

Gazettes & Debates Section
Parliamentary Building
Room No. FB-025
Block 'G'

Acc. No. 25123
Date 21.11.2014

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

905

906

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Wednesday, 11th March, 1953.

*The House met at Two of the
Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MORAL REARMAMENT ASSOCIATION

*656. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether a team of personnel belonging to the Moral Rearmament Association toured the country recently?

(b) What were the special facilities offered, if any, to the above team by the Government of India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) Some members of the team were allowed to occupy a few rooms in Jaipur House which was then lying vacant.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is Government aware that in the 1930's and early 40's the MRA then known as the Oxford Group was notorious for its support of Hitler, Franco and other fascist personalities and movements?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is some times very disconcerting to delve too much into the past. There was a time when Hitler's gang and the leaders of the Soviet Republic toasted each other with great gusto promising eternal friendship and close collaboration.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Do I take it that a person called Dr. Buchman, who made a speech which became notorious, in which he said, "Thank God for Hitler".....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are we arguing this matter? Hon. Members can
539 PSD

only elicit information. Information has been given that some portions were given. There are other methods of raising this matter.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): May I say a word, Sir? I should just like to make it clear that the Government had absolutely nothing to do with the visit of the Moral Rearmament team here. It is entirely an individual affair. Some individuals had something to do with it. Government as such had no connection with that visit. Many people come here either of their own wish or invited by others. That is not connected with any Government activity.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a Press Report which says that one Howland Sergeant, US Assistant State Secretary for Information and Cultural Relations has stated in an interview that the M.R.A. contributed considerably to the strengthening of U.S. influence in a number of countries, particularly Asia, and that it has the same role in the field of ideology as the Marshall Plan in the economic field? I have quoted from the *Delhi Times* of the 28th February, 1953.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. My attention has not been drawn to that. Even if it is drawn, I do not know what the hon. Member expects me to do about it.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. I would like to submit for the consideration of hon. Members here what the scope of questions and answers is. Some information has been asked as to whether Jaipur House has been occupied or not. To a further question how far it is a political or any other question and how far Government is interested, the answer has been that Government is not interested and that

it did not sponsor it. What this MRA movement is, whether it is good or bad, it is not a matter for discussion here. If it is really thought to be a proper subject matter for discussion, there are other modes: not by way of question and answer. Then, it will be for the Speaker to find out whether it is a proper subject or not on relevant considerations.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: There is another question, Sir. Is it a fact that certain members of this MRA movement were accommodated in the Constitution House to the discomfort of certain Members of Parliament and if so whether the usual fees for accommodation were charged from these gentlemen?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I do not know anything about it. Presumably if they were accommodated, somebody must have paid.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is the Government aware that certain high-ups in Government circles including certain High Court Judges were associated with the receptions arranged and also, that in Calcutta State buses and other Government institutions were given for accommodation and other facilities?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are not concerned with Calcutta.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Government has no control over High Court Judges of India.

Shri Punnoose: May I know how many Ministers and Deputy Ministers of the Central Government have been morally rearmed?

Shri Jaipal Singh: The MRA team was a large one. May I know whether any Cabinet Minister was associated directly or indirectly in the collection of funds for the MRA?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That I do not know. But, I do know that one or possibly two Cabinet Ministers were associated with and interested in the Movement. But, I do not know anything about the collection of funds.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : आपने इसके वास्ते कोई खर्च किया था ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : गवर्नमेंट ने ?
जो नहीं ।

DIRECTIONS OF THE SOUTH INDIAN FILM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

***657. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Executive Committee and the producer-members of the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce have directed that no musician who accepted engagements on A.I.R. be given any job in films; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that no person connected with films should accept any A.I.R. programme and that no film advertisements should be given to the official organs of the A.I.R.?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). Government have no official information in the matter. They, however, understand from reports appearing in press that the Executive Committee of the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce have passed such a resolution.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know why that Film Chamber of Commerce has passed such a resolution?

Dr. Keskar: I said, we know only from the Press reports. We have not got any direct information that they have passed the resolution.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the methods adopted by the Regional Boards to censor new films?

Dr. Keskar: Is it relevant to this question, Sir? I am prepared to give the information if a proper question is put.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether this has anything to do with the banning of cinema music in the All India Radio?

Dr. Keskar: Presumably so.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether Government are taking steps to see that listeners' requests are gratified in this respect?

Dr. Keskar: Certainly.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any requests have been made to some Radio Stations that some listeners wanted cinema music?

Dr. Keskar: Contradictory requests come to Government: the request that the hon. Member suggests, and requests to the opposite also that we should reduce it. Government has to strike a mean between the two.