

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Sixtieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 23rd March, 1960."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Imperial Gazetteer says:*

"The Mutiny of 1857 threw a large number of mutineers, deserters and rebels on the hands of the Government with whom it was difficult to deal; and in November that year it was finally decided to send them to Andamans."

16-06 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: RENAMING OF  
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR  
ISLANDS—contd.

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now resume further discussion of the Resolution moved by Shri Subiman Ghose on the 11th March, 1960 regarding renaming of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Out of 1 hour allotted for discussion of the Resolution, 22 minutes have already been taken up.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri may continue his speech.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri** (Berhampore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other day I was just going to explain why Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose selected these two names: 'Sahid Dwip' and 'Swaraj Dwip' for 'Andaman' and 'Nicobar'. It is well known that the penal settlements in Andaman and Nicobar at Port Blair have been the graveyard of many fighters of freedom, but it is not generally known that the Andaman penal settlement was started in order to lodge the prisoners of Indian Mutiny, the first war of independence of India. Although the project for a penal settlement in the Andaman was formed in 1855, the Government could not proceed with that scheme. The scheme was interrupted by the Indian Mutiny of 1857, our national war of independence. But as soon as the revolt was broken it became more than ever urgent for our British rulers to provide for such a settlement, a penal settlement, on account of the great number of prisoners in their hands.

Thus, it will be seen that the Andamans are really associated, in a sense, with the hallowed memory of the first war of independence, and it was the soldiers of our first freedom battle who were really lodged there and many of them never returned from that settlement. It was those first pioneers of our freedom who fought for Swaraj with their blood and who were the first Sahids who lit the torch of freedom by their self-immolation whose names Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose wanted to be immortalised in that spot, on the soil of India, where the flag of freedom was first unfurled. So it is only mete and proper that these islands should be renamed.

Then, decades after the mutiny, when the modern ages came in and our movement for political independence began, the first Sahids, the first soldiers, were sent there to serve their terms of penal servitude for the crime of having dared to rise against imperialist rule. Those well-known names in the history of our freedom movement are legion. They had been in Andamans and many of them have not returned from that spot. So, if we look at it from the point of view of perpetuating the historical memory of our modern fighters for freedom, then also, it is only mete and proper that the islands should be renamed in the way that Netaji suggested.

I might refer here to the way the Andaman administration is being carried on and the spirit of de-nationalisation which is still continuing there. I will cite to you certain names of places, the names of tahsils, villages and townships in the Andamans.

16:12 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair].

You will be surprised to learn that there are still these names there: Aberdeen tahsil, Wimberley Ganj, Stewart Ganj, Gollinpur, Knappuram, Herbertabad, Taylorabad, Caddle Ganj, Port Mouat, Dundas Point, Hope Town, etc. These names are strewn all over the islands. There is hardly anything to show that here, it was, on the soil of India, that the first flag of freedom was unfurled. It has been forgotten that here it was in these islands that the administration of free India Government, the independent Indian Government, set up by Netaji Bose, began to function. So, we beg of the Government that they should take all these factors into consideration and rename the islands as 'Sahid Dwip' and "Swaraj Dwip" has as proposed by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

But I have my doubts whether the Government will rename these islands like that. You know that there has been an agitation for long about the statues of foreign rulers and viceroys and the people who suppressed our freedom movement with the power of the sword. Statues of all those people still adorn our capital city, the streets and squares of the capital city of New Delhi and other presidency towns in this country, and the Government have taken no steps to remove those signs of humiliation of our nation or to instal the really glorifying statues of our national leaders in their place. That is why I have my own doubts whether the Government will be willing to agree to this proposal.

Nevertheless, considering the fact that the proposal to rename the islands as 'Sahid Dwip' and 'Swaraj Dwip' came from so eminent a fighter for freedom, the great son of India, Netaji Bose, considering the fact that in Andamans and Nicobar the first martyrs of our country spilt their blood for Swaraj and taught us to

think in terms of Swaraj in those early days and considering the fact that other fighters of freedom who travelled on their trials and walked on their trails also lost their lives in the Andamans, I hope that Government would agree to consider our proposal and accept the resolution.

Shri Kalka Singh (Azamgarh): Sir, the proposal to name the Andamans and Nicobar Islands as 'Swadesh Dwip' and 'Swaraj Dwip' or even as 'Sahid Dwip' minimises the meaning of Swaraj, Sahid and Swadesh. I would have quite understood the meaning of Swaraj, Swadesh or Sahid if the proposers had just stated that the whole of India, including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, should be renamed 'Swadesh', 'Swaraj' or 'Sahid' or something like that. But to suggest that these tiny islands in the Bay of Bengal should be renamed as 'Swadesh Dwip' or 'Swaraj Dwip' would be really minimising the meaning of Swaraj and Swadesh.

Then there is another reason why I oppose this resolution. The name 'Andamans' has been coming in history for as long as period, as, I think, India itself. I was just looking into the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and there it was mentioned that Andamans was really 'Hanuman'. They have said that it was named after Hanuman, the great monkey. I think Hanuman in his time, in the past history, was something like Columbus. He might have visited so many islands on the seas and this island also might have been named after him. Marco Polo had visited these islands in about the 12th century. He has given a very bad description about the islands which, the later historians say, does not tally with the real facts.

"They have no king nor any lord and are like wild beasts. Both males and women cover themselves with nothing whatever in the world. They have no house, no law nor order. They are very cruel people and they

[Shri Kalika Singh]

very willingly eat men raw, all those they can catch, provided they are not of their people."

That is what Marco Polo has said, because he was sent by Kublai Khan, who himself was a great cannibal.

Shri M. C. Jain (Kaithal): How did he escape?

Shri Kalika Singh: I am quoting from a book in which Marco Polo has been quoted what he wrote in the 12th century when he visited Andamans. He was sent by Kublai Khan to many East-Asian countries. So, when he happened to visit Andaman and Nicobar islands, he gave a description like that. But later historians have said that Marco Polo was quite wrong. It is just like the description which Europeans gave to so many islands in order to occupy them and assert that they really civilised those islands. In this very book, which a European gentleman Maurice has written, he has said: that after the Hindus and Islamic people went there, their customs and manners remained the same and it was only when the British went, they civilised those islands. It was with that motive that Marco Polo gave that description. It is said in this book as follows:

"They had millenniums of experience behind this view, which has been proved correct, for after staving off the dangers of Hindu civilization and, in the centuries following Polo, of Islamic civilisation, they were incorporated in the British Empire, prevented from eating foreigners, encouraged to wear at least some cloths, subjected to alien influences which profoundly shocked them and told that their most sacred beliefs were rubbish, with the result that they are now moribund."

I also do not agree with the description given. But I just quoted that only to point out that it is the only place where there were very ancient people who sometimes inhabited India, China and these islands in the seas. In India, a change-over took

place and in China also there had been large migrations. But in these Andaman and Nicobar islands, the people who manned them stuck to those islands.

Then, again, if we say that India should now change their names as Swadesh and Swaraj, I think it will give some meaning which the people of that island may interpret otherwise. Some person from that island might argue that Swaraj means self-government for Andamans and Swadesh means it is independent of India, which is Bharat. So, these names will give a meaning which may be interpreted otherwise by the islanders themselves and later on it may complicate matters. So, we should be very cautious when we try to change the name of these islands.

As for the suggestion that they should be named after the suggestions of Subhas Chandra Bose, I agree that the views of Subhas Chandra Bose should be given due consideration. But we have to look to so many places in India itself for that, because it is not only Andamans and Nicobars that we have to look to for renaming as Shaheed or Swadesh. There are vast regions in India which we can name as Shaheed or Swadesh. So, the matter is not easy to be just finished with renaming these islands.

I also oppose the proposal to change the name for the reason that it may have been named after Hanuman. Andaman is not named by British people as suggested by the previous speaker while mentioning Herbertbad, Stewartgunj, etc. Some people might have thought that Andamans is just like some such name given by some European. It is really Hanuman or in Malay 'Handuman' wrongly pronounced by the Europeans as Andamans and that is what is mentioned in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. So, that has got some meaning. There may be so many people wedded to religion who might say it is a religious interference to rename it as Swadesh or Swaraj when it is named after Hanuman, who is the great ancestor

of monkeys or the ancestor of the whole human world.

श्री लक्ष्मण सिंह (नामनिर्देशित-अन्धमान तथा निकोबार द्वीप-समूह) : मि० डिप्टी स्पीकर, अन्धमान निकोबार द्वीप-समूह के नाम को बदलने के बारे में जो प्रस्ताव रखा गया है, उस पर मैं अपनी राय प्रकट करना चाहता हूँ और शुरू में ही मैं यह बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि मेरी राय वही है, जो अन्धमान व निकोबार द्वीपों की जनता की है। और किसी जगह के लोगों को अपने बारे में कुछ फ़सला करने का अधिकार कहाँ तक होना चाहिए, यह तो आप सब ही जानते हैं।

किसी भी जगह के नाम से वहाँ के इतिहास का पता चलता है और इतिहास तो कभी भी बदला नहीं जा सकता। नेता जी का हमारे दिलों में भी उतना ही आदर और प्रेम है, जितना देश के और लोगों के दिलों में है और उन के नाम से अगर हमारे द्वीप में कोई यादगार कायम की जाये, तो हमें फ़ख़्र होगा, क्योंकि हम ने और हमारे लोगों ने तो दूसरी बड़ी जंग के दौरान में स्वयं उस महापुरुष के भाषण सुने हैं और उन की और उन की फ़ौज की जांबाजी देखी है। हम चाहते हैं कि उन की यादगार में हमारे द्वीप में कोई नई बरती बसाई जाये और कोई शहर बसाया जाये।

लेकिन क्या हम यह नहीं मानते कि इन द्वीपों के मौजूदा नाम आज़ादी के उन दीवानों की भी यादगार हैं, जन के पवित्र चरणों ने दूर के इन टापुओं को आबाद किया? क्या इन नामों को इस वक्त बदलना सही होगा? मैं तो यह कहूँगा कि इस नाम का बदलना इतिहास का बदलना होगा और उन क्रान्तिकारी लोगों की याद को भुलाना होगा। लिहाज़ा मैं सरकार से प्रार्थना करूँगा कि इन द्वीपों के जो नाम एक सौ बरस से अधिक वक्त से चले आए हैं, उन्हें हरगिज़ हरगिज़ न बदला जाये।

इन सब बातों को मद्दे-नज़र रखते हुए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि मैं इस रेज़ोल्यूशन को अपोज़ करता हूँ।

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** The question as to whether the name of Andaman and Nicobar islands has to be changed has been before the Government for a number of years, nearly 12 years. This question was first raised in 1948. Then Government pointed out that in view of the historical tradition till then, it would not be proper or advisable to change the name at all.

Again, the same question was raised on the ground—as one hon. Member made reference—that Subhash Chandra Bose had named Andaman and Nicobar islands as Swaraj and Shaheed islands. A reference was actually made. A question was asked on the floor of the then Provisional Parliament and an answer was given by Shri Vallabhbhai Patel that Government had no such information so far as the naming of the two islands was concerned.

Subsequently, the same question was raised and a point was made on the floor of this House that these islands should be named after Subhash Chandra Bose. When this question came up before the House, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel drew the attention of the hon. House to the views of Shri Sarat Chandra Bose, the brother of Subhas Chandra Bose, who had publicly stated it would be an insult to the name of his brother to associate his name with these islands. Then again, the same question was raised and Shri C. Rajagopalachari, who was the then Minister of Home Affairs, informed Parliament in 1951 that Government had no such proposal at all. The matter was again raised when we had a long discussion on the States Re-organisation Bill and then the Government's point of view was made clear in these terms by the Home Minister, and I would like to read it

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as it would be of use to the House. He said:

"The suggestion that has been made here will receive consideration, namely, as to whether Andaman and Nicobar Islands should be re-named at all, and if at all they were going to be re-named, what should be the name or what should be the names of these islands."

These islands are of two groups, Andaman group one and Nicobar group another, and there are a number of islands. So, that question will receive consideration when and if that question has to be considered at all. That is what the Home Minister has stated.

The suggestion that has been made here will receive consideration and we will examine from various aspects whether a change can appropriately be made. If a change can be made, then we will see what name should replace Andaman and Nicobar. There is nothing controversial about it and we have certainly no desire to miss the opportunity to show respect for Subhas Babu. But a number of names have been suggested. So the whole question will have to be considered carefully before any change can be made; none can be made just now.

**Shri Kalka Singh:** May I know whether any proposal to associate the name of Hanuman is under consideration?

**Shri Datar:** My hon. friend is very ingenious. He has found out certain materials from old history to prove his case. But we are not aware whether it was named after Hanuman at all, and at present there is no proposal to go back even to the name of Hanuman. Because, for a number of years these islands are known by these names, Andaman and Nicobar islands. It is not a question of giving a new name, or changing the name of a city or a town. Even with regard to that, the Government of India's policy is very clear. We have informed the State Governments that if at all there is any need for chang-

ing a name, it should be considered fully and, finally, the Government of India's views also should be taken into account, because it is quite likely to introduce a number of difficulties. If there are changes in the names, then naturally, as the House is aware, there would be difficulties in the Postal Department and the railways. Therefore, the general policy is that Government are slow to change the names of towns and villages, much more so of an area like Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

When this question again had to be considered, we made a reference to the Advisory Council, to the Chief Commissioner of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. There also the whole question was considered and they did not come to any conclusion at all. Therefore, under these circumstances, as the hon. Member from Andaman and Nicobar has himself pointed out, all of us are fully agreed that, so far as martyrs are concerned, we ought to have an adequate memorial for all those martyrs, because it is they who worked for the emancipation of India. Therefore, Government are with the hon. Members and the common people that the utmost respect should be shown to these people, because it is they who have brought independence to India.

May I also point out to this House that the Government of India are now actually considering the question as to whether in Delhi, the capital of India, there ought to be a memorial to the martyrs from 1857 to 1957. So, that question is also before the Government and that proposal is under active consideration. Under these circumstances, especially when there has been such an opposition from the local population of Andaman and Nicobar islands, then we should rather be slow to make any changes.

So far as the changes are concerned, three names have been suggested; one is "Swadesh Dwip", another "Swaraj Dwip" and the third "Shaheed Dwip".

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** On a point of personal explanation. I moved my amendment only because due to inadvertance the word "Swadesh" was used when actually what he wanted was "Saheed". It is actually at the instance of my hon. friend that I moved my amendment.

**Shri Datar:** Anyway, these three names are before the House and it is our duty to examine the propriety or otherwise of these three amendments.

श्री विभूति मिश्र (बगहा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा भी प्रपोजमेंट है ।

**Shri Datar:** May I point out that there is no significance in calling them "Swadesh Dwip" and that it will render them susceptible to the mistaken impression that my hon. friend has pointed out? Secondly, "Swaraj Dwip" is also practically the same. So far as "Shaheed Dwip" is concerned, as I have pointed out, there have been many martyrs in different parts of India, and there have been many places associated with the martyrdom of a number of great martyrs, whose services have brought Swaraj to India. Therefore, whenever any memorial has to be raised, then it ought not to be in respect of a far-flung island, but it should be on the mainland itself and all of us should take whatever steps are necessary to see that the memorial is adequate and the memorial has been placed at such a place that all the Indians can derive inspiration therefrom.

Then my hon. friend has pointed out that it should be named after Subhas Babu. So far as that question is concerned, we have got the views of his own brother. So far as Subhas Babu is concerned, all of us revere his great name. Therefore, if at all and whenever a memorial has to be erected, it has to be adequate and it has to be as near to us as possible, because it ought to fully reflect the great sense of reverence, the great sense of veneration that the whole of

India has for him. Under these circumstances, I regret that the Government cannot accept this proposal. I would request the hon. Member to withdraw it, if that were possible, instead of allowing it to be defeated.

**Shri Subiman Ghose (Burdwan):** No, Sir, I am not, because I am not convinced by the arguments that have been put forward by the hon. Minister. Because, he wants to say that when there was a proposal to name it after Subhas Babu, his brother resented it. Naturally, he will resent it. It is not a question of naming it after Subhas Babu. Subhas Babu lived in spite of this Government and he has carved a place in history, side by side with that of Rana Pratap and Shivaji. To remember his name it is not necessary that these two islands should be named after Subhas Babu. Naturally, that has been resented to by his brother. But what I have put forward is.....

**Shri Kalika Singh:** I think the hon. Member has not understood the point of the hon. Minister. An island need not be named after Subhas Babu, because Subhas Babu's name is associated with the whole of India. Therefore, it was thought not to name the islands after him.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** There is one thing. If the residents of those islands do not approve of it, then we should take their sentiments also into consideration.

**Shri Subiman Ghose:** Regarding that also I wish to say whether that sentiment has got any value. According to Government's own statistics, the original inhabitants of the islands have dwindled and have now come to 1,000, and the rest are inhabited by the settlers. More than 10,000 East Bengal refugees have been settled there. Naturally, they form a big majority as compared to the original inhabitants of the island. I am not trying to wound the feelings of anybody. My intention in tabling this Resolution was this. These are the two territories first conquered by the

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INA Azad Hind Fauj and after conquering they named them.

To celebrate that victory I want that these islands should be given the name that was given by the Azad Hind Fauj. It was not done by Subhas Babu. It was done by Azad Hind Fauj. If the hon. Minister says that he does not know whether these were named as Sahid Dwip and Swaraj Dwip, I shall refer him to the book written by one Union Deputy Minister, namely, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, in which he has categorically stated that these islands were named as Sahid Dwip and Swaraj Dwip. Now how can the hon. Minister say that they do not know it? That is absolutely a very good device for avoiding it. Can he say that one of his colleagues has written something which is false? I referred to the British writers. They have also written that the INA after conquering these islands named these as Sahid Dwip and Swaraj Dwip.

What I submit is this. Will the Government be able to efface from history the names of INA or its Supreme Commander? If that is there, it will automatically come from very many books written by the hon. Minister and other notable persons, namely, that these two territories were first named as Sahid Dwip and Swaraj Dwip. I am not trying to wound the feelings of the settlers or anybody. There is nothing of that kind.

The capital is named as Port Blair. Why are we very fond of that European name? Archival Blair went there in 1788. The East India Company sent him to start a settlement. The capital town has been named after him as Port Blair. But we are very fond of European names.

**Shri Mahanty:** The hon. Minister is not listening.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad):** we are very fond of European names.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister is not listening because he

knows that he shall have no opportunity to reply now.

**Shri Datar:** My hon. friend is bringing in new arguments in his reply.

**Shri Subiman Ghose:** No, I am not bringing in new arguments. You being an hon. Minister and too big a person have not done me even little justice by going through my speech that I delivered on the last occasion. Then I had advanced that argument.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Then it is only repetition.

**Shri Subiman Ghose:** That repetition also is not without any fruitful purpose because the hon. Minister has not read it.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** He may conclude now.

**Shri Datar:** Why does he make these personal references?

**Shri Subiman Ghose:** The names of many institutions are being changed. In Calcutta, Harrison Road is known to every child. It has been named as Mahatma Gandhi Road. The name has been changed. That has created confusion.

**An Hon. Member:** Why not change this also?

**Shri Subiman Ghose:** In course of time that confusion will be removed. But when the question of naming the Andamans comes he says that it will create confusion. What kind of confusion it will create I fail to understand. The Europeans named our country as India. But when we framed our Constitution we said India, that is, Bharat. We wanted our own name. We do not want to go by the name of India lone. It is for this reason that I said that Andaman be named as Sahid Dwip, that is, Martyrs' Island, and Nicobar Island be named as Swaraj Dwip, that is, the Island of Independence. I

do not think there is any confusion, any sentiment or anything of that kind in that. It is only to commemorate the victory of the Azad Hind Fauj by whom these islands were conquered. If there is any confusion or any wounding of the feelings, it is of the hon. Minister's and nobody else's.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Let us remove that confusion now.

**The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):** Time is up.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Has he concluded?

**Shri Subiman Ghose:** What I had originally thought was that I shall not withdraw the Resolution. But I think that the Government is not adamant in not accepting it and keeps an open mind. I thought that the Tripuri episode had been forgotten but I think up till now that has not been forgotten. In view of that I withdraw the Resolution.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Is Shri Chaudhuri willing to withdraw his amendment?

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Has the hon. Member the leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

*The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Has the hon. Member the leave of the House to withdraw his Resolution?

*The Resolution was, by leave withdrawn.*

16.46 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE. DEVELOPMENT OF BACKWARD AREAS IN THE THIRD FIVE YEAR PLAN standard."

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi (Hamirpur):** Sir, I beg to move:

"This House is of opinion that while preparing the Draft of the Third Five Year Plan special attention be paid to ensure that

the pace of development is greater in backward areas than in other areas and that this arrangement should continue till all the backward areas are uniformly developed upto a certain basic standard."

जो यह संकल्प में सदन के सामने रख रहा हूँ यह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है और इसका सम्बन्ध देश की भाषे से अधिक भाषावादी और क्षेत्र से है। हमारा योजना आयोग और हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार बारम्बार यह भाषावासन दे चुके हैं कि हम पिछड़े हुए क्षेत्रों के विकास के लिए पूरा प्रयत्न करेंगे। मैं यहाँ पर दूसरी योजना में से एक पैरा पढ़ कर आपको सुनाना चाहता हूँ जिससे आपको विदित होगा कि इस बारे में केन्द्रीय सरकार का क्या मत था। इस में कहा गया है :—

"It is axiomatic that the special needs of the less developed areas should receive due attention."

लेकिन हुआ यह कि इस और सरकार ने कोई तबज्जह नहीं दी और हम देखते रहे हैं कि जितने भी बड़े बड़े काम योजना आयोग के द्वारा हो रहे हैं, जिन पर लाखों, करोड़ों और अरबों रुपया खर्च हो रहा है, वे सब के सब विकास के काम ऐसे क्षेत्रों में हो रहे हैं जो पहले से ही विकसित हैं। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि उन क्षेत्रों का विकास न किया जाए लेकिन जो पिछड़े हुए क्षेत्र हैं, उनको जब तक आप दूसरे विकसित क्षेत्रों की बराबरी पर नहीं लायेंगे, समानता पर नहीं लायेंगे, वे पिछड़े हुए भ्रंग बने रहेंगे और इस बात को कहते हुए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी प्लानिंग की मिनिस्ट्री या योजना आयोग कूबड़ सुन्दरी के समान है कि जो अपने कूबड़ को तो छिपाती है लेकिन आँखों में काजल डालती है, होठों पर लिपस्टिक और बालों में खुशबूदार तेल लगा कर चलना चाहती है...

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आपको यह भी धपील नहीं करती है।

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मगर मैं चाहता हूँ कि उसे अपने कूबड़ की तरफ भी ध्यान