is being prosecuted; whether he is in jail in Hong Kong, and apart from the guilt of this officer, whether there is a whole network working behind this and how and whether the foreign exchange smuggling has been unearthed or not.

One small matter came to the notice of the Air India Corporation. It is a very significant matter of principle. All passengers were allowed to take, during those days, foreign exchange worth five pounds. The important officials entered into a practice of seeing the passport of some passengers and in those cases where a passenger has not taken his foreign exchange, and after the passport was given, he used to take and collect the foreign exchange. He played this trick with a foreigner who at the last minute remembered, that he has forgotten to take foreign exchange; so he went to the counter and then it was discovered that he had been issued foreign exchange. Then, this matter was discovered. It was accepted, and this officer has been let off merely with a

warning. Only one case can be detected and not all, but this shows how the entire practice of foreign exchange smuggling is going on. I want to know whether this is proper and whether just only one warning is sufficient in the case of that officer.

Similarly, I want to point out that in the case of P form, the Minister informed us that seven officers have been held responsible, out of whom four are in service and three have already left service. Therefore, the question of disciplinary action against those three persons cannot be pursued. The reply of the Minister was that disciplinary proceedings have been taken in respect of four persons. I want to know what are those disciplinary proceedings taken, what was the punishment awarded, whether there was any enquiry or not. I want to know the full facts of the case in respect of this matter.

There are various points which have been brought before the House again and again. Please do not misunderstand me. If there is a criminal liability and even if a man resigns from the Corporation, he can be pursued and punished. I am not talking of criminal liability. There are such irregularities committed after which he manages to escape by resigning and then enter service in another private firm. The PAC has been pleased to observe in the case of Aminchand Pyarelal firm that many officers of the Office of Iron and Steel Controller, after retirement, retrenchment, discharge, dismissal or resignation, have been found to be working with Aminchand Pyarelal firm to the extent that we in the Public Undertakings Committee traced one bill of Aminchand Pyarelal, that is, selling of petrol pipes to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission at rates of Rs. 15 per ton lower than the rates of the Rourkela Steel Plant which is the only body manufacturing these pipes. It occurred to no one how a private party could quote a tender which was Rs. 15 per ton lower than that of the public

sector manufacturers of this particular pipe. Aminchand Pyarelal was given the tender. What was it? They entered into collusion with the sales manager of Rourkela, got good pipes, declared as rejects, purchased them for junk, and then supplied them to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. When an enquiry was made as to where the sales manager has gone, the reply has now come that he is a senior executive in Aminchand Pyarelal Company.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member should remember that this is just a half-hour discussion.

Shri Daji: I shall conclude now. And since he has already resigned, no action could be taken against him. There is no criminal responsibility fastened on him. But this was an act of misfeasance during his tenure of office as sales manager, a responsible post. So, we will have to evolve some rules as to how in the public sector undertakings and in Government departments we will allow resignations or not. Particularly, I object to many of these resignations. Many of these resignations have been allowed and accepted after a cloud of suspicion and doubt had been cast upon those officers. At least in such cases, the contracts need to be amended. The hon. Minister is thinking that the contract is such that we cannot stop him from resigning. But now at least, for future guidance, the contract of service should be so changed that no resignations should be accepted, once there is a cloud around that gentleman. Otherwise, every time the man can escape by resigning and running away.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): Like the income-tax clearance, you must have something here also.

Shri Daji: Yes; like the income-tax clearance, it must be a good clearance.

Then there is another offence on the basis of a telex message. One senior officer went to New York,

श्री ज्वा० प्र० ज्योतिषी (सागर) : यह नियम क्यों न बनायें कि सर्विस छोड़ देने के बाद भी ऐसे लोगों का प्रासीक्यूशन किया जा सके ।

श्री बाजी : अगर कोई गुनाह किया हो तो प्रासीक्यूशन तो हो ही सकता है । मैं प्रासीक्यूशन की बात नहीं करता हूँ, कोई ऐसा आफेंस होता है जो क्रिमिनल आफेंस एक्ट में नहीं आता है और गवर्नमेंट का लाखों का नुकसान होता है, लेकिन क्रिमिनल आफेंस नहीं बनता है, तो मेरा कहना है कि आपके पास कोई ऐसी जूरिसडिक्शन होनी चाहिये, उसकी कोई अमानत आपके पास होनी चाहिये, जिसको फोरफ्रीट करने का अधिकार आपके पास रहना चाहिये । घुटाला करने के बाद वे कनौरी छोड़ जाते हैं, दूसरी नौकरी कर लेते हैं और साफ़ बच जाते हैं।

On the contrary, I would go to the extent of saying that when such cases of corruption come to light, the entire properties of the family of such Government servants and also of the private company should be sequestered. We have arraigned Mr. Subramaniam and Mr. Bhoothalingam. They are at best commission agents for Aminchand Pyarelal, even if there is some guilt involved. What have we done about that firm which has amassed crores and crores? We must probe into such companies which, by fraudulent means, amass huge wealth and use the power of money to purchase the officers and the highest echelons in Government service.

This raises a very widespread and fundamental question. We are not satisfied with the nature of the enquiry against senior officials. I am constrained with great humility to remark that here and there some of our civil servants are good and we pay them our tribute, but today the only successful cooperative society is the cooperative society of mutual admiration and self-help of Government officials. Each official helps and

screens the other, because he himself expects to be helped and screened in turn. When such high officials like Mr. Bakshi, Mr. Patel and Mr. Rustomji are involved, I submit that an enquiry by another officer of Air India will not bring to light all the offences. That is why we have been demanding an independent enquiry. But this has been sought to be side-tracked by the Minister again and again by saying that because the Public Undertakings Committee have gone into it very recently, there is no need for another enquiry. As a member of the Public Undertakings Committee, I say that none of these things was at that time brought to our notice. We only examined the working of the Air Corporations. If it is desired that the Public Undertakings Committee should examine these things also, let the House or the Minister refer the matter back to the committee and the Chairman of the committee will take up the enquiry. Some sort of high administrative enquiry, which cannot be influenced by the officials, should be undertaken. All this smuggling and other things going on in the top management of Air India are spoiling the image of Air India before foreigners. When £ 5 of foreign exchange belonging to a foreigner was stolen, what would be the image? This is a fundamental question.

The Minister stated that the PUC has given a very good report and we are considering it. I am sorry to say that the Government is treating all the Committees of the House in a very shabby manner. The rules are that within three months, action taken report should be submitted. Our report was submitted on 11th May 1965 regarding the Aminchand Pyarelal group of firms. The reply of the government, which should have come within three months, came in August 1966, after repeated reminders from our committee. If the action taken report comes after 1-1/2 years, the very purpose of the recommendation is defeated. Very speedy action must be taken.

In this case, because very highly placed officials are involved, we suspect that an enquiry by the mutual admiration and benefit society will not be enough. A high-powered enquiry is necessary, so that the misfeasors can be brought to book and a path found for the future when such things do not happen.

Shri Joachim Alva (Kanara): The Air India has got a large number of employees—in fact about 7,000. In that, what would be the percentage of these erring officers? No doubt they are not pardonable, but may I know whether it is possible to pin down the people who commit these lapses from amongst about 7,000 people spread all over the world?

I do not know whether Indian Airlines is also included; in the PAC report it was mentioned that a commission of Rs. 30 lakhs was being taken by the travel agents. That was two years ago. The Minister has recently taken over; I do not know if he is aware of this. Indian Airlines is a monopolistic concern. Why is it that such a large amount goes down the drain as commission, when there is no competition? When people in out of the way stations book their tickets, it is justifiable. But I cannot understand why in India, our own country, we have to pay such large sums to help the travel agents. Sometimes we have to wait at the counter for two or three days to get a ticket. The point is whether there is any liaison between these people down below, the booking agents and others..

श्री वृष्ण चन्द्र कछवाय (देवास) :

मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जिस अफसर ने हथियार भेजे उस को सिर्फ़ हिदायत दी गई, क्या यह पर्याप्त है। क्या ऐसे देशद्रोह करने वालों को सख्त सजा देने की जरूरत नहीं है।

श्री मधु लिमये : मेरे प्रश्न के दो हिस्से हैं। मैंने लिखित रूप में मंत्री महोदय के पास

अंग्रेजी भाषा में भेज दिया है। मेरा पहला प्रश्न इस सम्बन्ध में है कि उन्होंने पिछली चर्चा के समय कहा था कि उपल साहब कारपोरेशन की नौकरी में तथा अनुशासन में हैं। लेकिन यह बात सही नहीं है। वह इस्तीफा दे चुके हैं और जो बख्शी साहब की जांच हुई थी उस में वह गवाही देने के लिये नहीं आये। उन्होंने कहा कि उनके ऊपर अब कारपोरेशन का अधिकार नहीं है।

दूसरी बात यह है कि भूतपूर्व जनरल मैनेजर श्री पटेल का मैंने बार बार सवाल उठाया। आज मैं सवाल उठाना चाहता हूँ कि जब वह जनरल मैनेजर थे तो क्या उन्होंने कभी कारपोरेशन के सामने या किसी दूसरे डिपार्टमेंट के सामने इस किस्म का ऐलान किया था अपने लडके के बारे में कि वह उन पर निर्भर है, डिपेन्डेंट रिलेटिव है जब कि जिस नौकरी में ज्यादा तन्खाह मिलती है ऐसी नौकरी वह करते थे। मैं इस की सफाई चाहता हूँ। एअर इंडिया इंटरनेशनल से पटेल साहब का तबादला कर देने की सजा पर्याप्त नहीं होती है।

यह इस्तीफा देने की जो परम्परा है उस के बारे में मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान स्टील से इस्तीफा देने के बाद बख्शी शिव चरण अमीचन्द प्यारेलाल फम में लीगल ऐडवाइजर हो गये हैं। स्टील मंत्रालय तथा स्टील कंट्रोलर का जो कार्यालय है उनको वह इस तरह से घुमाते हैं कि क्या बतलाऊँ।

Shri Vasudevan Nair (Ambalapuzha): Sir, I want specially to ask about this P-form scandal. It seems the Minister is giving the excuse that some papers are missing so that an enquiry cannot be properly conducted into the matter. I should like to know what is the policy or what is the rule laid down with regard to destroying official papers. I would like to know whether a paper will not even be

[Shri Vasudevan Nair]

kept for one year or two years. What is the rule about it? There should be some rules about that. How can he find an excuse behind it? I want to know how the records are preserved, and why an enquiry cannot be made about this P-form scandal?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): Sir, I am very thankful to Shri Daji for saying that the reputation of the public sector concerns should not be damaged. Therefore, there is absolutely no difference of opinion. I accept the opinion given by Shri Daji. I am glad that the points made by all our friends were very constructive. If there is something wrong, let me assure my hon. friends that neither the Government nor the Corporation is anxious to shield anybody, but the process of punishing them also takes time.

The first point that Shri Daji made was about 75 per cent allowance being paid to the officer under suspension. Naturally, it was considered by the Corporation. The Corporation has power under the rules to pay even 100 per cent. But even presuming it is calculated at 75 per cent, he was getting only 50 per cent....

Mr. Chairman: Subsistence allowance?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: Yes. Shri Daji will be glad to know that the enquiry has been completed and that officer has been dismissed a few days ago—it was perhaps last week or so. Mr. Bakshi has been dismissed now and the question of allowance and other things does not arise.

About the ammunition also I was really worried. It was brought to my notice last time and I enquired about it. It was an unsolicited consignment from some friend in America to one officer here. It was brought here and carriage rules were followed but some technical point about taking permission from the DG CA was not complied with. When it came here he did not receive the thing and it was

sent back again; it was not accepted here. It is not supposed to be very dangerous; it is to be used by shikaris for shooting ducks and all that.

श्री मधु लिमये (मंगेर) : वापस नहीं गया ।

Shri Daji: Our information is that it has not reached the consignor in New York.

श्री मधु लिमये : उस का रेकार्ड तो न्यूयार्क में होना चाहिये । आप न्यूयार्क में जात्र कोजिये कि रेकार्ड है या नहीं । अगर नहीं है तो मतलब है कि वापस नहीं गया ।

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: Anyway, I take the information. I am giving my friends the information that I have now before me and which has been supplied to me. It says that it has been sent back. Now that our friends say that it has not been sent back, it is a serious contradiction and I would like to make further inquiries. Naturally, if the officers have given me wrong information, they will have to be held responsible for it.

About the defalcation in the Hong Kong office, it is true that nearly Rs. 1,50,000...

Shri Daji: 1-50,000 Hong Kong dollars.

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: It may be a little less in dollars, but approximately Rs. 1,50,000 was swindled. It may be Rs. 10,000 this way or that way. There was a Chinese national who was employed in that accounts office. It was discovered last January. Officers went from here and he confessed or accepted that he had committed this crime. He is in jail, convicted for nine months. The money that the Corporation had to his credit, Rs. 8,000 and odd, has been forfeited.

Mr. Chairman: Any amount recovered from him?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: Yes; Rs. 8,000. Whatever it is, he is convicted now for nine months and he is in jail. Arrangements have been made to see that these things do not occur again. An Indian accountant has been posted.

Shri Sonavane (Pandharpur): Any steps taken to prevent these things?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: That is exactly what I said. Some Indian officers have been sent and steps have been taken in that regard.

About the P-form my friends have been making repeated complaints. It is true that a number of irregularities were committed last year. Since the last one year it has been tightened up and I hope nothing has come to the notice of my hon. friends since June last year. For the last 14 months it has been tightened up. The irregularities were there. They had been discovered and some people have been punished. A list also was placed by me on the Table of the House of the number of people travelling without P-form.

Shri Daji: What is the punishment?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: The Directorate is taking action against people who have committed irregularities.

I am glad, Shri Alva brought out one point from the other angle. There are 7,000 employees not in India alone but spread all over the world and naturally some of them commit irregularities. A few of them cannot be any bad reputation to a large circle of people.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): Have you tightened supervision over these persons?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: The rules have been so tightened now that the P-forms cannot be misused now by people. That is why I say that since the last one year not one case has come to our notice. We have tightened the administration.

Shri Alva brought out this point very correctly. So many people are involved and in different countries and, naturally, some regulations might have been violated here and there. Therefore, we will have to be a little sympathetic to the Corporation which

has been dealing with so many people in different corners of the world. When some lapses here and there are discovered, the Corporation is as anxious as any of us to punish those people. Then, he said that Rs. 30 lakhs have been paid to the travel agents as commission. It is quite possible. I do not deny that. I do not say either "Yes" or "No" because I do not know whether Rs. 30 lakhs is really paid to them. Obviously, it is a big amount to be paid as commission to travel agents. I shall find out and bring it to the notice of the Corporation if they can make some other arrangement. If an alternative is possible, I will be very very happy.

Then, my friend, Mr. Madhu Limaye, brought two points to my notice. He also repeated that. It is true that Mr. Uppal has resigned on 6th June and he has joined some other company somewhere. But his evidence was not necessary. In the case of Mr. Bakshi, on evidence available, Shri Bakshi has been dismissed already. Therefore, the question of Mr. Uppal's coming and giving evidence does not arise. Action has been taken. The Board met recently, took action and dismissed Mr. Bakshi.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Please give full name of Mr. Bakshi. We confuse him with Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad (*Interruption*).

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: So, that does not arise now. I thank him for the correction. Mr. Uppal is not in service; he has resigned. His evidence in Mr. Bakshi's case was not necessary. Action has already been taken. If, without evidence, we can dismiss him, why does he insist on the evidence?

About Mr. B. R. Patel's son, the rules quite clearly say that in the case of near relatives, like, son or daughter or wife, they need not be dependants. These are the rules as they stand now.

Shri Daji: You are wrongly informed.

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: As I said, I am giving the information which is at my disposal. If it is wrong, I am prepared to be corrected again. I will get the rules studied again.

श्री मधु लिमये : त्रिवलेज मोशन लाता
हूँ तो फिर आप कहते हैं I am abusing
the procedure of the House. एक दफा,
दो दफा मौका दिया जा सकता
है न सत्य कथन करने के लिए ।

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: The point is that in the case of family members, like, son or daughter or wife, they need not be dependants. It is in the case of distant relatives that they must be dependant relatives. But in the case of son or daughter or wife, etc. they need not be dependants—they are family members. So, Mr. Patel's son did go and I got it further enquired that—he is not a dependant in that sense—he is himself employed somewhere; he is making his own money. But he was invited and he got the 'P' Form on the basis of the invitation. All that he got was for

being the son of so and so; he got a free passage as a near relative of an officer in the Air India for travel on another airline. He got his 'P' Form; he got everything from the Reserve Bank; everything was perfectly correct. Under the IATA rules, the near relative, like, son or daughter or wife need not be a dependant. It is only a distant relative that should be a dependant.

Sir, I am assured by the Corporation that they are anxious to take action. They do not want irregularities to be committed, if they are irregularities. But being a commercial body and as it has to deal with a large number of people in the different corners of the world, there may be some lapses here and there. I am thankful to Mr. Daji for saying that he is very anxious to see to maintain the good work done, rather, to support the good work done by the Corporation. I am really thankful to him.

17.33 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday,
August 24, 1966/Bhadra 2, 1888 (Saka).*