

**SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI:** I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister what the present Government proposes to do in regard to the families of those who died in prison.

**CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH:** Government will consider this suggestion very sympathetically.

**SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI:** Whether Government has any intention in the matter of providing employment and other facilities to the sons and daughters of those who died in jail?

**CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH:** All I can now say is that this suggestion will be considered by the Government. But I cannot make any commitment.

**SHRI BASHIR AHMAD:** So many atrocities were committed on the people by the former regime and the people were put to untold sufferings. In today's 'The Statesman' newspaper, the former Prime Minister defended herself and her son even today. And not only that. She had also accused some of the former opposition members that the charges were made on false allegations. Now, I would like to know when the Commission of Enquiry would be instituted. Whether it would go into the various charges against those involved in the perpetration of atrocities on the people who were in jail? Whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware of the fact that one film actress Mrs. Snehlata was also tortured and after her release she died? I want to know whether the Enquiry Commission will go into these matters. A Magisterial enquiry on these matters is hardly sufficient to find out the extent of atrocities that have been committed on the people. A large number of persons have died as a result of atrocities committed on the people while in jail. Will the

Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us when will the Commission of Enquiry be instituted?

**CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH:** Although you will permit me to say that the Supplementary does not arise out of the questions here, still I can assure the hon. Member that the question of High Power Enquiry to go into the atrocities committed during the Emergency is under active consideration of the Government and perhaps I will be able to make a statement on this on the floor of the House tomorrow.

**SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Hon'ble Home Minister through you regarding the persons who were detained under the MISA. Out of those who were detained under MISA, 50 persons have died so far—41 in jail and 9 on parole. This information is as per the Government report. I want to know whether any financial assistance or interim relief has so far been given or proposed to be given to the family members by the State Governments concerned or by the Central Government after considering their financial position.

**CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH:** I am sorry I have not been able to follow the question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Next question.

#### Enquiry into the behavior of Press Censor Officials

\*26. **SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state whether the Government propose to institute an enquiry into the methods and behaviour of the press censor officials while censoring the newspaper manuscripts, in various States?

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI):** There is no proposal for a general, formal enquiry. If however any specific complaints are made they will be enquired into.

**SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:** May I know whether the government is aware of the fact that the Ministry and the Chief Censor Officer issued directives from time to time and whether those directives will be placed on the Table of the House? I also want to know the names of the papers and journals which were forced to stop their publication as per those directives. I also want to know whether the former Information & Broadcasting Minister himself intervened through his officers to ensure that the news of the attack against his rival candidate, Shri Kaushik and his supporters was suppressed by the local press at the time of the election and if so whether the government would enquire into the conduct of the former Information & Broadcasting Minister during the period of the emergency?

**SHRI L. K. ADVANI:** I have no objection to laying on the Table the guidelines that were issued by the censors to the press. I will try to get a full and comprehensive glimpse into the working of the censorship machinery. About the case just cited, I am aware that some news which related to the attack on the rival candidate in the election was sought to be suppressed and some action was taken to remedy it.

**SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:** He said he would lay the guidelines. I asked about the directives.

**SHRI L. K. ADVANI:** The purpose of the question would be served

if we have a view of the guidelines. I would have to go into the directives in detail. There have been a large number of directives and directions, many of them orally and a few of them in writing. This Government's position is that censorship no longer exists. All the guidelines have been withdrawn and the entire set-up also has been in a way wound up.

**SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:** My second supplementary is...

**MR. SPEAKER:** You have already put it. Mr. Kundu.

**SHRI S. KUNDU:** During the period of emergency, we passed through an era of aggressive publicity launched by the then Minister of Information & Broadcasting.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** By the Prime Minister.

**SHRI S. KUNDU:** During that black era, the free arm of the press was systematically and deliberately twisted and the censor was used as an evil instrument. The I&B Ministry used the entire instrument of information & Broadcasting, the censor, the TV, the press to propagate lies and untruth which even Goebbels will fight shy of doing. Now, the hon. Minister said about the guidelines. Some censors in order to please the Ministers and the Prime Minister did something which was not covered in the guidelines. There are so many cases. Take the case of *The Indian Express*, *The Statesman*, *The Janata* etc. Many language dailies—I do not want to go into that. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would make an announcement that such cases where even the censors had crossed the bounds of the guidelines would be enquired into and suitable action would be taken. Secondly, the hon. Minister would kindly assure this House that the entire action of the Information & Broadcasting Ministry would also be enquired into and a report would be placed on the Table of the House.

**SHRI L. K. ADVANI:** I would not deny that in many of the directions that have been brought to my notice, I find that they did not come within the purview of the guidelines. But in all the cases that have been brought to my notice, I feel, it has been done under the direction of the Minister at that time.

**PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR:** The question relates specifically to the methods and behaviour of the press censor officials. My friend the Minister has just now said that Government's policy is not to have an overall general review of the entire practice of censor officials. In view of the fact, however, that the methods and behaviour of many of the press officials involved not only giving orders orally but doing things without even oral orders in order to please the higher-ups and prove to be holier than holy, what kind of action Government propose to initiate *suo motu* on the complaints received from press proprietors and editors, from reporters and columnists of newspapers, weekly magazines, etc.? I as a writer and columnist, was also one of the victims of this kind of obnoxious and ugly press censorship, when we were not allowed to print our weekly paper by the orders which did not come to us directly but through the orders which did go to the printer. All these things are required to be enquired into so that not only in my life time and in the life time of the Minister but in the entire life time of the Nation such things do not happen.

**SHRI L. K. ADVANI:** I agree *in toto* with the hon. Member when he said that it should be our responsibility to enquire into obnoxious and ugly things of this kind which are in a way a blot on the otherwise very remarkable history of press freedom in India so that such things do not occur again. Statutory safeguards and even at the administrative level, remedial safeguards are being processed. I would be willing to be guided by your advice also.

**श्री राम नरेल कृष्णाबाहा:** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं व्यवस्था का प्रश्न उठाना चाहता हूँ। हम लोगों को जो प्रश्नों की सूची मिली है उसमें 1 और 2 नम्बर का प्रश्न नहीं है। प्रश्न नं० 3 हमें मिला है। बाकी 1 और 2 नम्बर के प्रश्न नहीं मिले हैं।

**MR. SPEAKER:** It will come after the Question Hour.

**PROF. DILIP CHAKRAVARTY:** I would like to know whether the Minister of Information and Broadcasting is aware that the Calcutta station of All India Radio was prevented from having Tagore's songs sung from the All India Radio. His song "Ekla Chalore" which was very popular with Gandhiji himself, was prevented from being broadcast by it; and the famous poem "prithvi" was being prevented from being recited on Air Calcutta. This was done during Emergency. Is the Minister of Information and Broadcasting aware of it? What steps is he going to take? Is the Minister aware that in tune with the 'India is Indira' theory, the former Prime Minister's teachings were being monitored through the All India Radio even a few hours before asking the voters to vote for Congress? What steps are going to be taken in this connection?

**SHRI L. K. ADANI:** Instances of the type of blacking out of Tagore's song "Ekla Chalore", as the hon. Member has just pointed out, have come to my notice. They are very unfortunate. We would see to it that nothing of this kind recurs, not merely during our tenure, but for ever in India.

#### Naval Training Centre at Chilka

\*27. **SHRI GANANATH PRADHAN:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction work of Naval Training Centre at Chilka in Orissa has already started;