

LOK SABHA DEBATES

963

964

LOK SABHA

Friday, May 26, 1967/Jyaistha 5, 1889
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Release of Cargo by Pakistan

- *91. Shri A. B. Vajpayee:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Sharda Nand:
Shri Bharat Singh:
Shri Ranjit Singh:
Shri D. N. Patodia:
Shri R. Barua:
Shri C. C. Desai:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of release of the Indian Cargo and the property impounded by Pakistan during the 1965 Indo-Pak conflict has been taken up lately with the Government of Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Pakistan Government thereto; and

(c) the outcome thereof and the further steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) to (c). We have been trying to persuade the Government of Pakistan to settle the question of restitution of seized cargoes and assets but there has been no response so far from that Government.

श्री प्रदल बिहारी बाजपेयी : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बता सकेंगे कि पाकिस्तान के पास हमारा जो कारगो है उस की कुल कीमत कितनी है और क्या पाकिस्तान का कोई कारगो भी हमारे पास है ?

श्री विनेश सिंह : पाकिस्तान में हमारा जो कारगो है, वह करीब 18 करोड़ के लगभग का है और डेढ़ करोड़ के करीब का कारगो हम ने पाकिस्तान का पकड़ा था, जो कि हम ने वापस कर दिया ।

श्री प्रदल बिहारी बाजपेयी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब पाकिस्तान हमारा कारगो वापस करने के लिये तैयार नहीं है, तो हम ने एक-तरफा कार्यवाही कर के उस का कारगो क्यों वापस किया ।

श्री विनेश सिंह : इस बारे में पिछली मर्तबा भी सदन में बात हुई थी । इस विषय में दो मत हो सकते हैं कि हम को ऐसा करना चाहिए था या नहीं करना चाहिए था । लेकिन हम ने यह समझा था कि उन का जो सामान हमारे पास है, वह हम को वापस करना चाहिए । सामकंद की वार्ता हुई । उस के बाद हम को धाशा थी कि पाकिस्तान भी सही तरीके से काम करेगा और हमारा जो सामान उस के वहाँ है, वह उस को वापस करेगा । उसने ऐसा नहीं किया, इस का हमें बहुत दुःख है ।

हम सब भी बताना करते हैं कि वह हमारा सामान या उस का मुआवजा हम को देगा।

Shri D. N. Pateodia: Is it a fact that when the Pakistani cargo was released by us, there was some sort of pressure either by the Russians or by the Americans so that we had to take that action? If that is so, can we not now prevail upon the American or the Russian Government to insist upon the Pakistani authorities releasing our cargoes also?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I would not say there was any pressure from any foreign Government. Some friendly Governments did suggest to us that we might return this cargo. We have taken it up with them in the sense that we did what we felt was right, and it was also their advice, and we hope they would be able to prevail upon Pakistan also to return our cargo.

Shri E. Barua: May I know if there is international law and convention to get the release of such cargoes, and if so, what steps we have taken to invoke the international machinery?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I cannot say off-hand what exactly the international position is. This is a complicated issue in many ways, in the sense whether the hostilities were really a war in the legal sense or not, and there are various other complications. We had not gone into it, and we had hoped that there would be a good gesture on the part of Pakistan also to return the cargoes as we had done.

श्री कल्याण सिंह: पाकिस्तान ने "तरस्वरी" नाम के हमारे जहाज को डिसफिगर किया, रीसेंट किया और उस का नाम "वीचुबिला" रख दिया। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि

सरकार ने उस के लिए क्या उपाय सोचा है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: जी क० ना० तिवारी।

जी क० ना० तिवारी: नहीं महोदय ने अभी कहा है कि कुछ केंद्रीय ने हर्षे कहा कि पाकिस्तान का कारगो वापस कर दिया जाये। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन केंद्रीय के क्या नाम हैं। क्या उन केंद्रीय ने पाकिस्तान को भी एडवाइस किया कि वह हमारा कारगो वापस कर दे? अगर किया, तो उस का क्या प्रभाव हुआ? क्या पाकिस्तान ने उन की एडवाइस को माना; अगर नहीं माना, तो क्यों नहीं माना और इस पर उन केंद्रीय ने क्या एक्शन लिया?

श्री दिनेश सिंह: माननीय सदस्य साहब उन केंद्रीय ने नाम जानते हों। अगर आप चाहें, तो मैं कह दूँ, लेकिन मैं नहीं चाहता कि मैं किसी और देश का नाम सलन में दूँ।

श्रीमती तरस्वरी सिन्हा: क्यों नहीं बताना चाहते? बताना चाहिए।

जी क० ना० तिवारी: उन केंद्रीय के बताना मैं ने यह भी जानना चाहा है कि क्या उन केंद्रीय ने पाकिस्तान को भी सलाह दी कि वह हमारा कारगो वापस कर दे; क्या पाकिस्तान ने उस की सलाह मानी; अगर नहीं मानी, तो क्यों नहीं मानी और इस पर उन केंद्रीय की तरफ से क्या एक्शन लिया गया।

श्री दिनेश सिंह: पाकिस्तान ने क्यों नहीं माना, यह कहना मेरे लिए बड़ा

मुक्ति है। उन्होंने पाकिस्तान से भी जबर कसा। यह बात उन्होंने हम को बताई है। मैं ने नाम इस लिए नहीं लिया था कि यह मामला अभी बतल नहीं हुआ है। कुछ लोगों ने इस बारे में बातें की हैं और अभी भी बातें कर रहे हैं। इस लिए यह प्रच्छा होगा कि अभी हम नाम में न जायें। माननीय सदस्य जानते होंगे। अगर वह बाहुर मुझ से पूछेंगे, तो मैं बता दूंगा। लेकिन यहाँ अभी बताना उचित नहीं है।

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: Are we not, as a matter of right, entitled to know?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: We are setting up a wrong precedent. The hon. Minister should announce it in the House.

Mr. Speaker: He evidently means it will get publicity and all that, but if it could be privately conveyed to the member—I do not know, I wish he had not said that—every member cannot meet the Minister. The whole House would like to know. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Tenneti Viswanatham: I did not follow his last answer. He rose and sat down. So far as the House is concerned, we are entitled to know the names of the friendly Power, and when that friendship began. Was it in existence at the time Pakistan made aggression upon India? These are matters in which we are all vitally interested. I cannot understand the Minister being very shy about these things.

Shri Dinesh Singh: I am sure the hon. Member is interested, the whole House is interested. I was only pleading with the House, that because of their interest in the matter, and since the matter is not yet over, they would allow me this indulgence and not press

me for giving the names, because my feeling is—it may not be right—that may be it will help in this matter. If the House is not of that view, I am in your hands.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: We are setting up a very wrong precedent. The hon. Minister is making a statement in the House that if the hon. Member wants to know it, he could come to him in the Lobby and he would tell him. The whole world will be knowing that he is having private parleys but not giving the information to the House. Is it the way of making a statement in the House? If he thinks it is not in the public interest, he should clearly say that it is not in the public interest to disclose it because the talks and negotiations are at a very delicate stage.

Mr. Speaker: That is what exactly he said.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: But this kind of statement that he has made is not right.

Shri Dinesh Singh: With all due respect to the hon. Member who has been with us here for a long time, there is nothing very unusual in what I have said. On many occasions, when questions have been asked, replies have been sent through you, Mr. Speaker, with a request that if you so desired, you might communicate it to the individual member, but the question as such need not be discussed. So, there is nothing terribly unusual in what I have said. I mean no disrespect. Hon. Members are also welcome to discuss it with me.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: We have a right to know which are the countries which are friendly to us, which are the countries which are anxious to harm us, like Britain by what they did during the Pakistani war through BBC propagandas, which are the countries which are trying to have a dig at us. He has no right to withhold that information from the House.

Mr. Speaker: He thinks that public interest would not be served by this information. Unfortunately, the Chair cannot compel a Minister to divulge information in such cases... (Inter-ruptions).

Shri Manibhai J. Patel: What about the members of the crew of the cargo? Are their movements free or are they under detention? What is their total number?

Shri Dinesh Singh: Members of the crew of the cargo? The cargoes have no crew.

श्री प्रकाशवीर जारसी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पाकिस्तान सरकार ने जैसा अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया 18 करोड़ रुपये के लगभग का मान हमारा अभी तक रोक रखा है। इतना सब कुछ होने के बावजूद भी क्या भारतीय समुद्र में उन को वही मुविघाएँ प्राप्त हैं जो हम ने उन के साथ रोकने के पहले करायी थी? अगर ऐसी बात है तो यह एकपक्षीय आखिरी चीजों तक जारी रहेगी?

श्री दिनेश सिंह : यह आखिरी चीजों का उदाहरण नहीं है अध्यक्ष महोदय। यह तो जब कि लड़ाई की स्थिति थी तो उन वस्तु कारगो रोक विद्या, कुछ कारगो हम ने रोक विद्या, उन का मैंने बयान दिया, ताशकंद में जो वास्ता हुई थी उस के बाद तो जहाजों के घाने जाने में कोई कठिनाई नहीं हुई।

श्री प्रकाशवीर जारसी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रश्न यह नहीं था। प्रश्न मेरा यह था कि ताशकंद समझौते के बाद जब भारत सरकार ने अभी पृष्ठभूमि में पाकिस्तान का मान बापन किया और पाकिस्तान ने उस से 18 गुना हमारा मान अभी तक रोक रखा है तो इस का परिणाम यह है कि पाकिस्तान ने उस

घोषणा का धारण नहीं किया, तो क्या भारत सरकार पाकिस्तान को वही मुविघाएँ देने को तैयार है जो उसे पहले दे रही थी?

श्री दिनेश सिंह : मैं माननीय सदस्य से बिल्कुल इनकार करता हूँ कि पाकिस्तान से जो बानचीन ताशकंद में हुई थी उस के घनसार यह कारगो हमको नहीं लौटाया है। उन को जो स्थिति बनी थी उस के हिसाब में लौटा देना चाहिए था। अब फिर आगे जब कभी कारगो रुके तब क्या हो या आगे क्या होगा उसके बारे में कुछ कहना हमारे लिए कठिन है।

Shri K. K. Nayar: We have returned the Pakistani cargo and did not get back our cargo which Pakistan has. We have acted in accordance with the spirit of the Tashkent agreement. Any agreement is between two parties and it is an international contract. If one party breaks the agreement and denounces the agreement, how long shall we go on with unilateral adherence to the Tashkent pact? Are we going to observe this pact throughout while Pakistan consistently ignores it, defies it and denounces it?

Shri Dinesh Singh: As you are aware, Sir, there is no Tashkent pact as such. This was a Tashkent declaration which was to create a climate for the normalisation of relations between Pakistan and India. We have on our part tried to do everything possible to normalise these relations. If Pakistan is not reciprocating—and that is the whole difficulty... (Inter-ruptions). t

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member asks: how long are we going to do this though Pakistan is not reciprocating.

Shri Dinesh Singh: It is not a pact in the sense that we shall do this and this and they shall do that. It is only a declaration to create an atmosphere of normalisation.

Mr. Speaker: I do not mind spending the entire one hour on this question. It is happening every day and it is happening today also.

श्री ग्रेव चन्व बर्वा (हमीरपुर) : हिन्दुस्तान के जिन व्यापारियों का माल पाकिस्तान ने रोका हुआ है और अभी तक वापस नहीं किया क्या उन को इस के बदले इतना ही माल मंगवाने के और लाइसेंस दिये गये हैं और दिये गये हैं तो कुल कितने लाइसेंस दिये गये हैं ?

श्री विनेश सिंह : लाइसेंस उन को दिये गये हैं और दिये जायेंगे ।

श्री ग्रेव चन्व बर्वा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं निरुद्ध भ्रम करना चाहता हूँ कि उसकी रकम बनाये, हिन्दी रकम उस में इन्क्लूड है ?

श्री विनेश सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जब कि वह लाइसेंस के लिए दरकारमान देंगे तब पता चलेगा ।

Shri Hem Barua: Since the hon. Minister has made a pointed reference to the Tashkent declaration, is it not a fact that it has enjoined upon both the parties that all outstanding disputes must be discussed and settled and if so, may I know whether the release of cargo by Pakistan is not an outstanding dispute? If Pakistan has refused to honour the spirit of the Tashkent declaration, does not our Government think that the Tashkent declaration does not exist? If the Government thinks that it exists, are they prepared to summon a meeting, an Indo-Pakistan conference, to discuss this important matter and resolve it according to the Tashkent declaration?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I quite agree with the hon. Member. This is a matter which should be discussed with Pakistan. We did propose to Pakistan in March 1966 that we might discuss the return of the cargoes. The only point is that the Tashkent declaration

is not something which we can take away; when once a declaration is made, it stays there.

Shri Hem Barua: It is not sacrosanct.

Shri Dinesh Singh: The whole point that I was trying to explain was this. This declaration was not in any sense a pact. The whole idea was that this would lead both sides to normalise their relations. We have suggested to Pakistan on a number of occasions that we might meet at any level to discuss any matter; they have not reciprocated.

Shri K. K. Chatterjee: What special considerations led our Government to release the Pakistani cargo knowing full well that Indian cargo was not released?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I explained it in the beginning.

श्री एस० एच० बोडी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, घाप ने ठीक फरमाया कि वक्त चला जाता है और घाप ने उस को जो जिम्मेदारी है वह सदस्यों के ऊपर रखी है। लेकिन मैं घाप में यह भ्रम करना चाहता हूँ कि जब मवाल पूछे जाते हैं और मंत्री महोदय ठीक तरह से उस का जवाब नहीं देते है तो हम बार बार दूसरी तरह से वह मवाल पूछते है। इसलिए वक्त पर अगर घाप हम लोगों को रखा करें तो वक्त भी बच सकता है। मसलन मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि ताश्कंद स्पिरिट और ताश्कंद का घोष भी बना रहना है तो बना रहे लेकिन जो 18 करोड़ का माल हमारा उन के पास है उस को वापस लेने के लिए कानून हमारी तरफ से कोई कार्यवाही की है या नहीं की है और क्या वह लोग जब तक रजामंद नहीं होंगे तब तक घाप राह देखते रहेंगे ?

श्री विनेश सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, केवल इतना मुझे कहना है कि कोई खास तबाह

बाहूँ तो वह लिखकर भेज दें, उस का पूरा उत्तर उन को मिल जायगा। हवाई तरफ से कोई उत्तर नहीं देने की बात नहीं है . . .

श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी लिहा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह तरीका नहीं है . . .

Mr. Speaker: The same thing got us into trouble in the beginning. Of course he has said that it is happening. It is not the first time; a number of times information has been given to the hon. Members when they write. Suppose he has not got full information with him, he can say that if hon. Members write, he will supply it. It is not that I am supporting anybody. Now, therefore, we should go to the next question.

Shri Shrichand Goel: Sir, one question.

Mr. Speaker: There are a number of questions which are very, very important, such as those on the Vivian Bose Commission, Hazari report and so many other things. I know the hon. Member's question is important; he gets up and says it is important. But I have given 20 minutes for this question alone. Next question.

Shri Tenneti Viswanatham: May I submit that if this question is left at this stage, the intransigence of Pakistan will increase.

Mr. Speaker: It does not matter. There are other methods of meeting it. Next question.

Shrimati Lakshminathanamma: Sir, I have a request to make. It is about the statement relating to this question. In the Notice Office, by the time we go and ask them, they have very few copies with them; the copies are exhausted by that time and they do not give us. So, it is very difficult to get the statement and read it. Let there be more copies.

Mr. Speaker: We will increase the number of copies. **Shri Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait:**

Shri Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait: I have not got a copy of the statement and so I am unable to put a question.

An hon. Member: The Minister should read the statement.

Mr. Speaker: I have no objection.

Price of Cement

*92. **Shri Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait:**
Shri M. Rampure:
Shri S. Supakar:
Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:
Shri N. K. Sanghi:
Shri Ramachandra Veerappa:
Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the manufacturers of cement to increase the cement price in the country;

(b) whether Government have considered this demand; and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (**Shri Bhann Prakash Singh**): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. I shall read it.

The Cement Allocation and Coordinating Organisation of the Cement Industry has sought the approval of the Government to bring about uniformity in the retention price payable to cement producers. The industry proposes to achieve uniformity gradually by utilising whatever funds that are available with it towards upgrading the retention price upto Rs. 88 per tonne in respect of the producers who are in the lower groups. For this purpose, it would not seek any increase in the selling price of cement.