

been very well appreciated by all parties and by all people throughout the country.

Shri Tenneti Viswanatham: I wanted to raise the question raised by Shri Ranga. Now that the Prime Minister and Home Minister are here, I would like to raise it and ask whether when committees are appointed, it shall be a standing instruction that they shall not destroy the evidence upon which they make their report. Will the Prime Minister please note it?

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shrimati Indira Gandhi): Noted.

Mr. Speaker: The Prime Minister has taken note of it. I wanted to take the sense of the House. We have spent about 20 minutes on this question. Still there are many members who wish to ask questions. Should we go on with this. (*Some hon. Members:* No.) If the House wishes, we can spend another 10-15 minutes on this question. But otherwise, if you agree, we can go to the next question. If I allow one Member to ask a question, I cannot deny the opportunity to the other members who have risen.

Shri Samar Guha: Only one question.

Mr. Speaker: If I allow him, I cannot deny a chance to the other members, Shri Madhok, Shri Ghani, Shri Kachwal and others . . .

Shri Samar Guha: I only wanted to ask about the many many documentaries that were brought from Japan about Netaji.

Mr. Speaker: . . . therefore, let us go over to the next question.

Fire in Atomic Plant in Rajasthan

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*1476. **Shri R. Barua:**

Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

Shri Onkar Singh:

Shri Brij Raj Singh Kotah:

Shri Hukam Chand Kashwal:
Shri Ram Singh Ayarwal:
Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi:
Shri N. S. Sharma:
Shri Beni Shankar Sharma:
Shri Hardayal Devgun:
Shri T. P. Shah:
Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Ram Gopal Shalwale:
Shri Sradbakar Supakar:
Shri Brahmanandji:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fire broke out on the 13th May, 1967 in the Rajasthan Atomic Plant, Kota;

(b) if so, the extent of damage caused as a result thereof;

(c) whether any investigations into the causes of fire have been made; and

(d) so, the results thereof?

The Deputy Minister (Dr. Sarojini Mahishi): (a) A fire occurred on May 12, 1967 at the site of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project near Kota.

(b) The principal damage was to the scaffolding and shuttering erected by the contractors for the pre-stressed concrete dome of the reactor building. The loss to Government is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 2.5 lakhs, but the main portion of this is expected to be recovered from the insurers.

(c) and (d). A Committee was appointed by Government to investigate into the cause of the fire. The report of the Committee has been received and is under the active consideration of Government.

Shri R. Barua: Are Government aware that the security arrangements in that organisation need a thorough check-up?

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: Government are fully aware of that. Security

measures have already been taken and they are still further being tightened.

Shri R. Barua: Is there a special department to find out whether the security arrangements need to be further strengthened?

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: It has been answered. They are still further tightening up security.

श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छवाह: मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह रिपोर्ट सरकार को कब मिली और उस को कितना समय आप के पास आये हो गया, उस की छान बीन कब तक हो जायेगी और उस का निर्णय सदन में कब बतलाया जायेगा ?

डा० सरोजिनी महिषी: रिपोर्ट जून के मध्य में मिली है और उस पर सरकार और कर रही है।

श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छवाह: एक महीने के करीब या उस से ज्यादा हो गया लेकिन अभी उस पर निर्णय नहीं हुआ। इस तरह की गम्भीर घटनाएँ होती हैं, आग लगने के केस हो जाते हैं, लेकिन इस पर जल्दी विचार नहीं होता। इतना समय लगाने के बाद भी सरकार ने कोई निर्णय नहीं किया।

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी: मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो दुर्घटना हुई उस के बारे में जांच कमेटी कब बनाई गई और उस ने अपनी सिफारिशें देने में इतनी देर क्यों की। जो प्लान काम कर रहा था उस के शुरू होने में इस दुर्घटना के कारण कितनी देरी हो जायेगी, क्या इस का कोई अन्दाजा बतलाया जायेगा ?

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: No, Sir, there is no delay at all. The work has been started again, and there will not be any delay on this account.

श्री यक्षपाल सिंह: यह नहीं बताया गया है कि जांच कमेटी की रिपोर्ट में किन को दोषी ठहराया गया है और उनके खिलाफ क्या एक्शन लिया गया है ?

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: There were two committees. One committee was appointed by the Department of Atomic Energy. The CHI also went into investigation. Both of them have submitted reports, but both of them have not been able to fix responsibility, and still both the reports are under the active consideration of the Government. They have not been able to say whether the accident is due to any smoking or shortcircuit of electricity or loading or sabotage. They have not been able to say that these are things due to which the accident occurred.

Shri Shradhakar Sūpakar: When was this committee appointed, how long after the actual incident?

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: Immediately, within a week or so, and the report was submitted by the middle of June.

Shri N. K. Somani: There is a serious discrepancy between the answer that we got just now and the discussion that I had with Dr. Vikram Sarabhai a few days ago. The latter maintained that delay in commissioning the plant due to this fire may be as much as six months. We would like to know a correct, accurate statement of facts regarding the delay.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shrimati Indira Gandhi): There is some delay, but it is not due to the fire, it is due to the delay in receiving equipment.

Shri Bal Raj Madhok: There have been a number of cases of fire in important public undertakings. There were a number of fires at Ranchi, and there was this fire in Rajasthan, and it seems that there is some plan behind it, some kinds of sabotage is taking place all over the place. May I

know what steps the Government have taken to see that these public undertakings of national importance are properly protected? And secondly, may I know whether there is sabotage behind it, and if sabotage has taken place, what steps have been taken to prevent such sabotage?

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: There is no connection between the accidents at Ranchi and this accident which occurred on the 12th day at Rana Pratap Sagar project. Preventive measures and also precautionary measures as suggested by the special committee that was appointed by the Atomic Energy Department and the CBI have been taken, they were already there, they have been further tightened up.

श्री श्रीकारलाल बोहरा : पिछले दिनों समाचारपत्रों में यह प्रकाशित हुआ था कि यह जो दुर्घटना इस परमाणु विजली घर के अन्दर हुई है उसके पीछे विदेशी तत्वों का हाथ था। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस समाचार में कहां तक गन्नाई है ?

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: Both the reports have denied this or any other kind of sabotage.

श्री अब्दुल गनी वार : अग्री वजीर साहिबा ने फरमाया है कि डिले जरूर होगी लेकिन वह डिले आग की वजह से नहीं बल्कि इक्विपमेंट के न आने की वजह से होगी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इक्विपमेंट प्रोग्राम के मुताबिक क्यों नहीं आ पाया, उसके न आने की क्या वजह है और उसके लिए कौन जिम्मेदार है ?

[श्री अब्दुल गनी वार : अभी वजीर صاحب ने फरमाया है कि डिले जरूर होगी लेकिन वह डिले आग की वजह से नहीं बल्कि इक्विपमेंट के न आने की वजह से है ?

से हो गई - मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इक्विपमेंट प्रोग्राम के मुताबिक क्यों नहीं आ पाया - इस के न आने की वजह और जो वजह है उन आस के लिये कौन जिम्मेदार है ?

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: There are other considerations also. We look our orders with Bhopal Heavy Electricals also. There is a little delay in the delivery of the equipment, and a delay of a few months occurs in the commissioning of this project due to that delay in the delivery, and not due to fire, but due to so many other considerations.

श्री अब्दुल गनी वार : मेरा सवाल यह था कि उन्होंने कहा कि डिले आग की वजह से नहीं लेकिन इक्विपमेंट के आने में जो डिले हुई है, उसकी वजह से है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इक्विपमेंट के आने में जो देर हुई है उसकी क्या वजह है। क्या सरकार उसके लिए जिम्मेदार है या जिन्होंने माल भेजना था, उन्होंने माल नहीं भेजा है ? कौन जिम्मेदार है ?

[श्री अब्दुल गनी वार : मेरा सवाल

यह था कि इक्विपमेंट के आने में जो देर हुई है उसकी वजह से है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इक्विपमेंट के आने में जो देर हुई है उसकी क्या वजह है। क्या सरकार उसके लिए जिम्मेदार है या जिन्होंने माल भेजना था, उन्होंने माल नहीं भेजा है ? कौन जिम्मेदार है ?

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: The equipment is also coming from some other places also, foreign countries also. Due to some other considerations....

Some hon. Members: What are the other considerations? (Interruptions).

Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi: I think these incidents have been growing in number in the recent past. May I suggest to the Prime Minister that what happened in Kanpur two days back was concentrated around military installations which are vitally important at the present time. Would the Prime Minister kindly see to it that the security in these installations is tightened up and other precautions are also taken so that there is no scope for any such incidents?

Shrimati Indra Gandhi: Yes, Sir; the Deputy Minister has already said so.

Shri Brij Raj Singh-Kotab: While this question has at last come up before the House, though the fire took place in May, may I know whether there is any penal clause in the agreement with the suppliers saying that if they do not put it on time there would be some penalty? We have not also followed what are the "so many other considerations" that the lady Deputy Minister has in mind.

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: There may be certain unforeseeable reasons also for that but then it is all according to the terms of the agreement and the contract entered into.

Shri N. K. Somani: Is there a penal clause or not? (*Interruptions.*)

Mr. Speaker: The question is about the fire in atomic plant. Other questions do not arise out of this.

Shri Nath Pal: In reply to a question by Mr. Madhok, the Deputy Minister stated that the government is wide awake to the danger of sabotage. We know that some powers are interested in preventing India's development in this field. This fire we are assured is incidental. Some of us know government's efficiency in preventing sabotage and its record in this field is far from assuring. The death of Dr. Bhabha who put us on the atomic map of the world and who stood for India's nuclear development still con-

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tinues to be shrouded in mystery and it is suspected that too might have been the work of interested powers and the investigation is going on to find out if there was some sabotage. May we know if there is a mastermind trying to prevent India's development in this field and how far is the Government aware of it? Is the death of Dr. Bhabha really an accident or was it an act of sabotage—Don't be laconical; try to be convincing. You are already ready with an answer.

Shrimati Indra Gandhi: This is not relevant to this question. I doubt if there is any mastermind working in the manner that the hon. Member is suggesting.

Shri Shivajirao S. Deshmukh: The report of the two committees is before the third committee. Would the Government consider appointing a fourth committee to see whether there was any insurance cover . . . (*Interruptions.*)

Mr. Speaker: It has been answered.

Shri Shivajirao S. Deshmukh: Insurance cover has not been answered.

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: There was a loss of about Rs. 2.5 lakhs to the Government and a part of it will be reimbursed by the insurers. It is under the consideration of the Law Ministry as to what are the admissible items that are there to be reimbursed by the insurers.

श्री शिव नारायण : क्या आपको वह बात याद है कि जब श्री रुग्शेव यहाँ आए थे, हमारे देश में आए थे तो उन्होंने प्रधान मंत्री श्री जवाहर लाल नेहरू से पूछा था कि ये बड़े-बड़े डैम, या ये बड़ी-बड़ी चीजें जो आप बना रहे हैं, इनके प्रोटैक्शन के लिए आपने क्या इंतजाम किया है? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इस तरह की बुध्दनायें ही रही हैं जो लैसन लेकर लेकर भविष्य के सिधे

सचेष्ट हो जाएगी और इन चीजों को ठीक प्रकार से प्रोटैक्ट करेगी ?

श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी : जी, हाँ ।

A.I.R. Programmes to Counteract Anti-India Propaganda

*1478. **Shri N. K. P. Salve:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the steps, which have been taken by Government in the All-India Radio Programmes to counteract the anti-Indian propaganda by Pakistan and China in Asian and African countries;

(b) the arrangements which exist in the All-India Radio to monitor the hostile propaganda broadcasts of the Peking Radio and Radio Pakistan; and

(c) whether Government contemplate any measures to establish a close liaison between the External Publicity Division and his Ministry so that the latter may re-inforce the publicity efforts of the former abroad?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri K. K. Shah): (a) Pakistani and Chinese propaganda against India in Asian and African countries is countered from day-to-day through external news broadcast and news commentaries.

(b) Arrangements exist to monitor broadcasts put out by Radio Peking and Radio Pakistan as well as the latter's satellite broadcasting stations.

(c) Regular liaison exists between AIR and the External Publicity Division.

Shri N. K. P. Salve: Would the Minister kindly inform us whether any complaint has been received by him from the listeners of the AIR programme to counteract the anti-Indian propaganda by Pakistan and China, that the propaganda is utterly ineffective, for, it is insipid, immature and puerile and secondly, in view

of the fact that psychological warfare is accepted to be a very specialised subject and that radio propaganda is a vital instrument in this subject, may I know (a) what steps in general have been taken to acquire proficiency in this, and (b) whether any training is being given to our personnel, by our officers, in this subject and if it is not so, may I know whether our policy of dynamic neutrality stands in the way of our specialising in any warfare, including psychological warfare?

Shri K. K. Shah: All I can say is that my hon. friend is not well informed. The amount of note that is taken by China and Pakistan of our broadcasts for counteracting anti-Indian propaganda is itself proof of the fact that we have been very effective.

श्री सीताराम केसरी : क्या मंत्री महोदय को इस बात की खबर है कि नक्सलवाड़ी इलाके में पॉकिंग रेडियो और पाकिस्तान रेडियो के जो ब्राडकास्ट आते हैं, वे हिन्दी के बजाये गोरखाली और मैथिली में ज्यादा होते हैं ; यदि हाँ, तो क्या सरकार ने ऐसा कोई प्रबन्ध किया है कि नक्सलवाड़ी इलाके के लोगों के लिए गोरखाली और मैथिली लैंग्वेजिज में ब्राडकास्ट किया जाये या वहाँ के लिए कोई ब्राडकास्टिंग स्टेशन खोला जाये ?

Shri K. K. Shah: So far as Gurkha language is concerned, the propaganda is carried on. So far as Maithili is concerned, the question is under consideration.

Shri Hanumanthalya: Has it come to the notice of the hon. Minister that some of the Russian radio stations, in particular, Tashkent, are doing anti-Indian propaganda, and if so, what steps has the Government taken to counteract these things or to call the attention of Moscow authorities towards this matter?

Shri K. K. Shah: This refers to the External Affairs Ministry, but it