

DR. H. P. SHARMA: When does the Government or the House take cognizance of this?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री शिवनाथ सिंह ने इस बारे में कह दिया है। क्या कह काफ़ी नहीं है ?

DR. H. P. SHARMA: Sir, the 80-year old mother of the hon. Member has been belaboured. Fortunately, the last reports show that she is out of danger. His farm house has been burnt and crops destroyed. Sir, as our guardian, you should take notice of this. We seek your protection.

श्री सकार इब्राहिम सिंह (चतरा) :
 उसके लिए संसद की एक कमेटी बनाई जानी चाहिए।

13.16 hrs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MINISTER

MR. SPEAKER: Shri I. K. Gujral wants to make a personal explanation.

श्री इंदर बिहारी बाबूदेवी (मन्मथपुर)
 मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। मैंने जो मामला उठाया है मैंने इसमें श्री नरेश कुमार गुजराल का नाम लिया है श्री इन्द्र कुमार गुजराल का नहीं।

MR. SPEAKER: He says he wants to make a personal explanation.

श्री इंदर बिहारी बाबूदेवी : वह पर्सनल एक्सप्लेनैशन कैसे दे सकते हैं ? मैंने उन का नाम तक नहीं लिया है। उन पर कोई अभियोग नहीं है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप ने उन के लड़के का नाम लिया है।

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): Sir, I am pained that my name by implication....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What do you mean by implication?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL:has been mentioned here and in some section of the press, in connection with the working of New Friends Co-operative House Building Society Limited, New Delhi.

The facts of the case, I may submit, are as follows. My father, Shri Avtar Narain Gujral, who is a displaced person from Pakistan, joined the New Friends Cooperative House Building Society Limited, some sixteen years ago, in 1958, having membership No. 423 and made first payment of Rs. 2,610 vide receipt No. 307 dated 10th October, 1958.

Thereafter, he continued to make payments, as demanded by the Society, vide receipt No. 950 dated 26th December, 1959, receipt No. 2293 dated 1st October, 1962 and receipt No. 4487 dated 17th August, 1968.

Other amounts of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 were remitted on 11th June, 1959 and 31st January, 1964 respectively, receipt of which seem to have been misplaced, but these payments were confirmed by the Society in their subsequent letter of 4th July, 1968.

Thus, my father, Shri Avtar Narain paid to the Society in the course of ten years, i.e., from 1958 to 1968 a total amount of Rs. 8,510.

The Society further demanded an amount of Rs. 1,250 in 1968 which was remitted to them by cheque on 4th June, 1968 but it returned the cheque to him on 18th June, 1968 on the plea that it was received late and declared him a defaulter.

[Shri I. K. Gujral]

My father wrote to the Society protesting against their decision as they could not declare a member to be a defaulter on such flimsy grounds when he continued to pay for ten years and had waited all these years for allotment of a small plot to him.

He also wrote to the Delhi Administration and the Delhi Development Authority seeking their intervention against this injustice. The authorities concerned took up his and such cases with the Society as they felt that membership of old members could not be scrapped like this vide their letter No. F.15(107)/57-L&B dated 14th February, 1969. But the issue could not be finally settled since the process of litigation between the authorities and management of the Society started and continued till very recently in one form or the other.

It may be mentioned that during all these 16 years, the amount paid to the Society remained with it.

As the time passed, my father added in his years. So, even in 1968, he had applied to the Society that he wished to transfer his membership and rights to his son. But even this issue could not be finalised and, with the passage of time he decided that he rather give it to his grandson.

In February, 1974, after a long wait of more than 16 years, the management offered to enrol his grandson, Naresh Kumar, as member of the Society.

On this, my father, Shri Avtar Narain, wrote to the Society to transfer the amount standing to his credit to his grandson, Naresh Kumar. On purely technical grounds, however, the Society asked him to write a letter to withdraw the amount of Rs. 8,400 and Naresh Kumar may deposit it with them separately. This was done by my

father to enable Naresh Kumar who is my son to step into the shoes of his grand-father, i.e. my father.

These, in brief, are the facts of the case.

Incidentally I may also mention the following:

In 1958, when my father joined the Society, I was not holding any public office and was not even a Member of Parliament or even of the New Delhi Municipal Committee.

In early 1971, when I was holding independent charge of the Ministry of Works and Housing, an hon. Member of the other House had asked a question about the affairs of the said New Friends Cooperative House Building Society Ltd. I had been submitted the file to the Prime Minister with the request that some other Minister should deal with the case since my father was a member of the Society. Shri K. C. Pant, the then Minister of State for Home Affairs was instructed by the Prime Minister to deal with the question.

On a subsequent occasion, another question was tabled in which case again I declined to deal with the case for the same reasons and the then Cabinet Minister for Works and Housing, Shri Uma Shankar Dixit dealt with it.

Incidentally, it may also be relevant for me to inform this august House, through you, Sir, that my son, Naresh Kumar, is 26 years old and is a qualified Chartered Accountant and not dependent on me.

I hope, Sir, this somewhat long explanation which I have craved your indulgence to submit will satisfy you and you will agree that I have not compromised, in any way, the high public office that I occupy.