

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No such decision has been taken by the Delhi Administration.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI KAMALANATHAN : No. There was a proposal by the Delhi Administration to enforce such a tax on the cultural troupes. It is not encouraging and it will put these troupes in serious difficulty. In Madras and other States we are encouraging them by giving them full exemption from entertainment tax. So, if the Delhi Administration is having such an idea, if there is any such move, may I know whether the Central Government will advise them not to have such a move ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I have already clarified that the question does not arise. The local administration of Delhi has clarified that it has done nothing to do any such thing. Recently they had sought our permission to extend the UP Entertainment and Betting Tax Amendment Act of 1965 to the Union Territory of Delhi under which a certain amount of entertainment tax can be imposed, but there is provision for exemption as exists today, and they have been exempting such shows by reputed cultural organisations here, and they have not been charging any entertainment tax from them. So, the apprehensions that these cultural troupes or entertainment troupes here would be subjected to entertainment tax does not seem to be correct.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : जिस तरह से धर्म और मजहब में बड़ा अन्तर है उसी प्रकार मनोरंजन और संस्कृति में बड़ा अन्तर है। लेकिन संस्कृति शब्द का उपयोग इस प्रकार के मनोरंजन के मामले में कर के संस्कृति का देश में अपमान किया जा रहा है। मेरा कहना यह है कि यह मंत्रालय इस के लिए मनोरंजन कार्यक्रम या कलात्मक कार्यक्रम कुछ इस प्रकार के शब्द का प्रचलन करेगा और सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम कह कर संस्कृति की जो मूल और पवित्र भावना है उस को अपमान से बचायेगा ?

श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल : माननीय सदस्य की भावना ठीक हो सकती है। लेकिन इस सब मामले की देखभाल शिक्षा मंत्रालय करता है। जहाँ तक एंटरटेनमेंट टैक्स का सवाल है, स्थानीय प्रशासन ने उसके बारे में अपनी स्थिति काफी साफ कर दी है।

Memorandum to Prime Minister by  
Andaman and Nicobar Government  
Employees

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\*1323. SHRIMATI SUSEELA  
GOPALAN :  
SHRI K. RAMANI :  
SHRI K. M. ABRAHAM :  
SHRI GANESH GHOSH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has received a memorandum from the Andaman and Nicobar Government Employees' and Workers' Federation ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the decision taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement of the demands of the Federation as contained in the memorandum and the decisions taken by the Government of India thereon is placed on the Table. [Placed in Library See No. LT-934/68].

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Recently the Prime Minister paid a visit to that island the local administration fixed up an appointment between these employees and the Prime Minister. But later it was cancelled without giving any reason. The employees union's complaint is that this cancellation was done at the instance of Akooji Company who are having monopoly trade in that area. Have the Government gone into that charge and if so, what is their finding ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : It is a fact that an appointment was fixed

with the hon. Prime Minister for presenting this memorandum. But there was a certain change in the programme of the Prime Minister. She had to leave that place much earlier than scheduled as she had to come back to New Delhi for some urgent work. That is why that appointment could not be kept. There was no questions of cancellation ; she could not stay at that place at that particular time. As I said, we received the memorandum and after examining it we have taken decisions on various points.

**SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN :**

The letter sent by the employees' union there is not received by Members of Parliament these days and the answers we are getting in Parliament, which we send to the employees' union are not received by them. May I know whether this is done by the local administration with the knowledge of the Central Government and if not will Government take steps to see that the letters sent by the employees are received by Members of Parliament and vice versa ?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :**

If any specific instances are brought to our notice, we shall definitely look into them.

**SHRI K. RAMANI :** In those memoranda which the trade unions and other organisations there have submitted to the Home Minister and the Government, the most important demands they have raised there are (1) supply of daily necessities through a governmental store (2) financial assistance to their cooperatives and (3) prevention of trading facilities given to Akooji Company—not exactly in that name, but in some other names but under the control of Akooji Company. No other traders are allowed and therefore, they are able to raise the prices of daily necessities in those islands, which have no general connection with other parts of the country. Therefore, may I know whether they will cancel the facilities given to Akooji Company and other companies controlled by them and also whether the other demands will be properly met ?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :**

We have already taken steps to cancel the concession given to Akooji and Company,

although it is not in that name, but it is in the name of other companies controlled by them. After that order was passed, the company went to the Calcutta High Court, filed a writ petition and got a stay order. We agree with the reasoning that there was some exploitation of the tribals and that is why we took the decision of cancelling that licence given to them and to start our departmental stores and also to encourage the cooperative formed exclusively by the tribals living in the Nicobar group of islands, so that they can conduct their own affairs and help themselves.

**SHRI GANESH GHOSH :** When the Prime Minister went there, the employees could not see her. After that, when the Home Minister went there, the representatives of the public workers' union wanted to see him, but permission was not given. In view of this, is the Government prepared to involve some machinery so that the government employees can ventilate their grievances directly to the Central Government, because the local Home Minister there refused permission to the employees to see the Union Home Minister ?

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) :** As far as I remember, I met more than 10 deputations there. I remember to have met even the deputation of the Government employees.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Did he meet Mr. Prasad ?

**SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN :** Mr. Prasad came and saw me. I know him for 15 years personally. He was with me for one hour.

**SHRI K. R. GANESH :** Apart from the organisation mentioned in the question there are other more representative organisations in Andaman and Nicobar and they have submitted memoranda to the Government. There are two important problems which have been agitating the minds of the employees. The Home Minister knows about them. One is the question of the special pay which is given to the so-called mainland recruits and denied to the local people. The other question is, a large number of industrial workers are classified as casuals, though they have been serving

for 10 to 15 years. These matters have been pending for the last 15 years. Who ever has gone there, whether it is the President, the Prime Minister or Home Minister, these two matters have been represented. May I know whether the Minister can assure the House that the consideration of these two questions and the decision thereon will be expedited so that this discontentment in the island can be removed ?

**SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN :** I know these two problems are being agitated for quite some time. About the incentive, it is very difficult to agree with the hon. member, because I have myself gone into it. In the beginning, when there was dearth of local employees, there was a provision of giving some sort of incentive to those coming from outside. Now really speaking there is not that type of dearth. It is difficult to give that incentive to the local people, because once you give that, it causes to be an incentive. Other matters like rationalisation of pay, etc. are actively under consideration and I hope we will take a decision very quickly. About casual employment, it involves some human difficulties and that also will be carefully considered, But I do not think there is going to be one decision about it which is going to solve the problem. It has to be considered all along the line.

**SHRI P. K. DEO :** The Home Minister said that special pay is a sort of incentive. If is not so. It is given because the cost of living there is much higher and daily necessities cost much more there. When it is given to the recruits from the mainland, why should the local recruits be denied this ? Why should there be this discrimination ?

**SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN :** The hon. member does not know the facts.

**SHRI P. K. DEO :** I have been there.

**SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN :** May be, but he has missed this fact that the special pay was given as an incentive. Whether the pay should be revised on the basis of the high local prices is a different matter altogether and can be considered. The demand of the hon. member was about giving the same incentive that is given to

the people brought from the mainland, to the local employees also.

**SHRI S. KANDAPPAN :** Sir, I had been to these islands and I have stayed there for a longer period than the Home Minister stayed there. From the very beginning Andamans has not received any attention from the Central Government and it has been completely neglected by the Centre. Apart from the two points that Shri Ganesh has raised, there is another point with regard to housing. Housing scheme for industrial and other workers has been referred to in that memorandum. For that the reply of the Government is that the problem of providing housing facilities for industrial workers in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a local one concerning the Andaman and Nicobar Administration and it is under active consideration. Sir, what is this answer ? After all, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration for each and every thing has to consult the Home Ministry here. It is a very big problem. This has been a burning problem for quite sometime. Apart from other pre-requisites that workers in any department would need, first and foremost they must have housing. I would like to know what the Government has done so far and what it proposes to do ?

**SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN :** As far as housing is concerned the hon. Member knows there are many difficulties about it. I cannot assure housing for everybody though I have my sympathy for those who have not got housing. Of course we are phasing the programme of providing housing facilities for the government employees there. Unfortunately, everyone becomes a government employees there.

**SHRI S. KANDAPPAN :** You have not done anything for the last fifteen years. What is the expenditure so far incurred ?

**SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN :** You cannot go by the volume of expenditure in this matter. It is a question of giving them incentives so that they can build their own houses. The difficulty of housing is, once you give it to government employees they are liable to be evicted from there,

Therefore, we are trying to enable them to build their own houses.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :** From the facts now gathered it appears that one Akooji and Company which have monopolised the entire trade in Andaman and Nicobar Islands in collusion with officers there have been raising the prices of essential commodities and they wanted to sabotage the just rights and demands of the people there. Therefore, they intervened, pressurised and influenced the officers to see that the Prime Minister did not receive the people's deputation and also to see that the rights and just demands of the people there were suppressed. May I know whether this Government would see to it that the licence of this company is immediately suspended and an inquiry is held into this matter ?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :** It is a very unfortunate kind of insinuation that the hon. Member has made. The memorandum that has been presented to the hon. Prime Minister has nothing to do with the activities of Messers. Akooji & Company. As far as the activities of that company are concerned, as I have already indicated, we have cancelled their licence. That has been done at the instance of the local officers there. Therefore, there is no question of any collusion between the local officers there and the company. This company, as I said, went to the Calcutta High Court and got a stay order on a writ petition. Proceedings are going on and as soon as the stay is lifted we will take necessary action.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :** They have changed the name. The same company is functioning under some other name. Some benami transaction is going on. Under these circumstances, May I know whether the Government will stop all these things and open a super bazar or some co-operative market there ?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :** We have done that also.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He has already stated that a co-operative has been started there. The hon. Member was perhaps not present in the House when that reply was

given. He also said then that the licence has been cancelled.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :** Benami transactions are going on.

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :** We are aware of such malpractices and we have taken action to stop this kind of benami transactions by this company. When we took that action this Akooji & Company went to the Calcutta High Court and filed a contempt of court application saying that in spite of the stay order the Government was still interfering with their business on the pretext that they were doing banami transactions. The officers have been convicted on contempt of court charges because they interfered to stop all these malpractices there.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** May I know whether the hon. Minister realises that the industrial relations in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, specially among the government employees, are far from satisfactory and recently there have been strikes and hunger strikes ; if so, may I know whether this joint consultative machinery idea or scheme will also be extended to those two islands so that the worker there can possibly ventilate their grievances on the model of Delhi ?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :** There is no such proposal (*Interruption*).

#### Prime Minister's Visit to Calcutta

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\*1325. **SHRI RABI RAY :**  
**SHRI HIMATSINGKA :**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister visited Calcutta on the 17th March, 1968 ;

(b) if so, the purpose of her visit and the people who met her in connection with the disturbances there ; and

(c) the result of her talks with different leaders of public opinion there and the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) :** (a) and (b). The Prime Minister visited Calcutta on