

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, May 31, 1972; Jyaistha 10,
1894 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Arvindkumar Mohanlal Patel (Rajkot)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Playing of National Anthem in
Cinema Houses

*1063 SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD
VERMA : Will the Minister of INFORMA-
TION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to
state :

(a) whether the playing of the National
Anthem in Cinema Houses is being stopped ;
and

(h) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI
SATPATHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise

श्री सुखदेव प्रसाद वर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उनको इस बात की जानकारी है कि सिनेमाघरों में जब राष्ट्रीय गान होता है तब उसको यथोचित सम्मान नहीं मिल पाता है। चूँकि राष्ट्रीय गान को सिनेमा-घरों में जो सम्मान मिलना चाहिए वह नहीं मिलता है इन लिए ऐसा लगता है कि उसका अपमान होता है। इस बात को ध्यान में रखकर क्या सरकार

इस पर विचार करेगी कि सिनेमा-घरों में राष्ट्रीय गान के गाने पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाया जाय ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : No, Sir ; we do not propose to stop playing of National Anthem in cinema houses. It is not a fact that the National Anthem was not shown proper respect in the cinema houses. In fact, during the course of these few years, this has become a habit with the people. People have got accustomed to this thing and they are standing up and showing proper respect. Maybe in certain cases, some people are not showing proper respect. That does not mean that we should stop playing the National Anthem. That means they will never get a chance to learn it.

श्री सुखदेव वर्मा : मैं समझता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री ने जो उत्तर दिया है वह मत्प से परे है। सबमूच मे सभी को इस बात की जानकारी है कि जब सिनेमा-घरों में राष्ट्रीय गान होता है तो उसको यथोचित सम्मान नहीं मिलता है। मंत्री महोदय का कहना है कि नहीं, वह सम्मान मिलता है। मैं चाहूँगा कि मंत्री महोदय स्वयं एक बार सिनेमा घर का निरीक्षण करके इस पर पुनर्विचार करें।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : क्या आप कह रहे हैं कि पहले मंत्री महोदय सिनेमा देखने जायें तब विचार करें ?

श्री सुखदेव प्रसाद वर्मा : वह कहती हैं कि सम्मान मिलता है। लेकिन हम लोगों का अनुभव है कि सिनेमाघरों में राष्ट्रीय गान को सम्मान नहीं मिलता है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्या यह सच है कि राष्ट्रीय ध्वज के कापी-राइट के सवाल को लेकर कोई विवाद खड़ा हो गया है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप किधर चले गए ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मैं अपने प्रश्न पर आता हूँ। सिनेमा हॉलों में राष्ट्रीय ध्वज न बजाई जाए यह विचार शायद इसीलिए निकला कि कोई कापी-राइट के अन्तर्गत उसकी कीमत बसूल

अध्यक्ष महोदय : क्या आप पर भी जो पीछे बँटे हुए हैं उनका असर हो गया ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अच्छा मैं दूसरा सवाल पूछता हूँ। यह बात सच है कि बड़े शहरों में तो नहीं, लेकिन छोटे नगरों में जब राष्ट्रीय ध्वज सिनेमाघरों में बजाई जाती है तो जैसा सम्मान प्रदर्शित करना चाहिए, वैसा नहीं किया जाता। क्या इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार विचार कर रही है कि राष्ट्रीय ध्वज बजने समय जो भी उठ कर जायें उनको रोकने की कोशिश की जाय, और अगर आवश्यक हो तो उनके ऊपर कुछ जुर्माना किया जाए ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : In fact, as I have already said, we want people to learn to show respect to National Anthem. It may be that in some places they are not showing proper respect. In this connection, we expect co operation from all political parties and those who are responsible for educating the masses of our country.

श्री नवल किशोर सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि जब तक सिनेमा-घरों में फिल्म चलती रहती है तब तक तो दरवाजे बन्द रखे जाते हैं, लेकिन जब राष्ट्रीय ध्वज पर्दे पर आता है और राष्ट्रीय ध्वज बजाई जाती है ठीक उसी क्षण दरवाजे खोल दिए जाते हैं ? खूले दरवाजे पर हर आदमी की जन्दी से निकल जाने की इच्छा होती है। क्या सरकार सिनेमा-घरों के मालिकों को इस बात की ताकीद करेगी कि जैसे वह पूरी फिल्म के समय दरवाजे बन्द रखते हैं वैसे ही राष्ट्रीय ध्वज बजने तक वह अपने सारे दरवाजे बन्द रखें ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : The cinema houses are expected to keep the doors closed till the national anthem is over.

I do not know whether there are any instances where this is not followed. After all, the cinema houses come under the jurisdiction of the State Governments. Already, a number of times the State Governments and the Chief Secretaries of different States were requested to look into this aspect. We will request them again to look into it.

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA : Is the government aware of the fact that the respect that is given to the national anthem in other countries is much more than what is being given to the national anthem in our country ?

MR. SPEAKER : He is asking for an opinion.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : The hon. Minister said that cinema is a State subject. But the national anthem is a Central subject.

MR. SPEAKER : He can make any subject a Central subject.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I do not know if the hon. Minister ever had an occasion to go to a cinema. But it is the experience of those who see cinema almost every day that before the play of the national anthem is over, there is a great rush towards the door which is very bad. This is actually an amusement type of patriotism. I do not know why only cinema houses have been selected to inject this amusement type of patriotism into our people ? Why is it that other community functions have been left out ? Will Government reconsider the whole issue ?

MR. SPEAKER : For the present, the question concerns only the cinema houses.

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : No disrespect is shown to the national anthem anywhere. But cinema houses are places where all types of people congregate. It was in 1963 that this was introduced at the time of Chinese aggression. It was felt that people should imbibe the spirit of national integrity and they should learn to respect the National Anthem. This is a place where all types of people congregate and that is why this decision was taken and the cinema house owners were requested to show this at the end of the film.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : As my colleague has pointed out, this decision was taken at the time of Chinese aggression. It was felt that the National Anthem should be played after every function, not only after cinema shows. It is now the last item of almost every programme. Playing it in cinema houses does give an opportunity to a large number of people to hear it and to know it, who otherwise might remain unfamiliar with it. This is not a matter of policy or principle. We would like more people to learn the National Anthem; even hearing it does enable them to recognise the tune and the words. If it is felt that this should not be done, the question can certainly be considered. But it is incorrect to say that it is played for amusement of any kind. It is true that many cinemas open their doors at the time and I think we should take up the matter. I hope that we will be helped by Members of Parliament whether they are in the Opposition or on our own side, who can try to look into this matter in their towns and constituencies. We cannot force cinema house owners. It is only the local authorities, municipalities or corporations or whatever local authority there is in the States, who can take up this matter. Shri Piloo Mody, not loudly but in a loud enough whisper asked me whether Opposition leaders had asked us to stop the playing of the anthem. So far as I can remember, that decision was in connection with TV and radio and that was done.

SHRI PILOO MODY : If I may clarify, on one of the occasions that we met during the war it was suggested that this might be done away with in the cinema houses and if I remember rightly, you seemed to appreciate the idea. However the suggestion that I should like to make in this matter is to play it on the All India Radio would not be a bad idea and much larger audiences would get an opportunity of hearing it. But in the cinema houses where you have a lot of people, this is what happens. For instance, the day before yesterday, I went to Vigyan Bhawan where they were showing a film mostly for Members of Parliament; Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was there; I happened to see him; even when the National Anthem was being played at Vigyan Bhawan in a show meant for Members

of Parliament, there were umpteen people going out of the House. I think that this is very disrespectful. Particularly when the house is dark and people have been sitting for a long time it is psychologically not the right moment to do something like that. Therefore, I strongly recommend that it is resumed again on the All India Radio if the Prime Minister is keen about it, but not in movie houses; that is my submission.

श्री राम सहाय पाण्डे : मैं कल सिनेमा देखने गया था 'पाकीजा'। जब शो खत्म हुआ और राष्ट्रीय ध्वज दिखाया गया और राष्ट्रीय गान बजाया गया तो मैंने देखा कि कोई भी अपनी जगह से हटा नहीं और सभी वहाँ खड़े रहे। इसलिए यह कहना कि इसका लोग अपमान करते हैं ठीक नहीं है। मैं एक ही निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। राष्ट्रीय ध्वज और राष्ट्रीय गान के पहले यह कह दिया जाये कि कृपया अपने राष्ट्रीय ध्वज और राष्ट्रीय गान का सम्मान करें, इसको अगर लिख कर दिखा दिया जाये करे और इसकी एनाउन्समेंट बरबाद दी जाये करे, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि जहाँ इनका सम्मान नहीं होता है, वहाँ भी इनका सम्मान होने लग जाएगा।

MR. SPEAKER : It is a suggestion for action.

Inquiry into Death of a College Student by
A.B.S. F. Sub-Inspector at Katwa
Station in Burdwan District

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*1064. SHRI P. GANGADEB :
SHRI M. S. SIVASAMY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any enquiry was held in the case of a College student who was killed and a College teacher injured by the Border Security Force Sub-Inspector at Katwa Station in Burdwan District on 2nd May, 1972; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the steps taken by Government against the said Sub-Inspector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI