

buyers' market. Sugar is sold in the market at throw-away prices in the various countries.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Deputy Minister may please wait for a while. Now, the Home Minister will be making a statement.

17.31 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: DELHI BANDH

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी (कानपुर) :

श्री महोदय आध घंटा कहाँ बन्द रहें ?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Nanda): I had undertaken to make a statement at 5 P.M., but when I got the information I found that I needed some more information, and I asked for that. Therefore, I felt that a little more time was needed . . .

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Minister should have conveyed it to the House.

Shri Nanda: I had conveyed it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He had conveyed it at 5:20 P.M., I think.

Shri Nanda: I had conveyed it much earlier, at about 4 p.m. or so.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It had been conveyed to the Speaker, but I am sorry it was not conveyed to the House.

Shri Nanda: I may say that the House would be pleased to know that the city is peaceful and the day has passed peacefully. I hope that what remains of the day will also be as peaceful as it has been so far.

I may give the steps that the Delhi Administration took to maintain law and order in view of the threat of the general strike called by the various political parties for the 19th April, 1966.

Shri Priya Gupta (Katihar): Including the Congress.

Shri Nanda: Yes, including the Congress. That was why it was peaceful.

On the 15th April, 1966, an order under section 144 Cr. P.C. was promulgated. Besides imposing the usual ban on such occasions on the assembly of five or more persons and the holding of any meetings, use of loud-speakers etc. without the written permission of the district magistrate|additional district magistrate|sub-divisional magistrate, the order also banned:

"the forcible closure of shops and commercial establishments and the use or the show of force or any attempt to intimidate the owner of a public carriage or a stage-carrier to go about his business of transporting passengers/goods within the Union Territory of Delhi."

The order came into force on 15th April, 1966 for a period of 15 days, unless withdrawn earlier. Wide publicity was given to this order.

As it was feared that the general strike might disturb the normal life in the city of Delhi, efforts were made right from the beginning to ensure that at least the transport services did not join this strike. The district authorities and the Director of Transport remained in touch with the DTU and other unions of taxis, scooters etc. As a precaution, however, alternative arrangements were also completed to maintain transport services on essential routes. The Deputy Commissioner commandeered 105 vehicles, including 40 DTU buses, and kept them in reserve at Tis Hazari to be put on the road in case of the sudden breakdown of the transport system. Besides this, a fleet of another 25 vehicles were kept in reserve to be put to use at a moment's notice. This arrangement was made particularly with a view to facilitating the transport of the large number of passengers coming to the Delhi Main and the New Delhi railway stations. For general law and

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order purposes, the Union Territory of Delhi is divided into three districts, each having its own Additional District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police. For operational purposes, each of these districts was treated as a zone. Each zone had two ADMs assisted by one DIG and two Superintendents of Police. Each zone was divided into sectors, each under the charge of a sub-divisional magistrate assisted by an extra magistrate and a Dy. S.P. In the Central District because of the peculiar traffic problem, a separate sub-zone was created under a separate ADM, assisted by a Superintendent of Police, with headquarters at police station Motinagar.

Each of the zones had a special reserve besides a central reserve stationed at three places. Adequate police force was provided to each zone and sector for patrolling and effective enforcement of the orders under section 144 Cr. P.C.

The anti-social elements are generally active on such occasions. In order to remove them from the scene, it was considered necessary to round them up before the day of the general strike. More than 450 bad characters were rounded up by the night of 18 April 1966.

Wide publicity of these arrangements had been made in order to assure the public that law and order would be maintained. Various organisations of transport were apprehensive of trouble and sought assurances from the District authorities that if they came on the road, they would not be harassed by the rowdy element. Such assurances were given in order to maintain the transport service in the capital.

Since this morning the Magistrates and the Police have been doing intensive patrolling, with the result that except for one minor incident no untoward incident has taken place. The transport services are absolutely normal. The DTU has put more than 750

buses on the road. The taxi, scooter and tonga services are plying as usual. The University and the Higher Secondary Examinations have gone without any trouble. The educational institutions are all open with normal attendance. The cinemas too are running their normal shows. The eating shops, such as restaurants, dhabas, tea stalls, etc. have also not closed down their business. Small shops of vegetables, fruit and hawkers have also not gone off the business. The factories and the business and commercial establishments did not join the strike. According to the latest reports, small grocery shops have also started opening in certain areas, such as Shakti Nagar, Kirti Nagar. In brief, except for the *hartal* by traders—*dukandaars*—life is completely normal in the city.

श्री राम सहाय पाण्डेय (गुना) : मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि इस "बन्द" के सन्दर्भ में नगर में सामान्य शान्ति रही, लेकिन क्या यह सच नहीं है कि इधर-उधर कुछ घटनायें हुई हैं और कुछ लोगों ने गड़बड़ी पैदा करने की कोशिश की, जिनका सम्बन्ध एक विशेष राजनैतिक दल से है ?

Shri Nanda: One minor incident took place which I referred to. It took place at about 12 noon near Yusuf Sarai. One Shri Ved Prakash carrying a communist flag had collected a small crowd of 10—12 persons. He was asked by the police party on patrol duty to disperse in view of the orders under Section 144 Cr.P.C. He did not listen and had to be apprehended forcibly, which resulted in minor injuries to him and to a police constable. His other companions ran away. It was simply a stray incident. The police had made three more arrests in the North District under Secs. 107/151 Cr.P.C., but these arrests had nothing to do with the strike and had to be made to stop personal quarrels at public places.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): Why was the morning dak not distributed?

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): I think the people of Delhi have to be congratulated on the peaceful manner in which they have succeeded in expressing their protest against Government's policy regarding sales tax. The police also deserve commendation for having abstained from the temptation of getting themselves irritated and irritating the public and leading the Government and the people into various kinds of incidents.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Any question to ask?

Shri Ranga: No, no. The main thing remains.

Shri R. S. Pandey: He should congratulate the Home Minister.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: That I would do.

Shri Priya Gupta: He could not influence the public to join the hartal.

Shri Ranga: The main thing remains. That is, what is it that the Government propose to do? I am sure it is not the case of Government that the people's resentment is artificial and it is not universal. It is not stated that the bandh has completely failed and the Government has succeeded. Therefore, under the circumstances, what is it that Government proposes to do in order to satisfy the people, to meet the people concerned who have been aggrieved by the policies of Government more than half way, in order to assure the public of Delhi as a whole that Government is not autocratic, that Government is certainly amenable to public opinion?

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur): When I raised this question by an adjournment motion notice this morning, I thought this was a matter merely for discussion, and not of merely a statement coming from the Home Minister regarding the situation as developed by the Delhi bandh. The object that I had in view was, as has been pointed out by my hon. friend Shri Ranga...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Do you want any information?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: I am asking the question. The whole point of the discussion of the question that arises in the House today is this, Is the Government going to continue in the same obdurate, assinine manner of not listening to the demands of the public? The general principle of every ruler, whoever he may be, is that he must treat himself as father and mother in relation to the ruled, as *parents patriae*. If this Government refuses to listen to this demand that is made by the public as the Government of the day, then this Government of the day is not fit to call itself the father and mother of the subject, and the question that therefore arises is this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Discussion on the Finance Ministry is coming.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Having shown its temper to the Government that they have felt deep resentment against the present levy of sales tax, is the Government now going to stick to the assurances that have been given that they will reconsider this imposition of sales tax? That is the point.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I also congratulate the people of Delhi and others who kept the strike and hartal a success, but a peaceful success. I would like to know what discussions took place between the representatives of those who called this bandh and the Home Minister, and what is the outcome of the discussion, and whether such discussions will continue in the larger interests of good relations?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What has that to do with the bandh?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It has.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Have you got anything to ask about the bandh?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I am asking about the bandh.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is now over.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I put the question like this, whether the

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question arising out of this bandh is going to be discussed with them or not?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not a question. (*Interruptions*)

The statement clearly shows that the bandh has not taken place.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: This was not a bandh, it was a hartal.

Dr. Ranen Sen (Calcutta East): The Home Minister admitted that even the Congress Party was behind the strike call, and it is also known that the representatives of the local Congress Committee also met the Government representatives to ventilate the grievances of the Delhi public. In view of the fact that this strike took place peacefully, would the Government consider this question that was raised by the strike and try to meet the demands of the trading community and other public?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a matter of policy.

Dr. Ranen Sen: I raised the question of policy also.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: The question is simple. When the adjournment motion was moved, that was the object of moving; otherwise, you should allow the adjournment motion. What else was there?

श्री किशन पटनायक (सम्बलपुर) :

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हो सकता है कि दिल्ली के लोग या तो मुर्दा हैं या शान्तिवादी हैं। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस कारण से कि उन्होंने दिल्ली में इमारतें नहीं जलवाई, बसों को नहीं जलवाया, हिंसा कांड नहीं करवाया

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Do you want them to set fire to the House? Members before asking questions must make responsible statements.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He is responsible; you do not follow.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am following.

श्री किशन पटनायक : आप पूरा नहीं सुनते हैं, बाघी भंसेजी सुनते हैं और रोक देते हैं। क्या इस कारण से कि उन्होंने इमारतें नहीं जलवाई, बसों को नहीं जलवाया, उनकी जो मांगें थीं उन पर विचार नहीं होगा ? यह मेरा सवाल है।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a matter of policy.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Bhagalpur): Even before there was any increase in the sales tax the traders and businessmen have already increased the price and have put the consumers in difficulty and therefore a protest against this undue rise in prices by the traders putting the consumers in difficulty, the people of Delhi have shown that they are not co-operating with them. May I know what action the government propose to take against such traders and businessmen who had increased the prices without there being any increase in the sales tax and put the consumer into difficulty?

Shri Thirumala Rao (Kakinada): I want to know from the government the total expenditure incurred in this behalf for an unnecessary, uncalled for, attempted dislocation of public business in the town. With regard to sales tax business, it is well-known that the traders, with the slightest increase of dearness allowance to the poor clerks and others, are charging them more and putting the public into great difficulty. I was just now told this afternoon that the administration has asked that no sales tax should be charged on the drugs but they are charging sales-tax without showing it in the bills; they just add the sales-tax to the price and they do not add in the bill but charge the extra and collect that from the public. These

are the things, that are being done by them. If every political party, including some Congressmen.... (Interruptions).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is your question?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I am coming to it. The reply given by the Home Minister and the Prime Minister recently to the deputation of traders has got the fullest support of every sane Member of this House and therefore, it need not be reconsidered. In view of all this, I want to know how much it has cost the government to make all these arrangements and who are responsible for this unnecessary expenditure.

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री (बिजनौर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, दिल्ली भारत की राजधानी है और यहां पर जो "दिल्ली बंद" हड़ताल घाज हुई और जिस प्रकार से उस में शान्तिपूर्ण व्यवहार दिल्ली के नागरिकों ने किया, उसके लिये दिल्ली की पुलिस या दिल्ली के प्रशासन को श्रेय देने के बजाय दिल्ली के उन नागरिकों और व्यापारियों को श्रेय देना अधिक उपयुक्त होगा जो अपने भ्रान्दोलन में हिंसात्मक रूप लाकर अपने भ्रान्दोलन की लगाम उन लोगों के हाथों में नहीं देना चाहते थे जो हिंसा या राष्ट्र घातक तत्वों में विश्वास रखते हैं। परन्तु दिल्ली में इस प्रकार की हड़ताल होना भी सरकार के लिये बहुत बड़ी बानिग है, नेतावनी है कि राजधानी में इस प्रकार की हड़ताल हो। मैं आपके माध्यम से गृह मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस शान्तिपूर्ण प्रदर्शन के बाद, क्या भारत सरकार जिन लोगों ने अपनी कठिनाइयों के कारण यह हड़ताल की, उन के साथ उसी प्रकार सद्व्यवहार से, बल्कि और भी उसके आगे जा कर बातचीत करेगी। कलकत्ता में हिंसात्मक घटनाएँ होने के बाद गृह मंत्री यहां से दौड़े हुए गये थे और वहां लोगों की कठिनाइयों को सुनने के बाद उन्होंने कुछ निर्णय लिये थे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि

शान्तिपूर्ण प्रदर्शन के बाद भी क्या उसी प्रकार सरकार व्यवहार करेगी ताकि देश में यह परम्परा चले कि शान्तिपूर्ण प्रदर्शन होने से सरकार जल्दी प्रभावित होती है ?

Shri Sham Lal Saraf (Jammu and Kashmir): I want to put one very important question. Please permit me to put one important question. From past experience, right from the day when this sales tax was levied, even in the past, whenever differences were found to exist between the adjoining States and Delhi, what had happened was, the trade channels had straightway gone out of Delhi to other places. This apprehension has always been felt by the Delhi traders. May I ask the hon. Minister whether this aspect of the question will be gone into, and after going into it, if an apprehension like that is felt, to find out whether those apprehensions are correct, and if they are correct, is the Government prepared to go into the question, and if it is not so, will the Government speak out to the Delhi traders and others that what they say is not correct, is not based on facts and is not based on events which are happening all over the country today?

Shri Priya Gupta rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am sorry. We have spent 20 minutes over this.

Shri D. C. Sharma: One question, Sir. (Interruption).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order.

Shri D. C. Sharma: It is a statement in answer to the call-attention notice, and you are not allowing questions.

श्री सुनीलाल (प्रबाला) : सेल्स टैक्स की वे चोरी करते हैं और उनको कोई सजा नहीं मिलती है। बहुत से तो पूरा सेल्स टैक्स चोरी करते हैं . . .

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : घाईर, घाईर ।

Shri Nanda: I will agree that congratulations go more to the people. I agree there. The peaceful conduct in all that has happened in the course of the day, the restraint shown by everybody, is a very good thing, and it is a very good augury. In the capital there should be no hartal. Let us see that there is no hartal. But it does not matter if there is a hartal, and we think, and even if I believe it is an unjustified hartal, I would rather have an expression of protest which is legitimate and desirable, because, in a democracy, that is really a very good outlet. But the only thing is that there should be no violence, no intimidation, no rowdyism; and, if we can combine the two, an open, free—unrestrained by any authority—demonstration and expression of protest. The justification, the people will decide. But there should be no intimidation, no instigation to violence. This will be strengthening the hands of democracy and therefore I am happy on this account at what has occurred today in Delhi.

Now, I have been rather a little hurt when the hon. Member Shri Trivedi—I have never had any occasion to see anything objectionable in what he says usually—said it is obdurate and assinine. On that, I have to say a few words. I do not want to refute or rebut anything. Before this bundh or hartal occurred, every effort was made to see that it was prevented, and I had hoped that there would be no such thing as has happened in the afternoon. There was mention of the United Chamber of Traders' Associations; their representative came to me and I gave them this assurance which I had already indicated in the earlier statement. I said, if there is any article regarding which there is any feeling that there will be some hardship in the form of any impact on the trade here, that it would injure either the consumer or the trade, I would look into it. I repeat it and I reiterate it. I also told them then that we have not yet issued any notification, no date has been settled. Therefore, they are

free to make any representation. They felt that while Delhi may have this new levy, the other States because of whom we are introducing it here; may not do it.

I said that the other States have said that this will apply simultaneously. They were quite satisfied and they said that there will be no hartal. But still it was there. Can I give any more assurances now than all that? These assurances will be observed. Simply because they had decided to have it and wanted to observe it anyhow, I am not going to have any kind of reaction in my mind because they have stuck to it and because of their obduracy, as he put it, in the matter of the bundh. This is not going to affect my mind. I will deal with them, because it is not they, but it is the trade in the city and the consumers, whose interests are involved. That is all I can say about it.

Looking into the questions, I do not find anything else which calls for an answer, except the question about the cost involved. I did not think of working it out, but it must be very considerable. (*Interruptions*).

For instance, about the matches, the increase in cost will be one-fifth of a paisa or something like that. But I am sure they will add one whole paisa to that. They will not round it off against themselves, but they will try to round it off against the consumer always. I have given instructions; in the case of all those commodities on which there may be sales-tax after any revision takes place, I will have the statistics for the earlier period and I will keep a watch on what is happening. There is a committee with which I am concerned where the public men and the representatives of business have already stipulated that there will not be any excessive rise, out of proportion to what may be justified. I will try to utilise that agency for that purpose.