

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, July 28, 1980/Sravana 6, 1932
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Malik-E-Maidan Cannon

*715. SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cannon by name Malik-e-Maidan during Adilshahi regime and lying at the city wall of Bijapur has been prepared by using five metals and weighs 55 tonnes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that gold is one of the metals used in the preparation of this cannon and quantity of gold is over five tonnes; and

(c) if so, how best Government propose to make use of this gold lying idle in the cannon?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The cannon is reported to have been cast in gun metal. No metallographical analysis, however, has so far been done to confirm if gold is one of the alloys used for its manufacture.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: I am really sorry that no proper attention has been paid by the Government to the problem which is posed by this question. If proper attention is paid, I believe the Government would get crores of rupees from this particular point which has been raised in this particular question. This particular cannon is in the home State of the Hon. Minister and only about a hundred miles away from his home town. Still, I am surprised at the way in which the answer has been given.

AN HON. MEMBER: Perhaps he has not visited that place.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: He has visited it many times and the guide who was with me told me the information which, I am submitting, was given to him also. Primarily, the answer has been prepared by the Department and probably he has not applied his mind. . .

MR. SPEAKER: He is keeping it as a fixed deposit.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: This being a very important subject, I would seek your indulgence for a minute or two to say that the Bijapur Gazette written by Mr. Henry Cousin, which is in the Golkomat Library, mentions that this cannon is made out of five alloys and gold is one of them. One Mr. Athale, who is a student of history is ready to affirm and give evidence to show that it is not only five tons—which I have mentioned—but there is 20 per cent or eleven tons of gold in this particular cannon. This gigantic piece was to be taken to London by the British Government because of the contents but, because it was unwieldy, they could not take it. Even the answer mentions indirectly—it gives the reply 'Yes Sir'—that it contains some gold, but they have not so

far made any analysis. May I therefore know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government would do a metallographical analysis to confirm if one of the alloys used there is gold, investigate into it, make enquiries with Mr. Athale who has sufficient proof of it and whether, after making a detailed enquiry, an answer would be laid on the Table of the House?

MR. SPEAKER: It is too long.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: My second question is this.

MR. SPEAKER: Be brief this time, let it not be as long as the cannon is.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: To show that there is *prima facie* evidence that there is gold, I will tell you that a few years back, the goldsmiths of sholapur committed a theft of one ring of this particular cannon, they melted and separated gold from it, the gold was confiscated and they were prosecuted. May I know whether Government is aware of this particular fact?

Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government are aware of the fact—the first question that I had raised—that the Britishers were going to take this particular cannon because it contains gold. It is not only a suggestion for action. I would request him to go into this particular matter, investigate it and lay the details on the Table of the House.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The hon. Member should know it that it is one of the protected objects under the law which is the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. And if I do anything, it will go against the law. I cannot destroy that. It is a protected one.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mhalgi.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Are you satisfied with the reply, Sir, I leave it to you.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him put his question.

SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Without destroying that particular cannon, will it be possible for you to investigate into it, take the House into confidence and tell us whether the cannon is containing gold?

SHRI B. BHANKARANAND: Can anything be done by way of investigation without disfiguring or destroying it?

MR. SPEAKER: Some way has to be found. Please find out. (*Interruptions*)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: What he said should not go on record. He has said that, without disfiguring it cannot be ascertained what the composition of the cannon is. It is wrong. You can do metallographical analysis. I am surprised that he should say what he has said. It should not go on record.

MR. SPEAKER: He will find out.

SHRI R. K. MHALGI: What is his reply, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: They will find out.

भुग्गी भोंपड़ी बस्तियों में टी. वी. सेंटों का लगाया जाना

*716. श्री दयाराम शाक्य: क्या निर्माण और आवास मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि 1979-80 में दिल्ली प्रशासन ने भुग्गीभोंपड़ी बस्तियों में टी. वी. सेंटों के लगाये जाने के लिए एक काफी बड़ी राशि स्वीकृत की थी और 120 टी. वी. सेंट भी खरीदे थे; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन बस्तियों के नाम क्या हैं जहाँ टी. वी. सेंट लगाये गये थे?