

LOK SABHA DEBATES Date 10/2/2014

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 16th August, 1955

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

12.07 P.M.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

POLICY OF GOVERNMENT TOWARDS  
FREEDOM MOVEMENT IN GOA

Mr. Speaker: I have received two notices of adjournment motions. One of them, I am given to understand, is not being pressed. The other also relates to the same subject, but in a little different form.

"The unhelpful policy and harmful attitude of the Government of India towards the Indian struggle for Goan freedom, which have contributed to the massacre of peaceful Indian satyagrahis by Portuguese imperialists in Goa."

What has happened is undoubtedly very unfortunate. Every one of us sympathises with those who have lost their lives and respects them for their courage and the sacrifice that they have made in the cause of the nation. But, this adjournment motion, to my mind, will not be admissible as we have had a debate recently on this question and the situation is a continuing one. If the hon. Member wishes to find fault with the Government of India and censure them, he should take some other course, other than the procedure of adjournment motions.

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Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): Will I have an opportunity?

Mr. Speaker: If he tables a motion for censure saying that he has no confidence in the Government, it will have precedence. Under the rules he will see that if he wants to go to that length, he would have an opportunity. But, he cannot bring a censure motion indirectly in the form of an adjournment motion, which has its own limitations. The subject was discussed. If he wants a discussion of the subject, he has already had it. So, I do not think I can consent to this adjournment motion.

Shri Kamath: The situation has taken a different turn now.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever it may be. As I said, the struggle is going on from day to day and as it increases in intensity, we are sure to have such incidents every day. We cannot therefore adjourn the House and discuss the same thing over. There is hardly anything to discuss now after a long discussion here, including the remedies which the Opposition had to suggest as to the attitude which the Government should take. If they are dissatisfied with the Government attitude, the straight course is to have a motion of no confidence in the Government, but not again and again an adjournment motion whenever any unfortunate incident happens in Goa. I am, however, requesting the hon. Leader of the House, as I did before, that he may make a statement of all such facts as are with the Government today. And I will repeat the request which I made last time, that he may also give information to the House of the happenings in Goa from time to time in the form of statements and let

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us have authorised information on the subject. That is one part of it.

I may also request him to state in his statement if there be any change in the policy of Government in view of what is happening and what happened yesterday. It is for him to state whatever he likes, but I am making this request so that the public feeling on this question which is running high may have some soothing effect by knowing as to what the Government proposes to do and what the attitude of the Government is.

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Sir, some time ago you were pleased to intimate to me that I should keep the House informed about developments in regard to Goa. I have endeavoured to do so, sometimes by making statements in the House, at other times informally informing Members interested.

In regard to the events which happened yesterday it is very difficult for me to give any precise and accurate information. The newspapers this morning, hon. Members must have seen themselves vary greatly in their estimates of the casualties.

Ever since yesterday afternoon, and this morning, I have been in constant touch with Bombay, because Bombay is the best place to obtain this news, and the most authentic information that we have received from the Bombay Government thus far is that there have been fifteen deaths and twenty-eight injured. I do not pretend to say that this is the final figure. May be, some more information may be coming but this itself shows how difficult it is to get exact information, because these incidents happened in Portuguese territory and there was nobody to watch them except those who went. Sometimes some of these incidents could be watched from the border or by some foreign correspondent here and there. No Indian correspondent had been allowed entry by the Portu-

guese authorities. Thus far, therefore, the information at our disposal is that there are 15 dead. Two of these died in hospital in Indian territory. They were brought back. The others died on the spot more or less, and there are 28 injured. Now, there is a possibility of more deaths having occurred in a tunnel in the Castlerock region because they went through a railway tunnel and as they came across a bend, they were met by a fusillade there and a number fell, some dead, some wounded. How many were wounded, how many dead, it is very difficult for people to know. Then again, a difficulty has arisen because many people went, were pushed back or came back after the firing. Some were arrested or kept back by the Portuguese authorities, and sometimes when they were kept back and did not return, it was presumed that they may have been shot at and were dead. Therefore, it is very difficult to give exact figures to the House. All I can say for the present is that we have official information about 15 dead and 28 injured.

As the House knows, this entry of satyagrahis took place in a number of places, both round the Goa territory and Daman in the north. As far as is known, in Diu there was no firing. About 81 persons went in and they apparently are still there. It is not quite clear what has happened to them. Anyhow, they have not come out. This is our latest information. In fact, according to our information, 800 people are still in Goan territory. Till this morning this is our information, that they had not come out or had not been pushed back. Of course the number that went was a much larger number, more than 2,000.

Hon. Members may have seen among the reports that have come in the press mention of a lady, Subhadra-bai from Sagar, Madhya Pradesh.

Some Hon. Members: West Bengal.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Shahabad South): Sagar is her name.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Name? May be. There might be some mistake about that perhaps. Anyhow, Subhadrabai, from all accounts received, acted with quite extraordinary courage and something which fills us with pride. Anyone, even though he might not be an Indian, he should be filled with pride at the courage shown by that woman. More so for us who are Indians, to think that this woman went; and as far as the accounts go, when the first firing took place, they had been directed by those organising them to lie down. They did lie down. Then, as they got up, she got up and took hold of the national flag and was shot at while she was shouting *Bharat Mata ki jat*. This one instance I bring to the notice of the House. There may be many other instances of courage which no doubt we will get to know sooner or later.

Now, it is not for me to say much at this stage about the individual acts committed there or to give a detailed account, because I do not possess it. Naturally, every one in this House and in this country will deeply sympathise with those who have suffered and pay a tribute of admiration to those who have given their lives in this way.

On the other hand, from all accounts received, the behaviour of the Portuguese authorities was—and I am trying to use restrained language—brutal and uncivilised in the extreme. I am not aware of even any hint being made that these satyagrahis who went had any kind of a weapon or arm or anything. They went totally unarmed. Now, according to the view of the Portuguese authorities they may have been committing an offence against them. And according to that, they might be entitled to take such action as they think fit and proper. After all, satyagraha is the deliberate committing of an offence peacefully. But the question that arises—and it is not only of importance in this particular instance in Goa, but in a much larger way, in international affairs—is this,

namely how far any Government is justified in shooting and killing people who are unarmed, and who are behaving peacefully and not attacking it. Now, if these facts are correct—and from all the accounts that we have thus far received, there is no question of these satyagrahis having any arms, or in any way attacking; in fact, in several instances, they were seated or they sat down on the ground, and some reports say that they were shot dead by certain Portuguese policemen and others who were seated on chairs at the time—then all this is very extraordinary in international behaviour. And I do submit that the least we can say on this kind of thing—and I am speaking now not to the Members of this House who require no argument, or even to our people in this country, but to others outside this country—is that this kind of behaviour is brutal and uncivilised in the extreme.

Now, as you were pleased to say a little while ago, this is not the end of the story. Other things have happened from day to day and are likely to happen. The story will not end till the objective is achieved. Therefore, for me at this stage to say much more about it is not easy. But one thing I do wish to say, and more specially, if I may refer with your permission to that motion which you were pleased to rule out now, i.e., the motion for adjournment, which criticised and condemned the policy of Government in regard to Goa, I should personally like not that motion, but the subject of Goa, whenever this House chooses, to be discussed, and the policy of Government to be discussed, because Government propose to adhere to that policy which they have followed to the fullest extent. And it is for this House to express itself clearly in this matter. Let there be no doubts about it. Government propose to follow that policy. That is the basic policy. Naturally, in adaptation of that policy there are variations, of course. But the basic policy is the policy of a peaceful approach to this problem, and not

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having resort to armed force in resolving it. That is the basic policy. All else are variations of this policy. Now, we propose to adhere to that basic policy. And naturally, in a matter of this kind, even more so than in other matters, we should like the fullest support of this House, and of Parliament and of the country. Goa may be a small piece of territory, but it raises international issues of moment, and in international matters, naturally, Government would earnestly hope for the largest measure of support from Parliament and from the country.

Therefore, I want this question to be clearly appreciated as to what the policy of Government is, and what we ask or request this House in regard to that matter. That policy is not only based on what might be said our general approach to such problems, our basic approach, it is not only based on the line we have adopted in international affairs, but if I may say so, it is a practical approach, apart from its being idealistic or not. It is a practical approach to a difficult problem. It is a difficult problem. And Government do not propose to be hustled by any activity of the Portuguese authorities, or to be forced into what they consider a wrong action, because the Portuguese authorities might perhaps want them to commit that wrong action. I have little doubt that what has been done in Goa yesterday and somewhat earlier too is perhaps deliberately meant to provoke the Government of India into some action which might perhaps cover a veil on the misdeeds or the wrong action of the Portuguese authorities in Goa. We have no intention of being diverted from what we consider the right policy basically, by such provocation.

But the fact remains that this is a matter of great importance and significance for us, and it is natural and right for the people of India, and for all of us, to feel deeply what is taking place on the borders of Goa, or inside Goan territory, or in Daman

or in Diu. I shall, as I said, keep the House informed of what steps we may take from time to time, as well as about the facts of the situation.

I have no doubt that I express the feelings of all in this House when I say that our sympathies go out to the people,—well, they are dead—to those who died, and to those who have suffered in this. In fact, the country's sympathy must necessarily be with them.

At the same time, we must look at this matter in proper perspective calmly and objectively, and Parliament and the Government should, I submit, move with dignity as well as firmness in this matter, and not, perhaps because of strong feelings, act in a manner which would not be in consonance with this dignity of Parliament.

**Mr. Speaker:** We have all heard the facts as stated by the hon. Prime Minister. Naturally, our admiration goes to those who laid their lives; at the same time, our sympathies go to the relations of those who are dead, and we mourn the loss of those who have died. I am sure as a mark of respect to the dead as also for offering condolences to the relations of the deceased, the House may stand in silence for two minutes.

*The Lok Sabha then stood in silence for two minutes.*

A suggestion has been made to me...

**Acharya Kripalani** (Bhagalpur cum Purnea) rose—

**Mr. Speaker:** I am just referring to the suggestion made to me about the adjournment of the House for some time. A suggestion has been made to me that in view of the exceptional things that have happened, this House may suspend its sitting for some time; and I fix that time as half an hour. The House may suspend its business for half an hour, provided the hon. Leader of the House agrees.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Yes.

**Mr. Speaker:** So, the House will meet again at One O'clock.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till One of the Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at One of the Clock.*

[**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER** in the Chair]

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Lest there be a misunderstanding about what I said before we adjourned, about one matter, I should like to clear it up. I referred to the lady, Subhadrabai, who was shot. I should like to make it clear that she is alive; she is not dead. She is, of course, seriously wounded and is in hospital.

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**  
ANNUAL REPORT OF INDIAN AIRLINES CORPORATION

**The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle):** On behalf of Shri Jagjivan Ram, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report of the Indian Airlines Corporation, under sub-section (2) of section 37 of the Air Corporations Act, 1953. [Placed in the Library. See No. S-248/55.]

**DISPLACED PERSONS COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION RULES**

**The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Displaced Persons Compensation and Rehabilitation Rules, 1955, under sub-section (3) of section 40 of the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954. [Placed in the Library. See No. S-249/55.]

**PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILL**

**Secretary:** Sir, I have to inform the House, that the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1954, which was passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session, was assented to by the President on the 10th August, 1955.

**COMPANIES BILL—Contd.**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The House will now proceed with further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri C. D. Deshmukh on the 9th August, 1955:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to companies and certain other associations, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

Shri C. R. Chowdary is to continue his speech. But I find that he is absent from the House.

Before I call upon Shri Bansal, I would tell hon. Members who are getting a chance to speak here, that I want an assurance from them beforehand. Again and again, I have to ring the quorum bell and we have become an object of criticism outside and inside. Therefore, I want an assurance that every hon. Member who wants to speak will continue to sit here in the House and hear what others have to say. If, on the other hand, I find any hon. Member not sticking to this, I won't call him on the next occasion in other debates.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore):** Is it iron law?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is my discretion. I want to raise the level of the debate and I want the House full. Each of us is a representative of 7½ lakh population. In a House of 500, I find it very hard to get even 50 people. If 26 people decide, they decide in the name of the 360 million Indians. Hon. Members will kindly consider the responsibility that they have to bear in this House. Therefore, I would urge upon every hon. Member—whether he gets an opportunity to speak or not—to be here throughout; otherwise, we will not be able to discharge our duty properly. Whichever hon. Member wants to catch my eye, I will allow him to speak on one condition, that so far at least as that debate is concerned, he will sit here and hear what others have