

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, the 25th April, 1958

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven
of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Algeria

*1825. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the part played by India in the settlement of the question of Algeria in the 12th Regular Session of the U.N. General Assembly?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): The Algerian problem is very far from settlement and indeed has grown much worse in recent months. In the U.N. General Assembly of 1957 India, together with 21 other Asian-African States requested the inscription of an item on Algeria.

When this item was under discussion in the Political Committee, several difficulties occurred, but the efforts made by India and others to overcome them succeeded and the problem was eventually sent to the General Assembly. The Indian Delegation, in cooperation with 14 other countries, sponsored a draft resolution in the General Assembly. This resolution was adopted unanimously by the Assembly expressing "the wish that in a spirit of effective cooperation, pourparlers will be entered into and other appropriate means utilized with a view to a solution, in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations".

It is a matter of the deepest regret that no further steps have been taken in furtherance of this resolution and the tragedy of Algeria continues.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if after the passing of this resolution the Government of India has taken any further steps in this direction; and, if so, what is the nature of those steps?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Sir, our policy in this regard is very well known. As a matter of fact, when this item was referred to the Political Committee for consideration there was a comprehensive debate and in this debate Shri V. Krishna Menon made our position very clear. Among other things he said that India stands on the principles of national independence, we regard independence as territorial we do not regard national independence as limited by bounds of race, religion or creed and that since the passing of this resolution we hoped that the French Government would come to an amicable solution of this problem.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if any effort has been made by this country to bring to light the atrocities that have been committed in Algeria; and, if so, with what countries the Government of India has been in correspondence and in what way it has taken any action?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: The atrocities in Algeria have been brought to light. They appeared in the newspapers and there has been world-wide publicity about these things, and through our Embassy we have approached the French Government about this matter.

Shri Joachim Alva: What is the latest information in the possession of Government? Is Government aware

that the United States Government has changed its attitude in regard to its policy in North Africa, namely, that it has informed the French Government that if the Tunisian Government puts up an appeal on behalf of the National Liberation Committee of Algeria they will abstain from voting and that they stand for a settlement between Algeria and France?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I am afraid, Sir, I will not be able to tell the House anything more about the latest situation as I am not in possession of the facts upto date.

Shri Kastlwal: The hon. Parliamentary Secretary stated that this matter came up before the Plenary Session of the U.N. Assembly also. May I know whether at the Plenary Session any voting on this resolution took place and, if so, what was the break-up of the voting?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: The Draft Resolution which came up before the Plenary Session was adopted by the Assembly without any discussion by 80 votes to none.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if it was pointed out by India in a straightforward way at the Political Committee or at the U.N. General Assembly that France as a member of the NATO is using the defensive weapons given to her by U.S.A. for aggressive purposes in Algeria?

Mr. Speaker: The question here is about the part played by India in the settlement. Many things can be asked about Algeria and the fight there, but the question here relates to the part played by India.

Shri Hem Barua: This is a specific question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: This may relate to it, but the main question is as to what is the part played by India.

Shri Hem Barua: I want to know whether India has pointed it out in a straightforward way that France is using weapons given to her for

defensive purposes for purposes of aggression in Algeria.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know what is meant by 'straightforward'. We are not able to settle our differences round about us.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Besides the question of political settlement, may I know whether the Government of India has used its good offices with the French Government regarding the atrocities committed in Algeria, especially about Djamila Bouheird, the young girl who has now become paralysed and is now in a terrible condition in jail?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): It might interest the House to know that the reprieve granted to Djamila has been through the efforts of the Indian Government.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Subsequent to that?

Mr. Speaker: The ultimate result is in our favour.

Shri Yajnik: May I know if the Government of India has given any instructions to its delegation at the U.N.O. to take up the matter further and place a resolution at the next general meeting of the United Nations in co-operation with the Afro-Asian Group?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): That will depend on whether the question is coming up again in the U.N. General Assembly. If it comes up, we will certainly brief our delegation as to what stand they should take in conformity with our principles in this matter.

Shri Yajnik: I want to know whether you will take the initiative.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a news item published today that Tunisia and the United Arab Republic are prepared to facilitate the forma-

tion of a provisional government of Algeria in Tunisia and recognise it; and, if so, are Government considering their attitude towards such a contingency?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: We have seen the Press report this morning, further than that I cannot say anything.

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question. How can we go into the details of every affair?

Radio Sets

*1626. **Shri V. C. Shukla:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration a scheme for manufacture of low cost radio sets; and

(b) if so, the broad features of the scheme?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri A. C. Joshi): (a) and (b). Government have at present no scheme for the manufacture of low cost radio sets under consideration.

Shri V. C. Shukla: Have the Government received a memorandum from the radio manufacturing industry regarding the manufacture of low cost radio sets if so, may I know what are the salient features of this memorandum and how many of them have been accepted or considered by Government?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): The Government have received no memorandum from the radio manufacturers' association regarding the production of low cost radio sets.

Shri Tangamani: May I know what help the Government is extending to Mr. G. B. Naidu who is now producing low cost radio sets by assembling various parts in his workshop in Coimbatore?

Dr. Keskar: As I said, Sir, we are not giving any particular help in this

matter, nor has the question been taken up on a systematic basis. Government had left the question of low cost radio sets to the industry. We are, no doubt, examining the question whether, if a low cost radio set is not forthcoming, this question should be taken up with the industry later on.

सेठ गो.बिन्दु दास : इस विषय पर गवर्नमेंट बहुत दिनों से विचार कर रही है और इस देश की गरीबी की हालत को देखते हुए क्या यह आशा की जा सकती है कि इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ बातें जल्दी की जा सकेंगी जिस में लोगों को इस तरह के रेडियो मिल सकें ?

डा० केसकर : सरकार को इस बारे में पूरी सहानुभूति है, लेकिन पहले इस बारे में निश्चय हुआ था कि सस्ते रेडियो सेट का काम प्राइवेट सेक्टर करेगा। अगर इंडस्ट्री उसे बनाने में असफल रही तो इस बात पर विचार होगा कि हम इस बारे में क्या कर सकते हैं। चूंकि हमारे ऊपर रेडियो के बारे में बहुत सी जिम्मेदारियां थीं, उस समय हम ने इस को हाथ में लेना उचित नहीं समझा। हो सकता है अब हम इस मामले पर विचार करें, लेकिन अभी कोई गहरा विचार इस मामले में नहीं किया गया।

Shri Dasappa: May I know for how long the Ministry have this subject under their consideration, namely, the question of securing what you call low cost radio sets and with whom they are carrying on their negotiations in order to secure the manufacture of these sets and under what cost?

Dr. Keskar: What I had said was that this question is not at all under our active consideration today.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has said that he has left it entirely to the private industry. Let us watch for some time and if nothing happens we will intercede. What is the meaning of labouring this point again and again? Next question.