

हैं और उसके बाद एसीशन रिजल्ट ऐनाउन्स हुआ तब उसके विपरीत। मैं आप को एक नहीं बल्कि कई मिनिस्टर्स और दूसरे साहबान को ट्रेडरी बेंच पर बैठे हैं उन के बाबत कोट कर के कह सकता हूँ कि ग़ाल इंडिया रेडियो से हर एक घंटे घंटे के बाद निकलता रहता था कि वह 15-15 हजार से लीड कर रहे हैं या 20 हजार से लीड कर रहे हैं तो क्या मंत्री महोदय उस बारे में कोई इनक्वायरी करायेंगे ?

Mr. Speaker: I would request hon. Members not to take individual cases. Even Ministers have complained. My name was not mentioned at all till the 24th night because they did not get any information. The papers published that I was trailing behind whereas I was actually leading. Therefore, they did not get the information and it is no use blaming them now.

B.B.C. Broadcasts during Indo-Pak Conflict

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*61. **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri N. C. Chatterji:
Shri P. K. Ghosh:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any protests were made by the Government of India in connection with the British Broadcasting Corporation having taken sides in their broadcasts regarding the Indo-Pak conflict in September, 1965;

(b) if so, the reply received from the U.K. Government or from the British Broadcasting Corporation; and

(c) the purpose of the recent visit of the Director of the British Broadcasting Corporation External Services to India and the clarification he has given regarding the stand taken by the British Broadcasting Corporation in the last Indo-Pak conflict?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Yes, Sir. Our High Commission in London protested to the BBC against the anti-Indian slant of several of its programmes dealing with the Indo-Pakistan conflict, and expressed our regret and disappointment.

(b) The BBC maintained that its broadcasts were impartial and were based on such reports as it has received. Letters of complaint received from Indians were broadcast and the BBC invited our High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner to express our views on the air on three occasions.

(c) His purpose was to visit the BBC's Bureau in New Delhi. Opportunity was taken of his presence by both officials and non-officials to discuss with him the stand taken by the BBC during the Indo-Pak conflict. He maintained that in the BBC's view the broadcasts had been impartial and that Pakistan had also complained.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The hon. Minister said that BBC maintained the independence of opinion. May I know whether in both the cases, the Indo-Pakistan conflict and also the India-China conflict, the opinion of the British Government was advertised by BBC?

Shri M. C. Chagla: Our view is, and it continues to remain the same, that the broadcasts of BBC on the Indo-Pakistan conflict were not impartial, were not independent and were slanted towards Pakistan. But BBC maintains that it was impartial. How can we carry the controversy any further? As regards the India-China conflict, though this question does not deal with it, I take it that what it broadcast could not have satisfied us.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, while our High Commissioner in London protested to the BBC authorities that the broadcasts were not impartial, the BBC authorities are reported to have said that they were going to

make it impartial by broadcasting both the versions of the war, the Indian version and the Pakistani version. Since the Pakistani version was loaded with mis-statements—for instance the Pakistani version said that the Pakistani bombers had bombed down the oil refinery at Gauhati and the bridge over the Brahmaputra River at Pandu these statements were broadcast by BBC without checking up these matters—may I know whether Government have tried to look into this and, if so, whether they have told the BBC authorities that in order to become independent and impartial they should have their own correspondents so that they do not have to depend on the Pakistani version?

Shri M. C. Chagla: The strongest representations were made to BBC. What is more, as I have pointed out in my answer, the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner were permitted to express their views, and I have no doubt that when they did appear on the BBC they strongly protested against the view which had been taken by the BBC in regard to this matter.

Shri Hem Barua: What did the High Commissioner do?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I am not aware of this particular detail which my hon. friend has asked.

Shri Hem Barua: Was it a written protest or a verbal protest by the High Commissioner?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I do not know whether it was in writing.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chandhuri: Are the Government satisfied that the information agencies of our High Commission there worked all right and all information that was available to the public in India was made available to the British and other broadcasting agencies and press? Have they enquired and are they satisfied that our own agencies worked all right and all things were made available to them?

Shri M. C. Chagla: Yes. I have worked in that office during the India-China conflict. I was not there during the Indo-Pakistan conflict. I can assure this House that we send two or three morse casts every day to every mission of ours. It is the duty of the Mission immediately to distribute the news to the news agencies and broadcasting agencies. It is not for lack of knowledge that the BBC did not broadcast impartially. I can assure the House that, as far as our High Commissioner was concerned, it did its best to give a true picture of what was happening in our country. The fault lies with the news agencies in U.K. itself which will not accept what we say but will accept what Pakistan says and broadcast a very partial news.

Shri P. Venkatasubbalah: May I know whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to the fact that in addition to the basic prejudice that the British Government is having towards our relations with our neighbours there is no adequate feeding of news by our agencies and by the British High Commission, coupled with the dubious part played by the foreign correspondents who happened to be here during the conflict?

Shri M. C. Chagla: That is not true. I have experience of this. A certain news item appears in a British newspaper. I can say that from my own experience as High Commissioner. We immediately repudiate it and we ask them to publish a contradiction. They will not publish the contradiction. Now, what are we to do? Then, we write to the Government and they reply "it is a free press; we cannot do anything". Therefore, the lie comes out; when the lie is sought to be contradicted and repudiated, the newspaper will not publish the contradiction. This happens in the United States also very often.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: In view of the fact that BBC is the official broad-

casting agency of the Government of the United Kingdom and in view of the fact that the pro-Pakistan bias of the United Kingdom Government is not something new, it is there since 1947—did our Government really expect the BBC to be impartial? So, why were they shocked to find this?

Shri M. C Chagla: I am always shocked when I find that justice and fairplay are not done. I agree that U.K. had always unfortunately a slant in favour of Pakistan and in the last conflict it tried to equate India with Pakistan. But, notwithstanding that, one does get a shock because one expects from the UK Government impartiality and a sense of fairplay.

Ordnance Clothing Factories

*62. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work-load in the ordnance clothing factories has decreased considerably;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same, and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide more work in these factories?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes, Sir, there has been substantial reduction in the work load in the Ordnance Clothing Factories.

(b) Bulk of the deficiencies in clothing was met in 1963 and 1964. The requirements of the Services for subsequent years are considerably less.

(c) To keep the capacity in the Ordnance Clothing Factories utilised, efforts are being made to obtain orders for stitching of garments from Central Government Departments, Public Sector Undertakings, the Co-operative Sector, etc.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that this shortage

of work, or fall in workload in the ordnance clothing factories is due to the fact that many items which were being manufactured in the ordnance factories have been handed over to the private sector and, if so, I would like to know whether the same job will be undertaken in the ordnance factories and no job will be given to the private sector at the cost of the ordnance factories.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Does the hon. Member mean to say that the work of the ordnance factories is being handed over to the private sector?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My information is that when Shri Hathi was made the Minister he was contacting big business houses, and 20,000 items which were being manufactured in the ordnance clothing factories were handed over to the private sector. So, I want an assurance from the hon. Minister that a job, which the ordnance factories are capable of undertaking, will not be given to the private sector at the cost of the ordnance factories.

Mr. Speaker: No assurances can be given during Question Hour.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question is whether this shortage of works in ordnance factories and fall in the workload is due to the fact that items which were being manufactured in the ordnance factories have been handed over to the private sector.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I will be surprised if the fact is that whatever is manufactured in the ordnance factories is farmed out to the private sector, but I will check up. In fact, we are approaching other departments and public-sector undertakings to persuade them to give jobs that they are giving to the private sector to these factories so as to keep their unutilised capacity utilised. So, I will be quite surprised if it is a fact that items being manufactured in the ordnance factories are given to the private sector.