

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH : This must be expunged.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no question of expunging it. I have said that it is wrong on the part of the hon. Member to have said like that.

SHRI SWELL : The Deputy Minister in answer to a question... (*Interruptions*).

AN HON. MEMBER : He is shouting.

SHRI SWELL : This is the only way of getting attention in this House; one must raise one's voice to the highest pitch!

The Deputy Minister in answer to a question said that these foreign liquors have been imported in order to meet the needs of the foreign tourists. The Ministry of Tourism has been talking off and on of increasing tourist traffic to this country. Here is the Ministry of Commerce saying that the Government are regularly and gradually reducing the import of foreign liquors to this country; from Rs. 2 crores it has come down to Rs. 2 lakhs or something. May I know whether there is any co-ordination between this Ministry and the Ministry of Tourism?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : Yes, there is co-ordination.

SHRI SWELL : What sort of co-ordination? I would demand of Government that the Minister gives a more respectful answer to a question in this House.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question. Short Notice question.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

ALLOTMENT OF ACCOMMODATION TO MPs

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SNQ.7 **DR. MAITREYEE BASU :**

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :

SHRI B. K. DASCHOW-DHURY :

SHRI RAGHHUVIR SINGH SHASTRI :

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that over 70 chosen accommodations

have been arbitrarily allotted by him to selected few Members from the Government General Pool;

- (b) if so, under what circumstances;
- (c) whether Commercial rate of rent has been charged;
- (d) whether the Ministry of Finance was consulted in this regard;
- (e) if so, whether Government propose to lay a list of persons who have been allotted such accommodation on the Table;
- (f) whether these cases were allotted by the House Committee; and
- (g) if not, under what rules these have been allotted?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

(e) The list of 71 allotments to Members from General Pool is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-1784/68.*]

(f) No, Sir.

(g) The Ministry of Works, Housing & Supply has allotted these bungalows on the basis of procedure in vogue.

DR. MAITREYEE BASU : The List has been laid on the Table. We have gone through it. It is very interesting. This is a very small question. Really this should not have been raised on the floor of the House, but because of the doings of the Ministry, we have to ask it. I am sorry I had to do it. Will the Minister kindly let us know what rule has been followed in drawing up this list? This is neither alphabetical nor according to division number. This looks like a counterblast to all of us who are here.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : We are allotting bungalows according to the procedure which is in existence.

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR : What is that procedure?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : What procedure ?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : The procedure is that ex-Ministers and ex-Deputy Ministers, ex-High Commissioners, ex-Rajpramukhs, ex-Chief Ministers and ex-Speakers are allotted bungalows from the General Pool.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Under what rules ?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : This is the procedure. Bungalows are also allotted to Leaders of the Opposition and those who are supposed to be renowned parliamentarians (*Interruptions*). Shri Masani is a renowned parliamentarian; he has been allotted. Prof. Ranga is leader of the Swatantra Party; he has been allotted. Similar is the case with Shri Madhok and Shri Vajpayee.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : I have not got it.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Shri K. L. Gupta. Same is the case with Shri Madhu Limaye and others.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : What is the definition of 'renowned parliamentarians'? (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : By this shouting we cannot get on with the business. Let questions be put one by one. When there is so much of shouting and noise, no one can hear. I would appeal to hon. friends to maintain certain standards. There is no point in shouting like this.

DR. MAITREYEE BASU : This list is very revealing in that it shows that social position and also political pull have been used for taking bungalows. This is quite apparent from the list. Will the Minister kindly tell us what sort of social position we must have to possess a bungalow? Should one be an ex-Ruler or ex-Minister or ex-Speaker or ex-ICS—what is it?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : As I said earlier, a committee has been set up to go into the matter and if there

is any lacuna the whole thing will be gone into. But the existing procedure is not just one year old; it has been followed since 1953. This list also contains... (*Interruptions*). That is our misfortune; everybody's misfortune.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : The reply of the hon. Minister is not at all satisfactory. The question asked was: under what rules have these been allotted? He has not said anything. It is very difficult to put a supplementary question. The hon. Minister must clarify the position. He said some ex-Rulers, ex-High commissioners, ex-ICS, etc. Under what rule? You have stated that the Housing Committee would look into the needs and arrangements for accommodation of the hon. Members. I do not know whether the Housing Committee was at all consulted.

MR. SPEAKER : It has nothing to do with this.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : In that case is it not a breach of privilege? The Housing Committee has been formed by the Speaker; it has not been consulted by the Minister concerned. The matter was raised in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th July by an hon. Member and the hon. Minister Shri Jaganath Rao replied: 'I may mention here that no bungalow had been allotted by me from the general pool except on the recommendation of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.'

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH : On a point of order. He cannot quote from the Rajya Sabha proceedings.

MR. SPEAKER : Members can quote from the newspaper. Cannot he quote a Minister's statement in a House of Parliament?

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : What made the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs recommend to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply?

MR. SPEAKER: You should stop now; you are confusing the question.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Will the hon. Minister explain it?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: It has already been explained in reply to part (a) of the question.

DR. RANEN SEN: This is the worst type of corruption... (Interruptions)

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: If this is corruption, you are the most corrupt person.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Nepotism.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: You are the worst nepotist.

श्री रघुवीर सिंह शास्त्री : माननीय संसदीय कार्य मंत्री ने यहाँ पर एक लिस्ट रखी है और कहा है कि जो वेस्ट पालियामेंटेरियन हैं, नोन पालियामेंटेरियन हैं, वह उन को प्रायेरिटी देते हैं। वह तो मेम्बर-मेम्बर में फर्क कर सकते हैं, लेकिन उन्होंने हमारे लिये बड़ी दिक्कत पैदा कर दी है कि हम इस लिस्ट में से कैसे पता लगायें कि कौन-कौन नोन पालियामेंटेरियन है और कौन नहीं है। अगर वह हमारे साथ बैठ कर डिस्कस करें तो हम इस को सिद्ध कर सकते हैं। जब हम लोग शुरू में आते हैं तब हम से एक प्रोफोर्मा भराया जाता है कि किस के पास कितनी बड़ी फैमिली है। इस लिस्ट में ऐसे मेम्बर हैं जो इस दफा ही मेम्बर बने हैं, इस लिस्ट में ऐसे आदमी हैं जो शायद कभी-कभी ही पालियामेंट में आते हैं, इस लिस्ट में ऐसे लोग हैं जो शायद अपने घर में अकेले ही हैं, लेकिन उन को बंगला मिला हुआ है, इस लिस्ट में ऐसे लोग हैं जिन के दस या बारह बच्चे तक हैं, लेकिन उन्हें कोई सी या डी टाइप का मकान दिया गया है। हमारे देश में जब इस पार्टी का राज्य है तब सारे क्लस और प्रोसीजर को भुला कर सिफारिश का राज्य चलता है। पालियामेंट के मेम्बरों से भी यह आशा वह करते हैं कि वह उन के

[सामने दख्खिस्त ले कर खड़े रहें, वह उन से मिलें और वह कृपा कर दें तब उन को बंगला मिले। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह कहाँ का लिखा हुआ प्रोसीजर है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : मैं शास्त्री जी के विचार से पूरी तरह सहमत हूँ। चतुर्थ लोक सभा में जो एलाटमैट्स की गई हैं, उनको मैंने आपके सामने रख दिया है। यह बिल्कुल सही नहीं है कि इस में रिनाउंड लोग नहीं हैं। मैं यह भी नहीं कहता हूँ कि कहीं कोई गलती नहीं हुई है। अगर गलती होती है तो मैं बराबर उसको मानता हूँ। यह कोई कहे कि मेरे ही चलते यह सब हुआ है तो वह ठीक नहीं है। यहाँ से कोई पैटीशन आती है, स्पीकर की तरफ से आती है या उनके नाम से आती है तो मैं प्राइम मिनिस्टर को भेज देता हूँ। इस लिस्ट में सभी लोग हैं, आपोजीशन वाले भी हैं और कांग्रेस वाले भी हैं। आप देखें कि 37 बंगले कांग्रेस वालों को और 35 आपोजीशन वालों को मिले हैं।

श्री रणधीर सिंह : आपोजीशन वालों को थोड़े मिलने चाहियें थे।

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : मैं जो फैंक्चुअल चीज है उसको पेश कर रहा हूँ। मैं कभी आज तक बंगले में नहीं रहा हूँ; ए टाइप में ही मैं रहता था। इसलिए मुझ को शौक नहीं है। लेकिन कोई कोलीग अगर आता है मेरे पास या जगन्नाथ राव जी के पास तो जो वह कहता है उसको हम कंसिडर करते हैं और कह भी देते हैं कि आपको भी मिलना चाहिए। चाहे कोई मिनिस्टर हो या मेम्बर सब को ए टाइप ही मिले, मैं तो यह चाहूँगा। क्यों लोग माँगते हैं पता नहीं। हमारे पास जब कमरे में आते हैं तो कुछ तो उनको जवाब देना ही होता है।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: It is a matter of deep regret that this place which is supposed to be the seat of democracy, where we talk about nepotism, favouritism, and criticise the

civil servants or the bureaucrats, has become the seat of nepotism and favouritism as has been seen from the reply of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. He has been guided by partisan considerations; he has been guided by other considerations. (*Interruption.*) Yesterday, we saw Mr. M. R. Masani praising the Congress and Mr. Morarji Desai, and that is why we saw a big list in which the Swatantra Party has been given a choice of bungalows, the Class VIII variety. (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. Please put your question.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: My question is, (a) at the beginning of the fourth Lok Sabha, whether any re-allotment was done of the bungalows which were in possession of the Congress Members; (b) whether there is any departmental understanding or departmental directive which shows special consideration to ex-Ministers, Ambassadors, Governors, civil servants, Congress Ministers in the States, their sons and daughters, and, if so, under what rules; and (c) while the House Committee has been writing to the Works Ministry for allotment of a few more bungalows from the General Pool to MPs Pool, nothing has been done. On the other hand, they are trying to shift it into the MPs Pool with the present occupation so that the rents are reduced.

I want to say another word. The Chairman of the House Committee—it is a most unfortunate thing for me to say—his name is seen in the General Pool list. What is this? It is a shameful thing.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: He has attributed motives to me, of being partisan. I think he is the worst partisan. He himself has applied to me. (*Interruption*) I have got your letters for allotment of a house and you have asked that to be sent to the Chairman of the House Committee. And daily you come for some concession; every day you come for some concession; you come and talk that Members'

salary should be increased. But on the floor of the House you say that it should not be permitted! Daily you call on me; every day you are calling on me for some concession. You tell me how many times you have come to my room for concession. (*Interruption*)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS rose—

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. Will you kindly sit down? He has asked a question and he has replied. There is nothing for us to get excited. I think the subject has excited the hon. Members.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: He said I am a partisan.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not pursue the matter.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: You will allow me to explain. (*Interruption*).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. May I suggest to both of you and to the House that we might stop there.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: He is wrong. He has lied before the House.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Sir, it is a pity that personal element has been injected into this. I want to go back to the matter of principle. I have been a Member since 1952, the same time as the hon. Minister. I have never found this sort of thing. We have been told that general pool residences have been allotted by the Minister at his discretion in consultation with the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: He may kindly resume his seat. I will call him again. Unfortunately, the Speaker's name has been dragged into this while answering some Unstarred Question on 5th August. There is some G.O. about which I do not know about "in consultation with the Speaker". But I must tell this House, and it is good that they know it, that not even in one case was I consulted. Only in one case, I remember, when the hon. Minister was sitting in my chamber and

an hon. Member came in I told the Minister: "Why do you not give him a house? He has been suffering". That is the only case where I mentioned about a Member to the Minister in the chamber. Otherwise, about the other 70 cases I do not know anything. Let not my name be drawn in. A Member may get a house or a Member may not get a house. Even the House Committee has no say. I do not mind who is given a house and who is not given a house. The Speaker is nowhere here. In the answer that is given it is said "in consultation with the Speaker". Let me deny that. The Speaker is not consulted and no house is allotted after consulting him.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Sir, as I told you, in 1953 that was the system, that the Speaker and Chairman or the Chairman as the case may be, may be consulted—or the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs also—by the Minister, Works, Housing and Supply. From the beginning of the Third Lok Sabha, that is in 1962, this procedure was modified and the Speaker and Chairman are not consulted. I do not say that I am consulted, but I am not in the habit of disowning anything and I am prepared to accept all the wrongs.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Therefore, Sir, quite apart from the matter regarding consultation with the Speaker, I find that in the list given to us on that day there are names of members, I would not specify them, who do not satisfy any one of the criteria mentioned by the Minister which criteria were known to us in 1952-53—ex-Ambassadors, ex-Ministers, ex-Chief Ministers, leaders of recognised Opposition Parties and all that—but they have introduced an expression called "other M.P.'s", M.P.'s whom they can include in the list of allottees out of the general pool which, Sir, is an invitation to patronage on the part of the Minister which he is advertising by referring to Shri Basu or any other Members and saying they go to him for patronage. Is it the intention of Gov-

ernment to put in an expression called "other M.P.'s" in regard to the matter of allocation of rather sumptuous and commodious houses out of the general pool and thereby lending themselves to the practice of patronage and nepotism which is extremely undesirable?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: I fully share the sentiments of Shri Mukerjee that everything should be done in the most desirable way. What happened in 1953 was according to the procedure that was laid down. I do not disown that procedure, but I was not there at that time. Shri Mukerjee knows it. He was living by my side. He was in a bigger place and I was in a smaller place.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, this is very unjust.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: I withdraw it. But here I do not want to say that I do not allot any house, because I am prepared to get my *gala* cut here. (Interruption). Therefore I readily accepted the short notice question. I know that I am not in the picture. But, as I said, we have got a committee and that will go into it.

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR: What is that committee?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: A committee of five persons, a committee of the Cabinet.

Of these 71 or 72—because two people own one bungalow, it becomes 71—I am prepared to convince anybody that at least 60 are most deserving cases. But I am prepared to be guided by the House. Let us lay down another criterion and give only one room to everybody in a hostel. I will be too happy.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: The hon. Minister got very much agitated and said that Shri Jyotirmoy Basu had been approaching him for a bungalow and all those things. Actually, Shri Jyotirmoy Basu is living in the Vithalbhai Patel House only in one room and

he has been asking for the allotment of a house. He has been going and pestering the Housing Committee to allot him a good house. He has never been asking for a bungalow. Shri Bhagwati is there and he will stand witness to that. Shri Vasudevan Nair is also there and he too will stand witness to that. If a person does not get a house and asks for it, there is nothing wrong in it. Therefore for him to make this kind of insinuation and talk like that is absolutely unwarranted and I suggest that the Speaker directs him to withdraw these kinds of things.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : I am second to none in my friendship with Shri Jyotirmoy Basu; he knows that. But once he attributed some motive, he and his leader must be prepared to bear the burnt of that also.

SOME HON. MEMBERS rose—

MR. SPEAKER : It has been properly explained.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : My dear friend, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER : Both of you are dear friends and are putting us in trouble.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Sir, this is an issue which must be thrashed out. From the beginning I have been living in a pigeon-hole in Vithalbhai Patel House. I have been to the hon. Finance Minister two or three times to ask him to sanction allotment of extra space in that building at M.P. rate so that I could have living space. That has not been done so far on some pretext or the other. I have never wanted a bungalow. I have said, "If you cannot give me another two rooms in that place, then give me a bungalow." He also mentioned about the MPs Amenities Committee.

MR. SPEAKER : That you can explain at the proper time, when the Bill comes up before us.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : No, Sir; it is an unmixed lie. He has lied before the House.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : It is a truth. I will prove it; I will produce persons to prove it. You are in the habit of telling a lie..... (Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER : Now it is creating a lot of excitement.

श्री रवि राय : जेनेरल पूल के हाउस का काइटेरियन बताना चाहिए ।

SHRI J. B. KRIPALANI : Sir, I have nothing to do with the controversy that is going on but for any Minister to say that somebody comes to him for favours is a very undesirable thing because the ministers have power; they control things. If we find anything legitimate, to whom shall we go? Shall we go to their peons? We naturally go to them. This is something that should be recognised and should not be thrown into the face of anybody that he came with this request or that, whether the request is legitimate or not. That is the question. The question is not that we approach the ministers. Whom are we to approach when they have the power?

MR. SPEAKER : I wish, the hon. Minister who knows about it had answered it. That would have been much better. I am told that Dr. Ram Subhag Singh does not allot any houses; therefore he is not fully aware of allotments and all that. I would appeal to the hon. Ministers to regularise, to make some rules, and not to bring in the Ministers, the Speaker and everybody into this unfortunate thing. They may have some committee—the Housing Committee is there—and that committee may frame some rules and allot houses to Members so that all the names need not be brought in. If the hon. Members want, they may go and approach the committee.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Sir, you appoint a committee.

MR. SPEAKER : The Housing Committee is there.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : That will not do; that is hoodwinked by the Minister.