

industries with imported plant and duties raised by 57.5% by devaluation; and

(c) if so, how they propose to prevent their higher cost of production influencing the older production ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

MAHALAKSHMI TEXTILE MILLS,
BHAVANAGAR

2840. SHRI P. M. MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Mahalakshmi Textile Mills, Bhavanagar in Gujarat has been financially very weak and has not only not paid the workers' wages and provident fund contributions worth lakhs but administratively also it has become so incapable that it has reached the stage of closure; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to take over the Mills.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) It is a fact that the financial position of the Mahalakshmi Textile Mills, Bhavanagar, has been deteriorating for some time.

(b) The question of appointing an Investigation Committee under section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, to look into the affairs of the mill is under active consideration.

12.21 hrs.

RE: QUESTIONS, CALLING-ATTENTIONS-NOTICES ETC.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, calling attention-notice. Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी (भोपाल) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, . . .

श्री मोलहू प्रसाद (बांसगाँव) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, नियम 357 के अन्तर्गत मेरी व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। 14-11-67 के अतारकित प्रश्न संख्या 337 के उत्तर के संदर्भ में मैंने

21-11-67 को एक अल्प सूचना प्रश्न दिया था। वह अल्प सूचना प्रश्न गायब कर दिया गया है।

MR. SPEAKER : That cannot be raised as a point of order. Let the hon. Member resume his seat.

श्री मोलहू प्रसाद : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह अल्प सूचना प्रश्न किस नियम के अन्तर्गत गायब कर दिया गया है। इस विषय का सम्बन्ध आप से है।

MR. SPEAKER : What the hon. Member says will not be taken down.

SHRI MOLAHU PRASAD* : . .

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर) : माननीय सदस्य ने प्रश्न दिये थे, जो गायब कर दिये गए। वह उनके बारे में जानना चाहते हैं।

MR. SPEAKER : But it cannot be raised now. Suddenly if he raises it here in this manner, how can I answer ? Thousands of questions are coming up, and could the Speaker possibly know which question is coming and which question is not coming ?

OBITUARY REFERENCE

(SHRI SENAPATI BAPAT)

SHRI NATH PAI (Rajapur) : Before you proceed to the next item, may I make one submission ? The Leaders of all the Opposition Groups had made a request to you. . . .

MR. SPEAKER : Let him not raise it here.

SHRI NATH PAI : You should show us the courtesy of replying to us.

Would you please hear my complaint ? I would not go into the matter. A letter was sent to you.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not proper to raise it like this.

SHRI NATH PAI : If you are suggesting that I am doing anything improper, then you are not fair to me. I am only asking you a question. The Leaders of all the Opposition Parties had written to you a letter. We have not even got an acknowledgment of what your intention is. Is it wrong to ask what you propose to do ? For you to suggest

12.23 Not recorded.

that my seeking for your guidance in this matter is improper is, I think, a little unfair to me.....

MR. SPEAKER : Would he kindly permit me to say one thing ?

SHRI NATH PAI : Very much so. Who can stop you ?

MR. SPEAKER : The point is this. Any condolence resolution to be placed before the House is moved from the Chair. We took a decision on this matter and even if some leader of India was not a Member of this House, we did make a reference to his death here, as for instance, in the case of Master Tara Singh. But when several names are proposed to the Speaker, I think

SHRI NATH PAI : We referred only to Senapati Bapat.

MR. SPEAKER : I did not want to mention names. It is not good to mention names. That is why I am avoiding any names being mentioned here. It is not at all proper. It should be mentioned only after we discuss the matter. It is not as though there is any controversy about it, because the persons are dead and they are not living. I thought that it was the discretion of the Speaker to move it from the Chair. If anyone writes to me that that discretion should be taken away from the Speaker, I would like this House to give that discretion to somebody else. I have no objection. I am not the highest agency; the House is the highest forum; if the discretion is to be with the Speaker, then that discretion must be with the Speaker. Or else, I would leave it in the hands of the House, so that they may appoint a committee or do something else, so that in future, the Speaker would not be put in the embarrassing position of taking a decision and then somebody else trying to change it. This controversy need not be there. I am not at all anxious to have this discretion. I do not want to quarrel particularly with persons who are no more with us in the world, and if the House thinks that the discretion should not be there with the Speaker, I, for one, would be absolutely at one with the House, and let the House appoint a committee and then take a decision. But if the discretion is to be with the Speaker, then, after the

Speaker has taken a decision, if it is said that it should not be done in that manner then. I am helpless....

SHRI NATH PAI : Am I to understand that you had taken to decision ? This is really unfair to me and to the House also, and it must not be made to appear that deliberately on such solemn occasions as this we are either trying to defy your authority or trying.....

MR. SPEAKER : Where is the authority here ?

SHRI NATH PAI : The authority is very much there. When you say that when the Speaker has taken a decision it should be respected, I am at one with you. But I am afraid you give me an impression and also to those who called on you that you would like to discuss the matter. Now, for you to say that a decision was taken which is being challenged. Again, I think, is not proper....

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Ram Subhag Singh has communicated it to him.

SHRI NATH PAI : He never accompanied me. The hon. Minister never mentioned anything to us. When all of us had sent this letter to you we thought that you would agree. There are few revolutionaries of that calibre left in this country.

I do feel very strongly that this House is not built by Mr. Charles Layton or Mr. Baker, but basically this House has been built by men like Senapati Bapat who are our great patriots, and we are only sitting here, and we only honour ourselves and show how great is our heritage and responsibility, by seeking an opportunity to bow down in reverence and homage to such great men. Government had conveyed to me that they would agree, and I think the hon. Prime Minister also was coming, I think, with a ready speech to join the others. But I do not know what has happened.

We do not want to embarrass you. The discretion should be normally with you, but I think we assisted you in suggesting that when the letter was signed by every recognised party or group, Government should agree and the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs also should agree. I thought that they had agreed.

Nobody is trying to embarrass you. But I think you never gave a decision. I

[Shri Nath Pai]

would like, therefore, that this matter may be thrashed out.

MR. SPEAKER : May I hear from the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : I fully endorse your idea that discretion must be with you.

As regards our respect to the departed soul, we are at one with Shri Nath Pai, and we have the highest respect for him, and I also pay my homage to him.

Once you had told me, I think, the day before yesterday, that you had conveyed your idea to Shri Khadilkar, then and there I had dropped the matter and conveyed that decision to the hon. Leader. Yesterday, you, Sir, also—whatever be our feeling—had told Shri Nath Pai that the Speaker had taken a decision.

MR. SPEAKER : Anyway, let him say what he wants now.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY (Kendrapara) : I want to say only one word. I was also present when the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs came over here. He did not say that the Speaker had taken a decision but he had intimated that he would consider such a proposal, and that the matter was not closed.

MR. SPEAKER : Senapati Bapat was a great leader. After all, his services and sacrifices are second to none in this country. He suffered terribly, I do not know for how many decades; I think, before many of us were born he began suffering for the cause of the country....

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : Before all of us were born.

MR. SPEAKER : I completely associate myself with the sentiments expressed by Shri Nath Pai and the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, and let us convey our homage and respect to the departed soul to his bereaved family. Let not the hon. Member think that I am in any way less in my expression of my respect for that great leader. Here and now, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Members of this House.

SHRI NATH PAI : Now that you have spoken for the House, I would also join you. I hope you will be good enough to give us some time. As we expected of you, you have taken the initiative now in paying our homage. We do not want to make long speeches now, but we also want to join you in paying our homage.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ranga.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : This has caused some embarrassment to you needlessly. As you have said, you are second to none in your respect for Senapati Bapat. All of us are also at one with you in bemoaning the death or the passing away of this great veteran in our national struggle for freedom. We have great respect for him. In the course of his long life, he had to champion certain causes which do not meet with the approval of some of us on this side and on that side. Nevertheless, we are all beholden to him, and we are grateful for the services that he has rendered, and we join you in mourning his death.

श्री बलराज मधोक (दक्षिणी दिल्ली) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जो स्वतंत्रता हम ने 1947 में प्राप्त की, उसको लाने के लिए इस देश के असंख्य लोगों ने अपने बलिदान दिये। उनमें से कुछ को तो लोग जानते हैं। बाद में उनमें से कुछ को कुछ सिला भी मिला। मगर बहुत से लोग ऐसे हैं, जो नींव के पत्थर की तरह हमारी स्वतंत्रता की इमारत की नींव में पड़े हुए हैं। जब उनमें से कोई हम से विदा होता है, तो स्वाभाविक रूप से सारे राष्ट्र को उसका दुख होता है। सेनापति बापत उन क्रान्तिकारियों में से थे, जिनमें लोकमान्य तिलक, वीर सावरकर, चन्द्रशेखर आज़ाद और सरदार भगतसिंह आते हैं। उन लोगों के बलिदानों के द्वारा ही आज हम स्वतंत्र हैं और इस लोक सभा में बैठे हुए हैं। इस लिए एक ऐसी महान् विभूति का अपने बीच में से उठ जाना सारे राष्ट्र के लिए शोक का विषय है। मैं और मेरा दल सेनापति बापत को अपनी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करते हैं।

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam) : On behalf of the DMK, I join you and the other leaders in paying our homage to the

great patriot and revolutionary, Senapati Bapat. It is due to the enduring efforts of such a patriot and revolutionary that India was able to attain its dignity in the comity of nations, and also the well-cherished freedom for our country. As one belonging to the DMK, and as a democrat, I pay very sincerely my homage and respect to the departed leader.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North-East) : It requires no special words from me but it goes without saying that Senapati Bapat was a legend in this country; not only in Maharashtra but in other parts of the country, his memory will be cherished and as a person who dedicated his all to the struggle for freedom. On behalf of the Communist party of India, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by you and others in this House.

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंबेर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आजादी की लड़ाई में दो प्रमुख धाराएं रहीं— एक हथियारी क्रान्ति की धारा और दूसरी अहिंसक क्रान्ति की धारा। मेरी राय में दोनों अपने अपने ढंग से हिन्दुस्तान को मुक्त करने की कोशिश की है। सेनापति बापत हथियारी क्रान्ति की जो धारा रही उसके सेनानी थे। मैं अपने दिल की ओर से और अपनी ओर से उनको श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ।

SHRI A. K. GOPALAN (Kasergod) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, I pay my humble homage and respect to the great patriot and revolutionary, who fought for the freedom of the country long before the national movement took shape.

SHRI NATH PAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I join my colleagues from the other parties in paying my homage to Senapati Bapat, and I have listened to the sentiments expressed by you, Mr. Speaker. At a time when people were beginning to look upon the British occupation in this country as a divine dispensation, there was a small band of courageous souls who came forth not in India but in the lion's den, that is, in England itself, and pricked the bubble that British rule was wanted in this country. It requires an extraordinary courage and vision to declare this faith in Indians' ultimate liberation. Senapati Bapat belonged to the small band of valiant soldiers who lit the path of India's struggle to freedom.

It is true that he belonged to the other school who believed that in the emancipation of our country we are free to the choice of our means. That was his conviction and he adhered to it. But under Gandhiji, when the nation turned to the path of Satyagraha, Senapati Bapat was among the greatest of Satyagrahis that India produced. There was no movement since 1903 till our liberation in which Senapati Bapat did not play a prominent role. Never did a man contribute or seldom perhaps a man did contribute so much to our freedom and expected so little from it.

After the liberation of the country, his only concern was the uplift of our people and his only occupation was the Upanishads. It is something very rare that at the age of 76 the call of freedom was irresistible for him and he went in response to the call of the suffering people of Goa. He was brutally assaulted. His CHOTI, hair, was pulled out. He came bleeding to Belgaum with not a word, either of protest or wanting in sympathy; he was just smiles. I think he was a combination of a scholar, soldier and saint, and as I said, it is to this generation that very largely we owe our freedom.

I join in all humility in paying our homage to this great soldier of our freedom struggle.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : Sir, I associate myself with the feelings expressed by all the leaders of the political parties here in this House. Senapati Bapat was fondly known in Maharashtra as "Tatya", an elderly person who was as if a member of every family. His life, if I can use a Sanskrit word for it, was YAGNA, what you call sacrifice. From the student days to the last, it was a continuous YAGNA for him. In the early days of the freedom struggle, he belonged to that group of youngmen, and not only as a student in India but when he went abroad as a student of philosophy, he dedicated himself to the cause of independence. From that moment on wards, it was nothing but a dedication for the cause of India. Though he believed in the terrorist philosophy at that time. I have never come across a person who really believed in the philosophy of love more than him. To the last, he was living the life of another child.

[Shri Y. B. Chavan]

He fought against the Britishers; he fought against any injustice but he was never bitter against anybody. I entirely agree with Mr. Nath Pai that he was a very pleasing combination of a scholar, a patriot and a saint. We pay our respectful homage to the departed soul.

MR. SPEAKER : May I request the hon. members to stand in silence for a short while ?

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

SHRI J. B. KRIPALANI (Guna) : Sir, having paid our homage to the great patriot, I want to enquire about something regarding our conventions in this respect. I remember on the demise of our friend, Shri Syama Prasad Mukherjee, the Speaker had said that only he would say whatever he has got to say in paying homage to that great patriot and subsequently it was only the Speaker who spoke and nobody else. Then, on the demise of our beloved Prime Minister, this convention was not observed and the leaders of various parties were allowed to pay their homage. I want that you, in your judgment, should indicate what shall guide us in these matters in the future. I am afraid at the time of Shri Syama Prasad Mukherjee's death, it was considered that somebody might say something controversial and so the Speaker, at that time, in his wisdom, declared that in future this would be the convention to be followed. I would like to know what would be the procedure in future.

MR. SPEAKER : After all, it is very well-known that condolence resolutions are moved from the Chair. There is absolutely no controversy about it. Unfortunately, I do not want to express my views again because I am a little disturbed. If the leaders of parties write to me about a small matter, how can a Speaker say "No" to it? He is placed in a very embarrassing position. If the Leader of the House and the leaders of the opposition agree, it would be a very happy position for the Speaker. Otherwise, he is put in an embarrassing position. I wanted to pay my homage to the departed leader. Though it was not in the agenda, I agreed to it.

So far as the point raised by Kripalaniji is concerned, let us not discuss it here now. I would look into all the facts, how many spoke, who spoke, etc. If the House wants that the Speaker should take a decision in future, I will take the decision. Or else, if any letter is written to me, I will forward it to the Leader of the House and then the Leader of the House and the leaders of the opposition can sit together and take a decision. After all, I belong to all of you. I do not belong to any one group. I want to create that confidence in all sections of the House that I belong to all of you. I should not be put in an embarrassing position.

About the point raised by Kripalaniji, let me see the records as to who spoke and what happened on that occasion. Let us not discuss it now here.

12.40 hrs :

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ALLEGED LARGE SCALE SMUGGLING OF PULSES AND OTHER FOODGRAINS TO CHINA AND PAKISTAN THROUGH THE EASTERN BORDERS OF INDIA

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी (भोपाल) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें—

“भारत की पूर्वी सीमाओं से चीन तथा पाकिस्तान को बड़े पैमाने पर दालें तथा अन्य प्रकार के अनाज चोरी-छिपे ले जाना।”

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDA) : Government of India have seen some reports appearing in the press to the effect that according to the Madhya Pradesh Foodgrains Dealers' Federation there has been large scale smuggling of pulses from the eastern border of India into China and Pakistan. No report to this effect, however, has so far been received from any of the State Governments. The State Governments have been asked to inquire into the matter and report the correct position.