

NOES

Alvarez, Shri
Bade, Shri
Bheel Shri P. H.
Chatterjee, Shri N. C.
Dandekar, Shri N.
Dharmalingam, Shri
Kachhavaia, Shri Hukam Chand
Kakkar, Shri Gauri Shankar
Kamath, Shri Hari Vishu
Kapur Singh, Shri
Khan, Dr. P. N.
Mate, Shri
Nambiar, Shri
Patel, Shri P. R.
Ramabadrar, Shri
Ranga, Shri

Samanta, Shri S. C.
Shastri, Shri Prakash Vir
Shinkre, Shri
Swamy, Shri Sivamurthi
Utiya, Shri
Vyas, Shri Radhela
Yashpal Singh, Shri

Mr. Speaker: The result of the Division is: Ayes: * 157; Noes: 23.

The motion was adopted.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I have often requested that the Deputy-Speaker should abstain on most matters.

13.50 hrs.

RE. REPRESENTATION FROM
JOURNALISTS OF SAINIK
SAMACHAR

श्री सच्चु लिवये (मुंबेर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण सवाल उठाना चाहता हूँ। कल अध्यक्षीय निर्देश 115 के मातहत सुरक्षा मंत्री ने एक बयान दिया। चूँकि बयान लम्बा था, इसलिये आपने उनको कहा कि वह टेबिल पर रखा जाय। उसको पढ़ने के पश्चात् मुझे बड़ा ताज्जुब हुआ, क्योंकि इस बयान में मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि सहायक पत्रकारों के द्वारा जो निवेदन एडिटर-इन-चीफ के पास भेजा गया था, उसके बारे में उनको इतिला नहीं थी। आगे उन्होंने कहा कि जो स्मरण पत्र दिया गया था, उसके बारे में भी उनको पता नहीं था। आगे चल कर वह कहते हैं—

"This was however not within the knowledge of the officer in the *Sainik Samachar* who furnished the material for Parliamentary question on 1st November,

1966. In this connection it may be stated that the office of the Chief Administrative Officer is not part of the Ministry of Defence but an attached office of the Ministry."

अब, अध्यक्ष महोदय, इसमें मंत्री लोगों की जिम्मेदारी का सवाल आता है। मैं दो वाक्य हाउस आफ कामन्स की परम्परा के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ, यह हरबर्ट मोरिसन की किताब है, वह कहते हैं—

"Now and again the House demands to know the name of the officer responsible for the utterance. The proper answer of the Minister is that if the House wants anybody's head, it must be his head as a responsible Minister and that it must leave him to deal with the officer concerned in the department."

"टेबल" नाम की इस किताब में एक खूँती मंत्री इंग्लैंड में हुए थे 1954 में, उनका बयान है, उन्होंने कहा था—

"I am quite clear that it would be deplorable if we were to depart from the recognised constitutional position I, as a minister must accept full responsibility to Parliament for any mistakes and inefficiency of the officials in my department just as when my officers bring any success on my behalf I take full credit for that."

अब मैं आपके सामने केवल इतना ही रखना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय अपने

*"AYES"—name of one Member could not be recorded.

जवाब में अपनी जिम्मेदारी से, जो कि संविधान में बिलकुल स्पष्ट है, भाग रहे हैं। कई बार इसके बारे में आपने जबानी फ़ैसले दिये हैं। मैं आपसे प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि हमेशा के लिये इस लोक सभा में अपना निर्णय दीजिये कि जब मंत्री महोदय किसी प्रश्न का जवाब देंगे या सफ़ाई करेंगे या खुलाशा करेंगे, किसी अफ़्फ़र के सिर के ऊपर वह जिम्मेदारी धोपने की कोशिश न करें, वह खुल्लमखुल्ला अपनी जिम्मेदारी को स्वीकारें। बाद में सदन उनको जो सजा देगा, उसको वह स्वीकारेंगे।

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri A. M. Thomas):

Mr. Speaker, I have not at all run away from the responsibility of a Minister. In fact if I may say so in self-defence, I was so conscientious and did not want to shirk any responsibility that I have placed before this hon. House a detailed statement explaining the circumstances under which the Government came to have no information about this matter. I would beg of you to go through the question on the 7th November. It was tabled by Shri Vasudevan Nair and as far as he is concerned, he has no grievance.

Shri Vasudevan Nair (Ambalazh): Who said so? I protested against it.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The question is worded like this. "Whether the Government have received any representation from the assistant journalists of the *Sainik Samachar* regarding their service conditions and scale of pay". The answer was "Ever since the creation of the posts of assistant journalists in 1963, no representations have been received from the incumbents of these posts regarding service conditions and scale of pay."

The answer is absolutely correct because Government had not received any representation. Government came to know on further enquiry that some representations have been made to the Chief Editor of the *Sainik Samachar*

and he did not forward them to the Government, so that we did not come to know of that. The officer who furnished the material to the answer, the present Chief-Editor, was not the person who did not forward the representations and he had also no knowledge. I have mentioned in considerable detail that these were the circumstances under which Government had not received the representation. Suppose the Government was in the know that there was this representation. Then we would have certainly said so; we would not have taken shelter under a technical ground; we would have said that some representations had been received by the Chief Editor, *Sainik Samachar* and he has not forwarded them to the Government. If the officer who prepared the answer had known, he would have mentioned it. As the answer stands, it is absolutely correct. I may also say that when you go through the statement you will find the circumstances under which this fact was not known to the Government. In my statement I have said that though the representations made by the journalists in July 1964 had not reached Government, it is unfortunate that, due to fortuitous circumstances, the fact of the representations having been made and withheld by the Editor-in-Chief, *Sainik Samachar* also did not come to light earlier and that I regretted the consequent inconvenience caused to the hon. Member and to the House. So, it is not a question of running away from ministerial responsibility. I have taken pains to make a long statement, four pages, in which I have explained all the circumstances and I have given due consideration to the feelings of the hon. Members and I have stated the correct position.

Mr. Speaker: No doubt, the statement is long and a detailed one. That is the reason why exception is being taken, because it should not have been a long and detailed one. A mistake has occurred. The House is not here to find out who that officer is. Otherwise, Members would criticise the officers and we may not be

[Mr. Speaker]

able to prevent that. The Minister has to take the responsibility, whether one officer has failed or the other officer was at fault. The Government had not known it because the chief editor had not forwarded it. That also is no excuse. The mistake is regretted; that would have been enough in my opinion. In future also, when this is being said, the Minister ought not to disclose the names; he has now disclosed the name of the office, and said that the officer who is holding that of rice is at fault.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Not at fault.

Mr. Speaker: That he did not intimate the fact to the Government.

Shri A. M. Thomas: It was not within his knowledge.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister is entitled to all information that is there in the office, whether it is attached or directly under the Government, whatever it may be. Therefore, the Minister is responsible to the House for whatever happens even in those attached and other offices and he is answerable to the House. If he had simply said that the mistake was regretted, that would have finished the matter.

Shri Shinkre (Marmagao): I am just seeking one clarification of what you said.

Mr. Speaker: Why waste the time of the House on this now?

Shri Shinkre: I never waste the time of the House. I will finish in two minutes.

Sir, you just now said that the Minister is always responsible before this House for whatever mistakes that the officers might be committing. What I want to ask is, whether the Minister is also responsible when he has no control over his officers, as was very apparent in the case of the Secretary of the Ministry of Home

Affairs? Who is responsible in such a case.—is it the official or the Minister?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He has taken the time unnecessarily. We shall now pass on to the next item.

14 hrs.

GOA, DAMAN AND DIU (OPINION POLL) BILL—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up the further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Vidya Charan Shukla on the 30th November, namely,

"That the Bill to provide for the taking of an opinion poll to ascertain the wishes of the electors of Goa, Daman and Diu with regard to the future status thereof and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration,"

The Minister of State in the Departments of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri Jagannath Rao): What is the time allotted for this Bill? One hour was spent yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: I appeal to the House that hon. Members should try to finish some business now.

Shri Jagannath Rao: By 4 O'clock we will finish this.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hosangabad): We shall finish it of course, but not at the cost of clarity and efficiency.

Shri Alvares (Panjim): We can finish it by sitting longer. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Does he mean to say that we will finish it by 8 O'clock or 9 O'clock? I am not particularly pointing at him, but I was just enquiring as to what the total allotment should be and how soon we will finish it.