

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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### LOK SABHA

Wednesday, June 28, 1987/Asadha 7,  
1889 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair].

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Prohibition Target

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- \*781. Shri Seshiyan:  
Shri R. Barua:  
Shri D. N. Patodia:  
Shri C. C. Desai:  
Shri P. K. Vasudevan Nair:  
Shri D. Amat:  
Shri P. C. Adichan:  
Shri C. Janardhanan:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered any proposal to introduce total prohibition throughout India by 1989, the birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi; and

(b) if so, the scheme drawn up for that purpose?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Vidya Charan Shukla): (a) and (b). The Study Team on Prohibition recommended introduction of total prohibition throughout India by 30th January, 1970 when the birth centenary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi were going to conclude. This recommendation was considered in consultation with the State Governments. Some of the wet States have not accepted this recommendation. Others have agreed in principle but have insisted that a firm undertaking should be given by the Central Government for

full reimbursement of the loss of excise revenue consequent on the introduction of prohibition. The financial and other issues raised are still under consideration.

Shri Seshiyan: There is a definite directive in article 47 of the Constitution which reads thus:

"...in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health."

In spite of this definite directive in the Constitution, may I know whether Government are aware that instead of implementing the policy and extending the area of prohibition, there is a growing tendency on the part of the Government here as well as in the States not merely to limit the area of prohibition but even to undo whatever has been done in the sphere of prohibition, and if so, what Government are going to do to implement the directive principle laid down in the Constitution?

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: We are aware of this directive principle in the Constitution. But as the House knows, prohibition is a State subject and the State Governments are free to decide upon the time-table and the extent of prohibition that they would introduce in their areas. We have been trying to persuade the State Governments to introduce prohibition and also to accept the recommendations of the study team. But as I have said earlier, it depends on the different State administrations.

Shri Seshiyan: The only way to induce the State Governments to introduce prohibition is to give them the

financial help that they need because as a result of prohibition there is not merely a loss of revenue but an increasing expenditure on the maintenance of police to implement prohibition. The hon. Minister has said that prohibition is a State subject, but here is a constitutional provision which should be respected by both the Central Government as well as the State Governments. Therefore, may I know what the Central Government have been doing for the past seventeen years ever since the commencement of the Constitution, to bring in total prohibition throughout the country and to bring about the necessary conditions for the same?

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** I have said that this is a State subject. Except trying to persuade the State administrations there is nothing much that we can do about it.

As far as the question of financial aid is concerned, the House knows that from time to time, various propositions were put forward. At one time, there was a proposition to meet half the cost of prohibition, but that too was not accepted by the State administrations; most of them wanted 100 per cent reimbursement. In view of the present financial position we do not think that it is a practical proposition, and the State Governments now have to decide about this matter in the light of their own resources.

**Shri R. Barua:** In spite of the constitutional provision, there is a psychology growing in the country against prohibition. In view of this, may I know what steps Government are taking to educate public opinion in favour of it and to get the opinion of the different Ministries in this regard?

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** There is an All India Prohibition Council which has been formed, and according to its advice, we are undertaking some measures to propagate the ideals of prohibition. Some non-official

agencies are also given aid for propagating the ideals of prohibition.

**Shri D. N. Patodia:** Prohibition has become a forbidden fruit wherever it has been imposed, it only attracts people to indulge in drinking. It is a farce where sometimes even the sponsors of prohibition are not immune. We are already losing a large amount of revenue. If it is imposed all over the country, the loss will be tremendous. In view of this, may I know whether in consultation with the State Governments, the Centre will now be realistic about the whole problem and scrap prohibition all over the country?

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** We are very realistic about it.

**Shri Piloo Mody:** Has he started drinking?

**Shri Vasudevan Nair:** On several occasions in this House itself, we were told that almost all State Governments have requested the Centre either to allow them to relax or to scrap prohibition or to help them with additional finance, and that the Central Government are considering the whole question. Even after the general elections, irrespective of Congress or non-Congress Governments being in power in the States, reports have appeared that many State Governments are proposing to at least relax prohibition. At least in one State, Kerala, they have completely scrapped the farce of prohibition. Will the Central Government advise or allow the other State Governments to follow the grand example of Kerala?

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** As I have said earlier, there is no question of the Central Government allowing anything. If the State administrations want to take any action, they are completely free to take any action they like in this matter.

**Shri P. C. Adichan:** (Spoke in Malayalam).

**Shri Vasudevam Nair:** I will translate it. It is well known that today and some other forms of country liquor help agricultural labourers and those who toil on land to recoup themselves after a day's hard labour. But because of prohibition all kinds of poisonous drinks or illicit liquor are being consumed. May I know from the honourable Minister whether the Government are aware that the health of many people get deteriorated because of drinking these illicit liquors and death also occur.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** These are matters for the State administrations to consider.

**Shri Seshiyam:** What is the opinion of the Central Government?

**Shri Tenneti Viswanatham:** On a point of order. Three times the Minister has said that it is a State subject. Then why has this question been put on the list at all?

**Mr. Speaker:** The question was whether the Central Government would give the States financial help to offset the loss suffered by State Governments while enforcing prohibition. He said in the beginning that the Centre was prepared to give 50 per cent, but the States wanted cent per cent. After this, some other questions are being put by hon. Members. I cannot help it. It is already ten minutes. I am still allowing it knowing that the reply will be the same, that it is a State subject.

**Shri Seshiyam:** On a point of order.

**Shri P. R. Thakur:** The West Bengal Government has recently done away with the observance of one day in the week as dry day. Has the West Bengal Government consulted the Government of India as regards this?

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** As far as I am aware, we have not been consulted in the matter.

**Shri Seshiyam:** I rise on a point of order. Article 47 says that the State

shall endeavour to bring about prohibition. Article 36, the opening article of the Chapter on Directive Principles, says:

"In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires, 'the State' has the same meaning as in Part III."

In part III the definition of "State" is:

"In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires, 'the State' includes the Government and Parliament of India and the Government and the Legislature of each of the States and all local or other authorities within the territory of India or under the control of the Government of India."

Therefore, in implementing this policy of prohibition and all the other directive principles the Central Government, Parliament and the State legislatures are equally bound to implement this. That is why the question should be answered by the Central Government.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Hem Barua.

**Shri Seshiyam:** What is the ruling?

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no ruling. It is a constitutional question. In the Question Hour I cannot discuss judgments and Constitution now.

**Shri Hem Barua:** I think you will agree with me if I say that prohibition has been made a fetish by persons like Dr. Tek Chand and Mr. Morarji Desai, so much so that now people, when they want a glass of beer, say, "give me a glass of Tek Chand", and when they want a glass of whiskey, they say "give me a glass of Morarji Desai". It has come to that. Whatever that may be, since some of the State Governments are actively opposing prohibition, may I know whether the Government or the hon. Home Minister thinks that he would be able to impose this stupendous fraud called prohibition on our

people in spite of the opposition coming from the State Governments?

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Prohibition is not a fraud. This is one of the principles enshrined in the directive principles of our Constitution.

**Shri Hem Barua:** On a point of order. He agrees that it is one of the principles enshrined in the Constitution. Then, why does he say that the responsibility lies with the State Government?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is between the Centre and the State.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** As far as the implementation is concerned, I have said it is the responsibility of the State Government.

श्रीमती जयश्वेन शाह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहती हूँ कि प्राहीबिशन की बात हमारे संविधान के डाइ-रेक्टिव प्रिन्सिपल में बताई गई है, इस लिये इस के इम्प्लीमेंटेशन की जिम्मेदारी केन्द्रीय सरकार की है, ऐसी हालत में इस में पैसे का या रिसेसर्ज का क्या मतलब है, इस को इम्प्लीमेंट करने के लिये इन्कम हो या न हो, आगे चलना ही होगा, यदि ऐसा नहीं करेंगे तो यह कांस्टीट्यूशन कैसे चलेगा ? मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि इस के बारे में आपकी क्या पालिसी है ?

**श्री जिज्ञाचरण शुकल :** इस नीति को राज्य सरकारों ने लागू करने का जब प्रयत्न किया तो उनके सामने आर्थिक समस्या आई। यदि उनके सामने आर्थिक समस्या न आती तो इस काम को दूसरे ढंग से पूरा किया जा सकता था, लेकिन आर्थिक समस्या के कारण ही बहुत सी राज्य सरकारों ने अपनी अन-अर्बिता व्यक्ति की कि वे इस नीति को अपने यहां लागू नहीं कर सकेंगे।

**Shri Swell:** May I know whether it is a fact that whatever be the merits

of prohibition as a personal or a national principle, it has proved a complete failure because it has not been implemented, but has also given rise to many forms of social evil like illegal distillation, corruption of the moral fabric of society, smuggling, use of poisonous ingredients in the distillation of liquor, affecting the health of the country etc. Now, if these are the facts, I would like to know whether the Government proposes to revise its proposal of introducing complete prohibition in the country by a particular target date?

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** What the hon. Member has said earlier, is a matter of opinion. As for the latter part of his question, I have already said that the study team's recommendations are under consideration.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

विदेशों द्वारा भारत में सामाजिक तथा सांस्कृतिक संगठनों का बन दिया जाना

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\* 782. श्री कंबर लाल गुत :

श्री रा० स्व० बिद्यार्थी :

क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को पता है कि कुछ विदेशी सरकारें भारत में सामाजिक तथा सांस्कृतिक संगठनों तथा कुछ व्यक्तियों को निम्न निम्न तरीके से धन देती हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इस मामले की कोई जांच की है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका क्या परिणाम निकला है ?

**The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Y. B. Chavan):** (a) to (d). The Intelligence Bureau were directed to