

PROF. SHER SINGH: The break-up, as I said, is not readily available. But I have given.....

MR. SPEAKER: You should have given the cost. You have not answered his question. I will hold the question for the next week. Please say, how much is the cost and the value of production. Your answer says you have made big improvement but one has to judge it in relation to the cost.

PROF. SHER SINGH: The question asked was whether it is a fact that production in Ordnance Factories during the year 1977 has gone up substantially in comparison to the year of 1976 and I have given the figures.

MR. SPEAKER: But part (b) says:

"if so, how does the increase cost and value of production of 1977 compare with that of 1976".

PROF. SHER SINGH: I have given the value of production. About cost, the figure is not readily available. It has to be worked out from factory to factory.

MR. SPEAKER: How much time do you want?

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: You have rightly said that it has not been answered properly. It should be held over.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Another major question is involved, whether the private sector is being allowed.

MR. SPEAKER: That is a different question. How much time would you like to have?

PROF. SHER SINGH: I will collect the information and supply it. I am giving that assurance.

MR. SPEAKER: But other members must be allowed to put supplementaries. I will hold over the question till next week.

Demand for more autonomy to States

*26. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH
MALIK:
SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have expressed that more autonomy should be given to all States of the country;

(b) if so, the names of such State Governments who have made such a move; and

(c) the Government of India's reaction thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

One State Government, viz., the Government of West Bengal has circulated to many dignitaries including members of the Council of Ministers of the Government of India, a Memorandum on Centre-State relations which envisages greater autonomy for the States. The Government of West Bengal have stated that they wish to organise a National debate on the issues raised in their Memorandum. According to reports appearing in the press, the Chief Ministers of J & K, Tripura, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Punjab and Tamil Nadu were agreeable to such a debate reviewing Centre-State relations.

2. It may be recalled that the subject of Centre-State relations was specifically included by the Government of India as a separate item in the terms of reference of the Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC). The ARC studied the subject in great depth and in their Report (June 1969) on "Centre-State Rela-

tionship" they recommended that in view of the paramount importance of the units of India, no Constitutional amendment was necessary for ensuring proper and harmonious relations between the Centre and the States, inasmuch as the provisions of the Constitution governing the Centre-State relations were adequate for the purpose of meeting any situation of resolving any problems that might arise in this field. The Central Government, after consulting the States, had agreed with the general approach recommended by the ARC.

3. Government do not consider the present time to be appropriate for any formal debate on this question.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: The demand for granting special status or for more powers and for autonomy for the States has not come for the first time in this country. Time and again this demand has come from the Government of Sheikh Abdullah in Jammu and Kashmir and the Governments of DMK or ADMK in Tamil Nadu, the Left Front Government in West Bengal and the Akali Government in Punjab. Other States like Mizoram and even Maharashtra have joined hands in this. Sheikh Abdullah has gone to the extent of asking for more powers even in the matter of foreign trade i.e., to hold direct trade talks with foreign countries. The House knows that some individuals and some parties have gone to the extent of asking independent status for States.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: I am not going to single out anybody, but there have been individuals or parties making such demands. I foresee that such demands are not far from ulterior motives. If such demands for autonomy or for granting powers or special status for the States are there, will it not lead to the disintegration of the country and will it not endanger our national security?

श्री धनिक लाल मन्डल : यह सरकार ऐसा मानती है कि वर्तमान संविधान में केन्द्र और राज्यों के सम्बन्ध में जो उपबन्ध हैं, वह पर्याप्त हैं और उसमें अभी किसी प्रकार के संशोधन की आवश्यकता नहीं है ।

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: I am very happy that the Minister of State for Home Affairs has excluded this possibility.

My second supplementary is that sometimes the States experience great difficulties in the matter of finances. I want to ask the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs whether the Central Government is prepared to grant some more financial powers to States in the present set up or not.

श्री धनिक लाल मन्डल : जैसा कि मैंने अभी कहा कि वर्तमान संविधान में जो उपबन्ध हैं, जिनका केन्द्र और राज्यों से सरोकार है, उनमें किसी संशोधन की आवश्यकता नहीं है । यह उन उपबन्धों के सम्बन्ध में भी लागू होता है जो फाइनेन्स से सम्बन्ध रखते हैं ।

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I would like to know from the Minister of State for Home Affairs that in the Statement he has mentioned that the Government of West Bengal have circulated some Memorandum to the Council of Ministers of the Government of India and other dignitaries. I want to know what is the basis by which they have derived this conclusion that more autonomy is necessary for the States. I want to know whether the Government has examined the pros and cons as to what is the basis for which the States are requiring more autonomy for fulfilling the aspirations of the people of West Bengal.

श्री धनिक लाल मन्डल : वेस्ट बंगाल के मुख्य मंत्री से जो मैमोरेण्डम प्राप्त हुआ है, उसमें उनकी आशंका एमर्जेन्सी के समय की है ।

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Mr. Speaker, I will request you to tell the Minister that he must do home work. He has not come to the very question. He said 'No'.

श्री धनिक लाल मण्डल : मुख्यमंत्री का जो मैमोरेण्डम और पत्र प्राप्त हुआ है, मैं उसी से उद्धरण दे रहा हूँ। उन्होंने कहा है कि कुछ समय से, जिसमें एमजेंसी का हवाला दिया है, ऐसी परिस्थिति परिलक्षित हो रही है कि केन्द्र सरकार अधिक शक्तियों को अपने हाथ में केन्द्रित करती जा रही है। इससे राज्यों की आटोनामी का खतरा उत्पन्न हो गया है, ऐसा उन्होंने कहा है। तो उनकी जो यह आशंका है, उसके सम्बन्ध में यही कहना है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार विरोधी पक्ष के नेताओं से बातचीत चला रही है और एमजेंसी के समय में जो भी ऐसी प्रवृत्तियाँ हुई हैं, उनको समाप्त करने के लिए प्रयास हो रहा है। 42वाँ संशोधन जो संविधान में किया गया था उसको अन-डू करने के लिए प्रयास हो रहा है। यदि ऐसा हो जायेगा तो यह सारी चीजें निर्मूल हो जायेंगी।

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Sir, today the Home Minister, Mr. Charan Singh is not present here. But he knows that the Janata Party has announced for the decentralisation of power, that is, more powers to the States. So, what I want to say is, to remove regional imbalances and to strengthen the federal structure, it is necessary to grant more autonomy and more powers, political and economic, to the States. So, I want to know it from the Minister. You know what happened in Pakistan. They tried to force....

MR. SPEAKER: Please put the question.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: We are against any disintegration; but we want that more powers

should be given to the States, both financial and political so that regional imbalances can be removed and the States can develop.

MR. SPEAKER: It is only a suggestion.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: It is not a suggestion. I want to know whether Government is considering to have a national debate to clinch this important political question.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BLJU PATNAIK): rose.

MR. SPEAKER: No. The Minister.

श्री धनिक लाल मण्डल : माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि जनता पार्टी विकेन्द्रीकरण के सिद्धान्त में विश्वास करती है। यह बात सही है। परन्तु विकेन्द्रीकरण का सिद्धान्त केवल राज्यीय स्तर तक ही सीमित नहीं रह जाता है, बल्कि वह जिला ग्राम पंचायत और गांव के स्तर तक जाता है। (व्यवधान) जनता पार्टी ने यह बात स्पष्ट कर दी है कि वह डीसैट्रलाइजेशन में विश्वास करती है। लेकिन डीसैट्रलाइजेशन के संदर्भ में माननीय सदस्य राज्यों को और अधिक पावर्ज देने की बात कह रहे हैं। संविधान के अनुसार राज्यों को अभी तक जितनी पावर्ज प्राप्त हैं, उन के सम्बन्ध में जनता पार्टी संविधान का अक्षरशः पालन करना चाहती है। जनता पार्टी संविधान को एक पवित्र दस्तावेज मानती है और उस के सभी उपबन्धों का पालन करना चाहती है। जनता पार्टी विकेन्द्रीकरण के सिद्धान्त को राज्यों तक ही सीमित नहीं रखना चाहती है, बल्कि वह उसे जिला, ग्राम पंचायत और गांव तक ले जाना चाहती है। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Please. I am on my legs. Unless it goes on quietly and the question and answer are put

—it is an important question—I will have to go to the next question.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Then be patient I will allow you more questions.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Be patient. Please. Again I am on my legs. I am giving opportunity primarily to those States which are demanding more autonomy and powers, so that their point of view is also known. The Government's point of view is made known by the Minister. The other point of view is being given an opportunity. Now, Mr. Qureshi.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: This is a very important question, and I think it is not within the capacity of the hon. Minister sitting opposite.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no I do not agree.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: I want to rise on a point of order. Let the hon. Minister....This is a special occasion.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I do not allow it.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No personal remarks.
(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: If the hon. Minister will listen to me....The Janata Party is committed to decentralization of powers. Jammu and Kashmir, one of the vital States, is governed by Article 370 and we stand by it; and we shall preserve it to the last drop of our blood. But some members of the Janata Party have been speaking, not only in Jammu and Kashmir, but throughout the country that Article 370 will be abrogated and abolished. This is an insult to the people of Kashmir.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is the question.
(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: This is the attitude on the part of the Janata Government.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the question?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: In view of this, (a) is the Government prepared to have a meeting of all the States which are demanding more powers and autonomy, so that this matter can be discussed immediately and (b) will the Government give a categorical assurance that under no circumstances the constitutional safeguards provided to the various States will be done away with by the Janata Government?

SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL: There is no proposal with the Government to abrogate article 370 in regard to Kashmir.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Is the Government prepared to call a conference of all the States which have demanded more powers for the States?

MR. SPEAKER: Are you prepared to call a meeting of all the States?

SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL: No, Sir.

श्री विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि फाइनेशियल पावर्स और कुछ इस तरह की पावर देने की जो बात है उस के बारे में तो उन्होंने स्पष्टीकरण किया परन्तु कुछ चीफ मिनिस्टर जिस तरह की बात कर रहे हैं जैसे जम्मू और काश्मीर के चीफ मिनिस्टर ने यह कहा है कि जब हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान की मीटिंग हो तो उस के बीच में उन को भी शामिल किया जाय और इसी तरह से बंगाल के चीफ मिनिस्टर भी

कुछ इसी तरह की डिमांड कर रहे हैं जो नेशनल इंटरैस्ट में नहीं है तो उस को रोकने के बारे में वे क्या कर रहे हैं ?

श्री धनिक लाल मण्डल : जम्मू काश्मीर के मुख्य मंत्री शेख अब्दुल्ला ने क्या कहा है यह हम लोग को पता नहीं है। बंगाल के मुख्य मंत्री ने जो कुछ कहा है फार्मली मेमोरेंडम के रूप में जो हम लोगों के पास आया है उस को हम जानते हैं।

SHRI A. K. RAJAN: The hon. Minister knows well that most of the Chief Ministers like those of Bengal, Kerala, and some other States have demanded that there should be re-thinking on the question of Centre-State relations. What stands in the way of the Government having a dialogue with the States on an important matter of policy which has got its impact on the Centre-States relations?

श्री नाथू सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पिछले कुछ समय से देश को कमजोर बनाने की कुछ शक्तियां कोशिश कर रही हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कुछ पार्टियां और कुछ शक्तियां जो देश को कमजोर करने का प्रयास कर रही हैं सरकार उन के प्रति सजग है और यदि उन्होंने कोई इस तरह का कदम उठाया तो सरकार उस कदम के प्रति पहले ही जागरूक है ?

दूसरा प्रश्न मेरा यह है कि जैसे उन्होंने कहा है कि डिसेंट्रलाइजेशन की नीति हम अपनाएंगे लेकिन उस के साथ साथ उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि हमारी डिसेंट्रलाइजेशन की नीति का मतलब यह नहीं है कि प्रधान मंत्री की पावर मुख्य मंत्री को दे दी जाय, बल्कि मुख्य मंत्री की पावर और ताकत जो है वह जिला परिषद् और पंचायतों तक पहुंचायी जाय . . . (ध्यवधान) . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस में कोई सवाल नहीं है।

श्री नाथू सिंह : मैंने प्रश्न पूछा है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप ने क्वेश्चन नहीं पूछा है, सजेशन दिया है। श्री अलगेशन।

श्री नाथू सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपने सजेशन दिया है, प्रश्न नहीं पूछा है।

श्री नाथू सिंह : क्या सरकार ऐसी शक्तियों के प्रति सजग है ?

श्री धनिक लाल मण्डल : सरकार ब.ा.बर सजग रहती है।

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: In the matter of Centre-State, relationships Tamilnadu has always occupied a prominent position. The DMK Party, which was by definition a secessionist party, and which was in power in Tamilnadu appointed a Commission under the Chairmanship of Ex-Chief Justice Shri Rajamannar, and that Commission has produced a report, which was more or less in accordance with the wishes of the then DMK Government. Now another party, which has broken away from the DMK, has come to power and it has for sworn secession. It says that it stands for the unity of India. The Chief Minister of that party has also raised the question of Centre-State relations. I would like to know the views of the present AIADMK Government of Tamil Nadu.

श्री धनिक लाल मण्डल : तमिलनाडु यवर्नमेंट की तरफ से हमारे पास कोई फार्मल सुझाव आया हो, ऐसी बात नहीं है लेकिन अखबारों से जो मालूम हुआ है, उसके अनुसार वहांके मुख्य मंत्री ने कहा है कि

वे चण्डीगढ़ नेशनल कन्वेंशन में अपना आवजबंद भजेगे । हम देखेंगे कि वहां पर जो प्रस्ताव आ रहे हैं वह नेशनल इंटीग्रेशन की दृष्टि से ठीक हैं या नहीं और फिर उस पर विचार करेंगे ।

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, I could not follow the reply.

MR. SPEAKER: He said that the Tamil Nadu Government has not sent any representation, but they have read in the papers that that Government is also asking for it; nothing more than that.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know from the hon. Minister whether he does not consider that there has been a sea-change in the political situation of our country after the report of the ARC, which discussed the problem of Centre-State relations and, if so, does the Government of India agree that the time has come in the changed political situation of the country as a whole for a review of the Centre-State relations? Is it not fact that the Chief Minister of West Bengal in his memorandum says that there has been a consistent effort on the part of the Government of India to erode into the existing federal principles of the Constitution of India? In view of that, does the Government not feel it necessary to retain the federal principle as enshrined in the Constitution of India, thereby ensuring the integrity of the country and fight back the forces of disintegration?

श्री बलिक लाल मण्डल : मैं माननीय सदस्य की इस राय से सहमत हूँ कि देश में परिवर्तन आया है जैसा कि उन्होंने कहा कि 1977 के चुनाव के बाद देश में राजनीतिक परिवर्तन आया है लेकिन उस राजनीतिक परिवर्तन के सन्दर्भ में जो उन्होंने कहा कि आप राज्य और केन्द्र के सम्बन्ध में

फिर से विचार करने के लिए क्या तैयार है तो हमने उसका जवाब दे दिया है कि वर्तमान समय इसके लिए अनुकूल नहीं है ।
(व्यवधान) ।

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, I have raised a question of basic importance and the Minister says that the Government does not consider it important.

MR. SPEAKER: It may be right or wrong, but it is the conclusion of the Government.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Sir, I seek your protection. When you decided that this question can have a number of supplementaries, you were pleased to say that you will give opportunities to Members from those States which have demanded autonomy to ask questions. Therefore, I am seeking your protection. I raised this question with the Gujarat Government and the Chief Minister has publicly stated that he is in favour of such a dialogue. I come from Gujarat and so I may be given an opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been sufficient discussion on this subject I am not allowing any further question. Next question. Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta.

SHRI B. P. MANDAL: On a point of order. It is a question of setting up a State Assembly. Now, State Assemblies are set up according to the provisions of the Constitution. So, Mr. Gupta should have been clear whether he wants legislative assembly or not and what type of assembly he wants.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order.