

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 25, 1980/Shravana 3, 1902
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

श्री राम विलास पासवान : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमने एक तार की प्रति आपके पास भेजी है, जिसमें यह है कि माननीया संसद-सदस्य श्रीमती इन्द्रा कुमारी के साथ बहुत ही बुरा व्यवहार किया गया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : राम विलास जो आ जाते हैं, this cannot be done now according to the rules. After the Question hour; सारा कार्यक्रम के अनुसार होगा। आप बैठिये, मैंने उनको तसल्ली कराई है।

Person arrested on murder charge staying in Bhilai Bhavan (BSP)

*694. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 1st July, 1980 that a person arrested on a murder charge was staying in the Bhilai Bhavan, a guest house of the Bhilai Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the name of the person and his status;

(c) what are the rules that govern admission of persons in this Government Guest House and whether the aforesaid person fulfilled all the con-

ditions and if so, the particulars thereof; and

(d) if not, under what circumstances the person was allowed to stay in the guest house?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The name of the person arrested is Shri Sucha Singh who is one of the partners of M/s. Bhilai Caterers and confectioners the catering contractor at Bhilai House.

(c) and (d). Bhilai House is one of the four guest houses of the Bhilai Steel Plant. As per rules prescribed by the Plant management for allotment of accommodation, the guest houses are, subject to availability of accommodation, open to all employees of public sector undertakings, Central and State Governments as well as to commercial visitors at varying rates of tariff. It appears from the records that Shri Sucha Singh was not allotted accommodation at Bhilai House nor was he staying there, nor was the fact of his presence there prior to his arrest, within the knowledge of the Bhilai Steel Plant management.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Before putting a supplementary on this question, I have to say something regarding the background because I have placed this question on the basis of the Press Report in which it has been mentioned that one Mrs. Swaraj Neelam, a close relative of late Nirankari chief Baba Gurbachan Singh, was murdered in March 1980. The late Nirankari chief Baba Gurbachan Singh was murdered in April 1980. Cases regarding these two murders were registered by the police. A reward of Rs. 2000 was declared for arrest of one Mr. Sucha Singh. This

Such a Singh is said to have been involved in both these murders. He is said to be a caterer in the Bhilai Guest House. The Minister has admitted it. The question arises this way. This particular man was involved in two murder cases. He carried a reward of Rs. 2000. This was well-known in that particular area and this man occupied a very important position in a well-known political organisation, who was a partner in the catering organisation in Bhilai Guest House. And I would like to know from the Minister whether this is a fact or not. This Mr. Sucha Singh was arrested from the premises of this Bhilai Bhawan or Bhilai Guest House and so I want to know what was the reason for not informing the Police for assistance with regard to his arrest.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have already stated in the text of my main answer that he was arrested from Bhilai Guest House. In regard to murder case here we find two names. He mentioned Mrs. Swaraj Neelam but in the FIR it is mentioned as Sudesh Neelam. Regarding accommodation and other things, as I have already explained, no accommodation was given to Mr. Sucha Singh. But he is a partner of the contractor and the confectioner providing meals and other things to this particular Guest House. So his presence there is not unexpected or anything exceptional. He asked whether the Management knew about warrant against him and reward declared against him. That particular information is not with me and I can't supply that information. This matter is dealt with by the authorities in Home Ministry and other people. I will certainly ascertain from Bhilai authorities whether this particular information was available with them. But so far what they have told us is that they did not know that Mr. Sucha Singh was available at that particular hour when he was arrested and they had ascertained that there was no accommodation made available in his name. Some accommodation was re-

served in the name of his brother who has some connection with the management. Therefore that had nothing to do with this particular case.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: In the press report, it has been stated that after his arrest when he was being brought from Raipur jail to Durg for production before a judicial magistrate, he was again taken back by the Police to the guest house: What were the compelling reasons for the authorities to permit his temporary stay for a shortwhile in this guest house after his arrest and after his being brought from Raipur? I would like to know whether the Government will fix up responsibility and make necessary precautions for future that the guest house in the public sector undertakings are not made sanctuaries for criminals and see that their credentials are strictly testified in providing accommodation by the Catering contractors etc.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the last part of the question is concerned, everyone of us will agree that Government guest house and the public sector undertakings guest house should not be used as sanctuary for the criminals and in regard to the press report which the hon. Member has mentioned, I ascertained from the management as to whether it was a fact that he was brought from the Raipur jail, because the magistrate sits in the court of Durg to the guest house and what were the compelling reasons for his being brought from Raipur to the guest house. The local authorities had said that no part of the statement was correct. He was not brought from the court to the guest house. He was under police custody and the police brought him from Raipur jail to the court and from the court they took him back to the Raipur jail.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: The question under part (a) refers to a person arrested on a murder charge who was staying in the Bhilai Bhawan, a guest house of the Bhilai Steel Plant. The answer to part (b) of the

question mentions that prior to his arrest, he was not within the knowledge of the Bhilai Steel Plant management. It is with reference to this second supplementary which my colleague put that the hon. Minister replied that he was being taken from the court back to Raipur jail and he was not taken to this particular guest house. But the question which I would like to ask is: when he was brought to the court from Raipur jail, before that he stayed in this particular guest house and that was within the knowledge of the authorities and if so, why this facility was extended to him. Is it because he happened to be a senior Vice-President of the Congress(I) of the area?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have already answered that after he was arrested, he was not accommodated in the guest house. That is the information which the Bhilai management has given to me and I have shared that information with the hon. Member.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, will the hon. Minister kindly tell us, whether replying on behalf of the Steel Minister, that the Hindustan Steels guest house in Delhi was being used by the ruling party M.P. who comes from Durgapur region and if so on what consideration?

AN HON. MEMBER: Asansol: ...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bosu, you are trespassing ...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, I am asking what is the criterion for allowing the M.P. to use the public sector undertaking's guest house, because I am citing an instance to help the Minister that the Congress-I M.P. sitting there was staying there in the Hindustan Guest House in Delhi and if so at what rate and on what consideration?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: We are discussing about the guest house conducted by the Bhilai Steel management and in regard to the criteria for all Hindustan Steel Guest Houses I would require a separate notice. I have explained it clearly that all employees, and even private persons, can stay there by paying the rent if the accommodation is available.

Feeder Airline of Punjab

*696. **SHRI R. L. BHATIA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government-sponsored feeder airlines has decided to purchase two 20-seater aircraft for operating flights within Punjab and between Delhi-Ludhiana and Delhi-Jullundur;

(b) if so, how much amount will be spent;

(c) whether this scheme will also be operated in some other States; and

(d) if so, names of the States with their financiers?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: In answer to my question, the Minister has said: 'No, Sir' and 'do not arise'. Does it not arise in connection with the purchase of 20-seater aircraft or is it 'no' to the feeder line which the Punjab Government intends to have?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: The question is—whether the Punjab Government-sponsored feeder airlines has decided to purchase two twenty-seater aircraft. To this we have said: 'No'.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: The Canadian Government Consortium has given a