

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, July 15, 1977/Asadha 24, 1899  
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Installation of Statue of former Prime Minister

\*485. SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of U.S. \$30,000 (nearly Rs. 2.7 lakhs) was sanctioned by the Finance Ministry through a letter in February, 1977 for putting up a statue of the then Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi;

(b) if so, whether the order for the construction of the statue has been placed and with whom; and

(c) when the work of construction of statue is likely to be completed and where do the Government intend to fix up the said statue?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) The sculptress who was commissioned by the Central Campaign Committee of the All India Congress Committee to prepare a statue of Smt. Indira Gandhi was to receive payment equivalent to \$ 30,000/-. This Department sanctioned foreign exchange amounting to \$ 15,000/? only as the remaining sum

was to be paid in rupees in terms of the agreement between the sculptress and the Central Campaign Committee of the All India Congress Committee. No actual release of foreign exchange has, however, been made by the Reserve Bank of India in the absence of any application from the Central Campaign Committee of the All India Congress Committee.

(b) and (c). Since the Government of India did not place any order for the construction of the statue, it is not possible to indicate whether the order for the construction of the statue has been placed and when the work of construction of statue is likely to be completed. In view of this, the question of the Government intending to fix up the said statue does not also arise.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: The hon. Minister in his reply says that no actual release of foreign exchange has been made by the Reserve Bank of India because no application has been received from the Central Campaign Committee of the AICC. May I therefore ask the hon. Minister whether he would release this amount of \$ 15,000 if an application is received from them? .....  
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the Finance Minister reply.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The money would be released if the demand comes.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: In reply to parts (b) and (c) the hon. Minister says, "the question of government intending to fix up the said statue does not arise". If such a request is made by the committee, may I know whether the government proposes to give permission to erect that particular statue?

**SHRI H. M. PATEL :** This is a question to which I am not in a position to answer today

**DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT :** The hon. Finance Minister stated that money would be released in case an application is preferred. Has he made enquiries whether the sculptress had already started on the work and who is the person on whom the order has been placed and what is her nationality?

**SHRI H. M. PATEL :** The sculptress on whom the order was placed is Mrs. Freda Brilliant. I am not in a position to say what her nationality is I am also not in a position to say as to whether she has started the work or not. The order was placed by the Central Campaign Committee of the All-India Congress Committee. A request was made by the Central Campaign Committee for placing order for such a statue, pointing out that it involves so much of foreign exchange. What they asked for was the assurance that such an amount of foreign exchange would be released as and when the sculptor would become available. The approval has been given and if the demand comes we shall consider it.

**SHRI S. KUNDU :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is indeed shocking to hear the Finance Minister saying that the money would be sanctioned if the application is made. He holds a very important portfolio and the Janata Government is committed to make all sorts of economy. In view of this, it is indeed humiliating to know that the Finance Minister would release the scarce foreign exchange for such useless purpose. I would request the Finance Minister to rethink about it and then make the announcement. I would like to know whether he would also make an announcement that hereafter the sinners and the saints should not be clubbed together. As the Government has taken a very bold decision to do away with all sorts of titles, here also would you announce

that while sanctioning money, you will see that.....

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Mr. Kundu, You should be very short in putting your question.

**SHRI H. M. PATEL :** This sanction of foreign exchange was conveyed before this Government came into power.

**SHRIMATI MRINAL GORE :** You can withdraw it now.

**SHRI H. M. PATEL :** It can be done. That is something which we can consider certainly. But the general policy of this Government is, whatever commitments have been made by the previous Government, those commitments have to be honoured. Therefore, we shall make enquiries to see whether this order has been placed.

(Interruptions)

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Let him complete his answer.

**SHRI H. M. PATEL :** In view of what the hon. Member has said we shall make enquiries as to whether the order has been placed. Then we can consider this matter.

श्री चन्द्रशेखर सिंह : मंत्री जी ने कह कि 15 हजार डालर देने के बारे में हम विचार करेंगे और यह सरकार की नीति है कि पिछली गवर्नमेंट ने जो काम किए हैं उनको हम एक प्रकार से आनर करें । मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि शिव और कृष्ण की प्रतिमा उनके मरने के 300 साल बाद बनी, तो क्या सरकार के सामने यह प्रश्न भी विचाराधीन है कि जो जीवित लोग हैं उनकी प्रतिमा न बनाई जाये ?

जब एकाध जगह पर गांधी जी की प्रतिमा के साथ, जो कि इस देश के राष्ट्र-पिता रहे हैं, भी खिलवाड़ हुआ तो जीवित

लोगों की प्रतिमा बनाना क्या मूर्ति पूजा नहीं है और क्या इसके लिए इस गरीब देश का पैसा खर्च करने के बारे में विचार करना इस गरीब देश का अपमान नहीं है ?

**SHRI H. M. PATEL :** I can only answer with reference to this that it is a very hypothetical question, which does not really concern the Finance Ministry. Something was decided upon earlier and a request was made to the Finance Ministry of those days and the then Finance Minister approved of this. This is all I can say about this.

**SHRI SONU SINGH PATIL :** May I know who was heading this Central Campaign Committee of the AICC and what was the compelling ground for sanctioning 15,000 dollars for erecting such a statue?

**SHRI H. M. PATEL :** I think the letter that was received by the Finance Ministry was from Shri Yashpal Kapur. The letter said that they have commissioned the world-famous sculptress Freda Brilliant to prepare a 7 feet high bronze statue of Mrs. Gandhi at a cost of 30,000 dollars. As I said, we will see what progress has been made and if nothing has been done, we shall cancel it.

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) :** Even if an order is placed, Government is going to cancel it.

**श्री रामकंवर बेरवा :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रधान मंत्री जी के जवाब से मुझे बड़ी प्रसन्नता हुई है। वित्त मंत्री जी ने अभी कहा था कि मंजूरी दे देंगे। इंडिया गेट पर महात्मा गांधी जी की प्रतिमा लगाने के लिये कुछ संगठनों ने मांग की थी और जिन्होंने मांग की थी उनके कार्यकर्ताओं को पिछली सरकार ने जेलों में भेज दिया। पिछली सरकार के प्रधान मंत्री के खिलाफ जब आयोग बना है तब मुझे बड़ा खेद है कि वित्त मंत्री जी ने उसका जिक्र नहीं

किया और शाह आयोग की फाइनल रिपोर्ट आने से पहले ही इस तरह की बात कह दी, उन्होंने उसकी प्रतीक्षा नहीं की। लेकिन प्रधान मंत्री जी ने जो जवाब दिया है मैं उससे बिल्कुल सन्तुष्ट हूँ।

**श्री बन्धु शोस्टर :** माननीय सदस्य ने महात्मा गांधी की प्रतिमा के बारे में भी पूछा है, उसके बारे में तो मंत्री जी जवाब दें।

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** It does not arise out of this.

**श्री रबीन्द्र प्रताप सिंह :** यह प्रतिमा कहां पर लगने वाली थी, क्या इसकी जानकारी मंत्री जी को है ?

**SHRI H. M. PATEL :** There is no information with me about it.

**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI :** May I know when this application was received from this so called Central Campaign Committee? The Chairman of the Committee was very respectable. He commands respect even today. Babu Jagjivan Ram was the Chairman. My question is: When was this application received from Mr. Yashpal Kapur for foreign exchange? And later, did you receive a copy of the contract entered into by the Committee and the concerned persons abroad making the statue?

**SHRI H. M. PATEL :** Why should I receive any contract? The letter was received by the Finance Ministry on the 16th of November, 1976, from Shri Yashpal Kapur, General Secretary of the Central Campaign Committee of the All India Congress Committee, stating that as indicated already they have commissioned a sculptor.

**श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त :** मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी और इस सरकार को न केवल सदस्यों की ओर से बल्कि देश की जनता की तरफ से

बधाई देता हूँ। उन्होंने यहाँ बात कह कर कि यह लाखों का फारन-एक्सचेंज जो मंजूर किया गया था, नहीं दिया जाएगा, भारत की जनता की भावनाओं का आदर किया है। यह हमारे लिए एक बहुत बड़ी ट्रेजडी होती है कि जो फासिस्ट रूल के सिम्बल थे, उनके स्टेचू के लिए हमारी सरकार इतना बड़ा फारन-एक्सचेंज देती।

मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ—इस प्रकार के स्टेचू बनाने या इसी तरह की जो दूसरी बातें आती हैं, क्या इनके लिए आपने कोई यार्ड-स्टिक बनाई है कि किन-किन के लिए फारन-एक्सचेंज दिये जायेंगे और किन-किन के लिए नहीं दिए जायेंगे, ताकि आइन्दा इस प्रकार की चीजें घटित न हों? There may be requests for the statue of Vivekananda; there may be requests for many things.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: It is not necessary to have any statues from outside and we would not give any foreign exchange for any statue from outside.

श्री मनी राम बागड़ी : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सवाल के साथ एक और बहुत बड़ी भावना जुड़ी हुई है। डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया ने इसके बारे में सारे देश में एक मूवमेंट चलाई थी—इसलिए मैं एक बहुत कहत्वपूर्ण सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ। डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया ने सारे देश में यह भावना फैलाई थी कि विदेशी वस्तुओं को और विदेशी शासकों के नाम पर बनी हुई सड़कों के नामों को बदला जाय। क्या प्रधान मंत्री जी इस और विशेष ध्यान देंगे कि विदेशी शासकों के नामों की सड़कों के नाम बदल कर भारतीय स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम के योद्धाओं और भारतीय इतिहासकारों के नामों पर सड़कों के नाम रखे जायें और विदेशी शासकों के वस्तुओं को हटा कर उनकी जगह स्वतन्त्रता के लिए लड़ने वालों के वस्तु लगाये जायें ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member wants to know whether there is any proposal to change the names of roads and statues having foreigners' names. That does not arise from this question.

अफ्रीका, दक्षिण अमरीका और दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया में भारतीय माल की बिक्री

\*486. श्री मोम प्रकाश त्यागी : क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) अफ्रीका, दक्षिण अमरीका और दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया में भारतीय माल की बिक्री के लिए सरकार ने क्या प्रयत्न किये हैं अथवा करने का विचार है ; और

(ख) उनमें से ऐसे देशों के नाम क्या हैं जिनके साथ अब तक हमारे व्यापार सम्बन्ध रहे हैं तथा उन देशों को किन वस्तुओं का निर्यात किया जाता रहा है ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : (a) Efforts made for marketing of Indian goods to South America, Africa and South East Asia include conducting of market surveys, sending sales delegations, holding of Indian exhibitions, participation in international exhibitions, commercial publicity, granting soft credits, concluding of Trade Agreements, holding of trade talks at Government level, tendering for international tenders, opening offices of export promotion organisations and efforts by our Commercial Missions for collection and dissemination of information. The same efforts are proposed to be intensified in future.

(b) Statement is enclosed.