

Economy in expenditure on tours by Ministers

†

*209. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:
SHRI PRASANNBHAI
MEHTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether he has stressed on the Union Ministers to effect utmost economy in the expenditure on tours;

(b) whether he had issued guidelines that they should differentiate between the official work and electioneering;

(c) if so, how many Ministers made official tours to the States who were undergoing election in the month of February, 1978;

(d) the total expenditure incurred on each of them; and

(e) the names of the Ministers and how many times they toured the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) No fresh formal instructions have been issued on the subject. However in accordance with the philosophy of the Janata Party, the Union Ministers are following a policy of avoiding unnecessary expenditure and effecting the utmost economy in the expenditure on tours.

(b) A copy of the guidelines is attached. (statement).

(c) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Instructions regarding the tours of Minister for non-official purposes including election tours, are contained in several communications issued and re-

issued from time to time. These have been summarised below:—

General instructions

(1) Until a Minister demits office he is in charge of public affairs and accordingly even while on tours, whether for official or private purpose, he must continue to discharge the responsibilities as Minister. Hence,

(a) he can take with him the minimum personal staff needed for this purpose and such staff is entitled to draw travelling and daily allowance under the rules; and

(b) when he visits any place, the district officers must arrange for normal courtesies and security.

(2) A Minister may claim travelling and daily allowance only in respect of tours undertaken for official purposes i.e. tours, actually necessitated by duties which he could not perform at headquarters. If an official tour is combined with private business of the Minister, which includes party work, and he has to undertake any additional journey for this purpose, he is not entitled to any travelling allowance for the additional journey. If a Minister while on official tour devotes any day of his halt exclusively for private business he is not entitled to daily allowance for that day.

Special instructions regarding election tours

(3) Whenever a Minister decides that a meeting which is going to be addressed by him is an election meeting he should ask for arrangements to be made on his behalf non-officially and not by Government servants. During the election tours Government meetings would be rare and normally public meetings should be considered election meetings and all expenses except those relating to maintenance of law and order, borne privately.

(4) The role of officials at election meetings should be confined to maintaining law and order and affording normal protection to Ministers.

(5) No travelling expenses or daily allowance should be charged by Ministers for journeys, which have, for their main purpose, election campaign. It would be presumed that for some weeks prior to the poll, the activities of Ministers on tour are much more concerned with elections than with their official duties.

(6) A journey undertaken by a Minister for filing nomination papers and subsequent tours to his constituency should be regarded as being for election purposes.

(7) If a Minister who has proceeded to his constituency for election purposes at his own expense, has to proceed to some other place on duty, he may draw travelling allowance limited to the amount admissible from his headquarters to the other place and back to headquarters. If he has to return to headquarters from his own constituency in public interest by interrupting his election work, he may only claim the return air or railway fare. Public interest shall naturally include attendance at all Cabinet and Cabinet Sub-Committee meetings. Other meetings or conferences at headquarters should be avoided as far as possible.

(8) Where a Minister has been provided with a car exclusively at the expense of the State, the car should not be used for election purposes. Even where a car is provided by the State but the Minister is given an allowance for maintenance of the vehicle, it is not desirable to use such vehicle for election purposes.

SHRI R V SWAMINATHAN: This is a very important information that has been sought and in (c), (d) and (e) it has been thwarted by saying that the information is being collected. But may I at least ask the hon. Minister whether he will give a categorical answer that all the Ministers who undertook tour during the elections have strictly followed the guidelines or has any Minister violated them? Will he please answer that now?

SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL: In answer to (d), (e) and (f) I have stated that the information is being collected. Now the hon. Member wants to know whether I would be able to assure him that the guidelines have not been violated. I can only assure the hon. Member that I hope that there will be no violation of the guidelines.

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Since there is a mention of philosophy of the Janata Party, may I know whether the Government is considering the revision of these guidelines according to its philosophy?

SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL: There is no question of revising the guidelines. I can assure the hon. Member that the utmost effort will be made to effect economy.

SHRI RAGHAVALU MOHANARANGAM: It has been stated by the hon. Minister that information in regard to parts (c), (d) and (e) of the question is being collected. I want to know from the hon. Minister how long he will take to give a reply to a small question like this. It has taken already 22 days. I do not know how many years he will take to give the answer to this.

श्री धनिक लाल मण्डल : ग्रन्थस्य महोदय, पाच राज्यां मे चुनाव हुए है और 44 मंत्री हैं, उन सभी राज्यों मे सूचना एकत्र करनी है। मैं नहीं समझता कि सूचना एकत्र करने मे कोई देर लग रही है।

श्री राम प्रकाश त्रिपाठी : जो केन्द्र के मंत्रियों के लिए गाइडलाइन्स तैयार की गई है, क्या उन गाइडलाइन्स की प्रतियां राज्य सरकारों को भी भेजी जायेगी जिससे कि राज्यों के मंत्री भी उनका पालन कर सकें ?

श्री धनिक लाल मण्डल : यह प्रश्न इस प्रश्न मे नहीं उठता है।

PROF P. G. MAVALANKAR: The hon. Minister has stated that he will take some time to collect the information with regard to the tours made

by the Ministers concerned, specifically during the election months. I am prepared to wait for the information. My supplementary is with regard to part (a) of the question in reply to which he has stated that guidelines were there. May I know whether the guidelines would also include at an early date this particular instruction that as far as possible the local official machinery and staff which have to look after the Minister's paraphernalia and programmes is kept to the minimum so that the local administration does not suffer, as the experience so far has been that a lot of local work suffers because so many officials have to hang around Ministers, practically doing nothing?

श्री धनिक लाल मण्डल : महोदय, गाइडलाइंस में यह स्पष्ट है कि जब मंत्री दौरे पर रहें तो स्थानीय आफिशियल्स कर्टसी के लिये तो रहें लेकिन उनके पीछे झराउड रहने की पद्धति आगे नहीं चलानी है।

श्री कंबर लाल मुत्त : मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि ये जो गाइडलाइंस आपने तैयार की हैं ये वही गाइडलाइंस हैं जो पिछली सरकार ने तैयार की थी या उनमें कुछ परिवर्तन किया है ?

दूसरे, क्या आपके पास ऐसी सूचना है कि पिछली सरकार के जमाने में जो मंत्री दूर पर जाया करते थे, उनके साथ उनकी पार्टी के लीडर्स भी जाया करते थे ? क्या आपको ज्ञात है कि श्री संजय गांधी के दौरे पर करोड़ों रुपया सरकार द्वारा खर्च किया गया ? क्या यह रुपया वसूल किया जाएगा ? यदि नहीं किया जाएगा तो क्यों नहीं वसूल किया जाएगा ?

श्री धनिक लाल मण्डल : पहला प्रश्न गाइडलाइंस से सम्बन्धित है, दूसरा इमसे सम्बन्धित नहीं है।

SHRI B. RACHAIAH : May I know the number of Ministers who have toured during the February, 1978, election in Andhra Pradesh and particularly in Guntur constituency?

HR. SPEAKER: He has got of the information. He has already stated that the information is being collected.

श्री राम कवार बरेबा : अध्यक्ष महोदय भूतपूर्व सरकार द्वारा जो सरकारी साधनों के दुरुपयोग की परम्परा डाली गयी है, उसकी काफी चर्चा इस पार्लियामेंट में भी हुई थी और यहाँ पर भारत सरकार ने उत्तर दिया था इस प्रकार के दुरुपयोग पर जो खर्चा हो रहा है, उसको कम किया जा रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुँचे हैं कि भूतपूर्व सरकार ने जो जायज खर्च उसका करना चाहिये था नहीं किया और धन का दुरुपयोग किया ? यदि हाँ, तो कितने धन का दुरुपयोग किया ? आप जो नीति अपनाने जा रहे हैं उसको आप कब तक लागू कर देंगे ताकि मंत्री लोग आपकी नीति के अनुरूप चल सकें ?

श्री धनिक लाल मंडल : जहां तक पहले हिस्से का सम्बन्ध है कि कितना मही था और कितना धन का दुरुपयोग हुआ यह मैं इस वक़्त नहीं कह सकता। लेकिन जहां तक दूसरे हिस्से का सम्बन्ध है मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि 1973-74 में 44.27 लाख रुपया खर्च हुआ था, 1974-75 में 33.29 लाख रुपया खर्च हुआ।

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise. You are answering a question which does not arise at all.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: Collecting information is no information. He has to give proper information or the question be postponed to some other day.

श्री ग्रहसान जाकरी : जैसे पहले हुआ करता था वैसे ही अब होता है। प्रधान मंत्री जी हैलीकोप्टर से जाते हैं। लेकिन बहुत से मिनिस्टर भी अब तो हैलीकोप्टर में गए हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हैलीकोप्टर का जो पैसा खर्च हुआ वह कहाँ से दिया या ?

श्री ब्रजि क लाल बंसल : पार्टी की ओर से दिया गया ।

MR. SPEAKER: Question No 210 (interruptions)

SHRI SOUGATA ROY: He is avoiding the answer. We seek your protection. (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record. (Interruptions)

I have already passed on to the next question...no point of order during Question Hour. If anybody wants half-an-hour discussion, he must give notice, I will consider that. Question No. 210.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE RE. CERTAIN REMARKS BY SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI ABOUT THE SPEAKER.

11.43 hrs.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI (Anantnag): On a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: No point of order during Question Hour.

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI: My submission is.

MR. SPEAKER Do not record.

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI: Do not record! You are only threatening us that you will not record it. How will you run this House? My submission is....

MR. SPEAKER: I am not running it with your assistance.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: No, no. You are not running it at all. You have ruined this Parliament. You are not fit to be in this Chair. I am sorry to say.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr Qureshi, if you speak that way, I will refer the matter to the Privileges Committee.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: I will speak. You name me.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not to dictate to me....You are repeating it.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI:

I will continue to speak. You can name me into. I will repeat it 101 times. You are partial (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Note down that.

MR. SPEAKER: Either you withdraw the expression or I am going to refer the matter to the Privileges Committee. (Interruptions).

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: You can refer the matter to the Privileges Committee. I will not withdraw....(Interruptions) I have enough proof against you....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Don't record anything.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: ** (Interruptions)

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar): I want to make a formal motion that the statement made by Mr. Qureshi should be referred to the Privileges Committee and you take the consensus of the House. (Interruptions) My motion is that the statement made by Mr. Qureshi against the Speaker be referred to the Privileges Committee. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER. The motion made by Mr Kanwar Lal Gupta is:

"That the remark made by Mr. Qureshi be referred to the Privileges Committee."

Those who are in favour may say, Aye....(Interruptions)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Aye. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Ayes have it; the Ayes have it.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI: Your remarks too should be referred to the Privileges Committee. (Interruptions)