

LOK SABHA DEBATES

6381

6382

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, December 20, 1960/Agrahayana 29, 1882 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that Shri Nariendra Kumar who has been declared elected to Lok Sabha from Nagaur constituency of Rajasthan, vice Shri Mathura Das Mathur who resigned, will now make and subscribe the oath and take his seat in the House.

Shri Nariendra Kumar (Nagaur) then made and subscribed the oath and took his seat in the House.

Mr. Speaker: I have noticed in certain Parliaments that a new Member who comes to the Parliament is introduced to the House. Yesterday, when some Member came and took the oath and I asked that his name should be announced as also the constituency from which he is returned, I found that the House welcomed it. That is why I have devised this formula. I would prefer if the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will introduce to the House whosoever is elected hereafter.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: He is not available today.

Mr. Speaker: He is not available today, but I will give intimation. The Leader of the House may or may not
1667 (Ai) LS—1.

be available, but the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs may formally introduce a Member as having been returned to this House from such and such constituency.

Shri Raghunath Singh: That is very good.

Mr. Speaker: And then I will ask him to make the oath and then take his seat. When once he takes his seat he becomes a Member of the House, not until then. Therefore, let us observe this formality. There is something in this.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Sangeet Natak Akademi

+
*998. { Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Agadi:
Shri Sugandhi:
Kumari M. Vedakumari:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 443 on the 17th August, 1960 and state:

(a) whether the enquiry into the alleged irregularities in the accounts of Sangeet Natak Akademi has since been completed; and

(b) if so, the result of this enquiry?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the enquiry is likely to be concluded soon and, if so, when?

Shri Humayun Kabir: In answer to the same question on the last occasion I said that we have asked the Special Police to conduct the enquiry as expeditiously as possible and that we want the report as soon as they can give it to us.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that the Secretary of the Sangeet Natak Akademi has resigned; if so, what were the reasons, and whether this was one of the reasons why he resigned?

Shri Humayun Kabir: This question was asked on the last occasion and I gave the answer in the House. If you like, I can repeat it.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members must not put the same question which has been answered already.

Shri Assar: It is alleged that some of the members of the Executive Committee are also involved in this matter. If that is so, may I know their names?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I have no knowledge about the assumption. Therefore, the question does not arise.

श्री भक्त वरान : पिछली बार भी यह प्रश्न किया गया था और माननीय मंत्री जी ने जरा टालने का प्रयत्न किया था । कम से कम अब तो क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि आखिर गड़बड़ी किनसे क्यों की है ?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I told the House, if you will remember, that as soon as the report is submitted I shall place the whole case before the House. I was a little hesitant about giving the details at this stage because the police are investigating. But if you wish, I can give the broad outline.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Humayun Kabir: About 51 cases seem to have been there in which there were serious discrepancies, and according to the preliminary report of the Assistant Financial

Adviser who submitted it to the Treasurer of the Akademi, there was an amount of approximately Rs. 1,88,000 which in his view may have been cases of defalcation, and an amount of about Rs. 55,000 which may have been cases of temporary misappropriation. But because these things are all under investigation and the amount may be either more or less after the enquiry, I was hesitating. That was the reason.

Kumari M. Vedakumari: This kind of management is going on since one year and we do not know what the committee is doing. The President and Secretary are away and the affairs of the Sangeet Natak Akademi are not functioning well. That is known to the public also. We therefore want that a committee should be appointed to see that all the affairs are conducted well.

Shri Humayun Kabir: As soon as the discrepancies came to our notice I immediately had the matter looked into. The Treasurer looked into the matter and we are doing everything possible to tighten up the administration of all the affairs.

Mr. Speaker: She wants a committee to generally overhaul the whole thing.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if it is under the contemplation of the Ministry to change the set-up of this Akademi so that such occurrences are not repeated again?

Shri Humayun Kabir: If the hon. Member will make his question a little more explicit, then I will be able to answer him. What does he mean by 'set-up'—the constitution or the personnel?

Mr. Speaker: What steps are taken to see that these things do not recur—that is what he wants to know.

Shri Humayun Kabir: We have already asked the Akademi to be more careful about administration, and they have now an Administrative Officer. And the Treasurer has been scrutinising things. It was on account

of the Treasurer's vigilance that these things came to our notice.

Shri Narasimhan: Is it a fact that owing to this pell-mell in the affairs there has not been an election for the whole Akademi; and may I know when the elections will take place?

Shri Humayun Kabir: There is no question of election for the whole Akademi; the constitution is to be revised, and that has been kept pending on account of this investigation.

Shri Narasimhan: So far as the matter of election is concerned, how long has it been pending?

Mr. Speaker: He does not admit that it is election.

Shri Humayun Kabir: There is no question of election. As I said, the present Chairman would normally continue for at least another two or two and a half years. But if the constitution is revised, then the position may be different.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know whether Government give yearly grants to this institution and, if so, what is the amount?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The grants vary from year to year, and they are placed before Parliament at the time of the budget.

Kumari M. Vedakumari: Even in giving grants to all the States there is so much discrepancy between the grants given to the various States. One State is given, for instance, only Rs. 3,000 while another is given Rs. 1 lakh. And there is not a report even to Parliament, giving all the details, on what basis they are giving the grants. So we want to know the full affairs after this particular enquiry.

Shri Humayun Kabir: I agree that in the past the reports of the Akademi were not regularly published. But we have seen to it that now the reports are published every year. The first report for the first five years has been placed before

Parliament, and since then annual reports are to be placed before Parliament.

श्री भक्त दर्शन: क्योंकि यह गड़बड़ी का केस गवर्नमेंट की नजर में आया है, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या गवर्नमेंट ने अपना नियंत्रण कुछ कड़ा करने का, कठोर करने का इरादा भी किया है ताकि इस तरह की घटनाएँ न होने पायें ?

Shri Humayun Kabir: We have tightened up the administration. We have requested the Sangeet Natak Akademi authorities to be far more vigilant than they have been in the past.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: I have reserved some hon. Members for certain questions. I do not want to allow every hon. Member on every question. Shri Damani, I have reserved for Commerce and Industry. Next question.

Tax on Charitable Trusts

*999. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the additional income to be brought to the Central Exchequer by bringing within the scope of Income Tax Law the business incomes of certain kinds of charitable trusts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Presumably, the question is with reference to the recommendations of the Direct Taxes Administration Enquiry Committee for the amendment of the relevant provisions in the Income-tax Act in regard to the exemption of the business income of Charitable and Religious Trusts, which have been accepted by the Government—namely, that the intention that the business income will be exempt