

AIR DROPPING OPERATIONS BY I.A.F.

2930. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI N. K. SOMANI :
SHRI D. C. SHARMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the I.A.F. is continuing the air dropping operations in NEFA which were formerly done by Kalinga Airways;

(b) whether it is a fact that more than 30 dropping zones in the area could not be served by the I.A.F. during the recent monsoons;

(c) if so, the reasons for this failure; and

(d) the nature of permanent arrangements for air dropping work finally decided upon ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No Sir, Some dropping zones could not be served during the monsoon due to bad weather and the time required by the aircrew to familiarise themselves with the area of operations.

(d) I.A.F. will continue to do the work.

USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY IN AGRICULTURE

2931. SHRI D. N. PATODIA :
DR. RANEN SEN :
SHRI SARJOO PANDEY :
SHRI SHRI CHAND GOEL :
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH SHASTRI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission has proposed to the Central Government the manufacture of fertilisers by using atomic energy and thereby increasing food production by 5 to 7 million tons;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he has suggested the use of electrolysis of water for manufacture of Naphtha and Phosphorous;

(c) whether it is also a fact that to conserve and reduce the cost of electricity, various suggestions have been made regarding location of big agricultural farms around atomic energy stations; and

(d) whether these suggestions have been taken into considerations by Government and if so, in what manner the suggestions are proposed to be implemented ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) to (d). A study team of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission is presently engaged in carrying out economic and technical studies on the setting up of agro-industrial complexes around low cost large nuclear power stations in India. No proposals have yet been made regarding the setting up of such nuclear energy centres.

12 Hrs.**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

REPORTED CONTRACT BETWEEN THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY NOVOSTI AND THE PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :—

Reported contract between the Soviet news agency Novosti and the Press Information Bureau of the Government of India by which the PIB will circulate Russian publicity material and photographs in India.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : The Press Information Bureau of the Government of India has not entered into any contract under which it will circulate Russian publicity material and photographs in India.

(C.A.)

I am placing on the Table of the House the text of an agreement recently entered into by PIB with the Soviet news agency Novosti (APN). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1840/67].

As will be seen from the terms of the agreement, that PIB will supply to APN feature articles, background material and photographs for distribution amongst newspapers, and periodicals published in USSR which are interested and also use the material for reference purposes.

According to the agreement APN will supply PIB feature articles, background material and photographs to be used as reference material and also to make available to such newspapers and periodicals published in India which may request or show interest in such materials. This material, like other material received from other foreign information agencies, will be available in PIB's library to Press representatives who wish to consult the material, in other words, keep it in the library for reference. PIB will use it for reference. There is no question of PIB circulating to the Indian Press the material to be received from APN which already distributes its own material to the Indian Press through the Information Department of the Soviet Embassy. The fact that the Information Department of the Soviet Embassy continues to distribute its material to the Indian Press and the further fact that PIB has not circulated from 1st of October, 1967 the date from which the agreement becomes operative provide complete proof for the assertion that PIB does not and is not intended to distribute the material to Indian Press. On the contrary if the difference in the language used is taken into consideration the agreement is favourable to India in the sense the word "for distribution amongst newspapers and periodicals published in the USSR" are missing in the clause applicable to publicity material handed over by APN to PIB. This difference in language leaves no doubt that PIB is not obliged to distribute whereas APN is obliged to distribute. The obligation for distribution entails on APN the responsibility of translating, making copies and despatching. This responsibility is not undertaken by PIB.

PIB receives similar material from other agencies, BIS, USIS, and other countries

like West Germany, Italy, Japan, etc. which is kept for reference in the library and can be seen by any journalist in the library.

SHRI HEM BARUA : This Soviet news and feature agency known as Novosti is almost a counter-part of CIA. When we had a deal with Voice of America as proposed by Mr. Nehru and when a deal for an Indo-US Educational Foundation was proposed, there was a lot of storm in this country; there is no doubt about it. The programme put in by Novosti over the Moscow Radio known as "Peace and Progress" has of late, out-Pekinged Peking in hurling abuses against this Government and this country. In that context, may I know (a) why is it that, since the Press in Soviet Russia is a controlled Press and Novosti cannot distribute all the materials without screening them and it does not have the distributing agency also in Soviet Russia, we have entered into an agreement with them; (b) since a section of the Indian Press is always beating the Russian drum in this country, why is it that the Government has officially taken the responsibility of duplicating the efforts of this section of the Indian Press; (c) if Government know whether there is any other country in the world that officially undertakes to give publicity for another country; and (d)..

MR. SPEAKER : How many parts has he in that question ?

SHRI HEM BARUA : This is the last part.

(d) is this. The Minister has said that publicity materials of other countries are also distributed in this country. Since there is no agreement with the other countries, why is it that Government thought it fit and proper to enter into an agreement with Novosti to distribute their publicity material in this country—with Novosti which is responsible for all the abuses hurled against this Government over the "Peace and Progress" programme of the Moscow Radio ?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : If my hon. friend is able to point out that even by one per cent any difference is made between Russia or these agencies and other information services of other countries, then he can find fault with us. We are receiving. (Interruptions).

(C.A.)

SHRI HEM BARUA : He says, one per cent. There is hundred per cent difference. They enter into an agreement with a particular organisation called Novosti, a Russian organisation, but they do not enter into any agreement with any other organisation of the Western countries. This shows that there is a hundred per cent difference.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I have put the document on the Table of the House and my hon. friend is requested to go through it. Then he will be satisfied that we are receiving materials from all information services of all countries. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY (Kendrapara) : He has put a specific question.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : What is the oral arrangement with other countries who do not want to put it in writing. . . *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI HEM BARUA : May I submit, Sir—I do not want the Prime Minister to change her pack horses in the midstream, but I would request her to make them submit to the order of the whip . . .

MR. SPEAKER : I know there will be difference of views. You may not agree with the answer, but let him complete the answer.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I will satisfy the hon'ble Members if they kindly hear me . . .

श्री रवि राय (पुरी) : आप सेटिस्फाई नहीं कर सकते । आप इस पर इस्तीफा दीजिए ।

SHRI K. K. SHAH : Sir, I am prepared to enter into a similar agreement with any country, on the same terms and on the same wordings.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY : When it is not necessary, why do you do that? One mistake cannot be corrected by another mistake.

SHRI HEM BARUA : May I submit, Sir, that this Minister is trying to throw dust not only into your eyes but into our eyes also. He said that he is prepared to enter into agreement with other countries also. We do not want any agreement with any country.

MR. SPEAKER : That is a matter of opinion.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA (Jalore) : Please permit me to quote from the CURRENT which says :

"Morarji Desai and S. K. Patil act as if they are not Indians; as if they are not born of Indian mothers."

This is a question from a radio broadcast—Peace and Progress—released over the Russian radio. The sponsors of this programme, amongst others, the principal sponsors are these people—Novosti. It is these people who have made insinuations against our national leaders. They have passed every sort of remark. Now, to-day, we see that a Government agency has permitted itself to become a party, to be an agent for their publicity in this country. It makes a basic difference, by entering into an agreement, because by an agreement the Government becomes an agent of the party and is obliged to make the Russian material available for distribution whenever anybody wants it. May, I, therefore, know, Sir, whether and in what manner the Government justifies any such action of entering into an agreement with these parties who had been responsible for such sort of anti-Indian radio programme?

Secondly, may I know whether this was a Cabinet decision or whether the decision was taken by the Minister-in-charge or whether it was taken by the Department concerned?

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar) : No cabinet decision.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Sir, the PIB was constituted principally for domestic, official purposes of collecting information. Where is the necessity for this institution to enter into an agreement with foreign countries?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : So far as the radio broadcast "Peace and Progress" is concerned, I entirely agree with my friend that it has no business to pass any remark . . . *(Interruptions)* which will divide this country or against any of our policies. It has no business to pass any remark. We have made inquires. This agency are not the sponsors, but I will go a step further. Whatever happened on the soil of USSR,

can anybody say that USSR is not responsible. . . (Interruptions) Therefore, this is a larger question—whether in view of the operation of the Radio broadcast "Peace and Progress" from the soil of Russia. . . (Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER : I am not able to hear anything. What is the use of so many people shouting? What is the purpose?

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : We show our resentment.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him answer.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : There is no reasoning.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : Therefore, what is happening on the soil of Soviet Russia is a matter which should be taken up with the Government of Soviet Russia. This agency has nothing to do with "Peace and Progress" . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI HEM BARUA : This agency Novosti manages the Peace and Progress Programme of Moscow Radio.

SHRI J. B. KRIPALANI (Guna) : Some years back, there was a like proposal by the USA and it had been rejected apparently. . .

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member may kindly resume his seat. On the calling-attention-notice, only those whose names appear on the Order Paper are called. I shall come to the hon. Member later.

A question had also been asked whether it was a Cabinet decision or an individual Minister's decision or a departmental decision. That question asked by Shri D. N. Patodia has not been replied to yet.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY : Whose brainwork was this?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : This agreement was entered into when the PIO went to Russia. I do not find anything wrong with this agreement.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : What is his reply to my question? Who went to Russia?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I said that the PIO had gone to Russia.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK (South Delhi) : Who went and who signed the

agreement? Who was authorised to sign it? The hon. Minister should give a clear answer to this question.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : The agency's representative had approached the PIB in the country saying that they were not getting our material, and this conversation or discussion was carried on by the PIO when he went to Russia. This discussion was finalised there. We refused to distribute their material, and when they accepted this, he signed this. I do not find anything wrong in it.

SHRI HEM BARUA : Was it a Cabinet decision? We are interested in knowing whether it was a Cabinet decision. If not, that bureaucrat must be brought to book.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI (New Delhi) : We expect the Minister. . .

श्री शिवनारायण (बस्ती) : हिन्दी में बोली।

श्री ए० ए० सोधी : बाहर हिन्दी में बोलेंगे, यहाँ अंग्रेजी में।

श्री शिव नारायण : बाहर हिन्दी के नाम पर आन्दोलन चलते हैं, डाकखाने फूंकवाते हैं और यहाँ अंग्रेजी में बोलते हैं।

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. Let there be no controversy on Hindi versus English. Shri Sheo Narain may sit down

SHRI M. L. SONDHI : I crave your indulgence to say that from times immemorial this country has known that the expression of our personality is :

"उत्तिष्ठ्य जाग्रथ प्राप्य वरान्निबोधय"

Therefore, may we expect of the hon. Minister whether he would affirm the ability of our nation to protect its internal values from external threats? May I also ask him whether he is aware that the Novosti press agency was founded in April, 1961 and was described as an information organ of Soviet publicity organisations and its whole character and the way it was formed to meet the particular difficulties that the Soviet Union was facing with China at that time make it an absolute true fact that it is a propaganda agency and one to be dis-

[Shri M. L. Sondhi]

tinguished from other Soviet organs? For example, Prime Minister Kosygin said that :

"India and the Soviet Union are bound by ties of political, economic, scientific and technical and cultural co-operation..." —and he underlined the fact, and this I would like particularly to emphasise— "...which is being developed with close regard for mutual interests".

In this case, what are the mutual interests? The hon. Minister is aware that our outflow of news through PTI and other agencies will be hampered and there will be unfair competition. As far as the inflow of news is concerned, he is aware that Soviet organs are themselves criticising the nature of their own publicity, and I can quote from the *Pravda* and other papers to show that they are trying to get rid of certain truisms of the 17th and 18th centuries and trying to come closer to modern scientific advance. What is he giving us by this agreement? He is hampering our outflow of news and he is preventing us from getting what the best Soviet minds think because he is selecting the worst Soviet agency for the purpose.

AN HON. MEMBER : What is his question?

SHRI M. L. SONDHI : My question is this. Is he prepared to resign?

SHRI NAMBIAR (Tiruchirappalli) : My question is : Will he resign here and now?

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister can say 'Yes' or 'No', and there it ends. The other thing was only by way of comment.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I think this is only a sidelight; therefore, I do not reply to it (*Interruptions*).

I again affirm, and beseech my hon. friends to remember, that what as compared to what is done with other countries not one inch more or one item more is done under this agreement. We are today handing over our publicity material to the USIS and the BSIS BIS. We receive material from them. Under this agreement, nothing more is done than this. I do not know why my hon. friends are so much upset over this (*Interruptions*). The only difference that you find is that what is an oral understanding with other countries is

put down here in writing because the communist countries put it down in writing.

SHRI S. KUNDU (Balasore) : On a point of order.

SHRI HEM BARUA. He is using some idiotic arguments.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash) : We have an External Publicity Division attached to the External Affairs Ministry whose business it is to spread news about India. The dissemination of news about our country in Moscow and other places is mainly the responsibility of our information and press officers there. Do Government intend to close down the press section in Moscow and entrust this job to Novosti in Moscow? Secondly, is this contract not a violation of the third country rule and the diplomatic code? Thirdly, is it not a fact that leading newspapers in India have dubbed, and criticised and condemned this contract as a 'bad bargain', 'dubious deal', 'scandalous business' and so on and so forth? In view of the fact that the same Government about four years ago revoked an agreement with VOA—a wise and intelligent government will learn from past experience, but this Government does not—I want to know whether in the light of these things Government will reconsider the contract with Novosti?

AN. HON. MEMBER : Read the Indian Express and Hindustan Times.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : There is a lot of difference between that agreement and this agreement. I have made that abundantly clear. It is also not correct to say that all newspapers have criticised us. Take, for example, the *Statesman* leader yesterday. That is quite different from the *Indian Express* leader. I am sure when a copy of this agreement goes to the *Indian Express* or even the *Hindustan Times*, they will change their opinion.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : (बलरामपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस बारे में एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न उठाना चाहता हूँ। भारत सरकार ने सोवियत न्यूज एजेंसी के साथ एक समझौता किया। यह समझौता अक्टूबर में

किया गया था। पार्लियामेंट की बैठक 13 नवम्बर से हो रही है। क्या सरकार के लिए उचित नहीं था कि वह स्वयं संसद को विश्वास में लेती और यह बताती कि किन शर्तों पर समझौता किया गया? समाचार पत्रों में जब समझौते के बारे में खबर छपती है और हम ध्यान दिलाओ सूचना देते हैं तो मंत्री महोदय सदन में आ कर उस समझौते की बकालत करते हैं। आप मंत्रियों को यह निर्देश दें कि भविष्य में ऐसे जितने भी समझौते होते हैं उनके बारे में सदन को जानकारी देना उनका कर्तव्य होना चाहिए नहीं तो इम्प्रो-प्राइटी के दोषी माने जायेंगे।

MR. SPEAKER: If I have followed him, his point is that while Parliament is in session, something has been announced outside.

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

श्री श्रद्धा बिहारी बाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, समझौता किया अक्टूबर में। 13 नवम्बर से पार्लियामेंट की बैठक हो रही है। अभी तक खुद की तरफ से वह सदन के सामने नहीं आये।

SHRI S. KUNDU: On a point of order. Our duty as MP's is to place before you the correct and precise facts and save you and the country from distortion. The Minister has now said that by this agreement, we gain immensely. On the contrary, we lose everything and we will not gain anything.

MR. SPEAKER: That is a different view. No discussion now.

SHRI S. KUNDU: There has been an aberration as regards this contract. Novosti is not a distributing agency. The distributing agencies are Taas and other agencies. They have not made any agreement with Tass.

SHRI HEM BARUA: Mine is not a point of order, but only a submission for your consideration. The hon. Minister said that the editorial in the Statesman is different from the leading article in the Indian Express or something to that

effect. I have gone through the leading article of the Statesman. Nowhere does it lend any support to the hon. Minister's stand.

श्री राम सेवक यादव (बाराबंकी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो सरकार की भाषा नीति और अंग्रेजी सादने की नीति है उसको ले कर उत्तर प्रदेश और दूसरे राज्यों में बड़ा विवाद हो रहा है। अध्यक्ष महोदय, वहां एक तरह से अराजकता है। विद्यार्थियों पर लाठी चार्ज और अश्रु गैस का प्रयोग हो रहा है और लोग उस में मर भी गए हैं। यह आन्दोलन बढ़ रहा है। यह भारत सरकार की भाषा नीति के कारण हो रहा है..... (व्यवधान).... आप मेरा निवेदन तो सुन लीजिए।....

MR. SPEAKER. Every time, every day you are raising this. It is a State subject, a matter of law and order.

श्री राम सेवक यादव : यह कानून और व्यवस्था का प्रश्न नहीं है। आप मेरी बात सुन लीजिए।

MR. SPEAKER: All of you will have to sit down now. Every day we are reading this in the press, about happenings in Lucknow, Banaras etc. It is a pure and simple law and order matter. When the Bill on the language issue is discussed on the floor of the House, everybody has a right to express his views, supporting and opposing, everybody is at liberty to do that; and the Business Advisory Committee has already decided and the Bill will be coming up in two or three days, I do not know, when you can express all your views. But every day after the Question Hour to raise this question is not proper, when the Bill is coming before you.

श्री राम सेवक यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, एक मिनट सुन लीजिए। मेरा निवेदन यह है कि जो कुछ उत्तर प्रदेश में हो रहा है या मध्य प्रदेश और राजस्थान में हो रहा है और दिल्ली में भी होने वाला है वह सीधा सादा न्याय और व्यवस्था का प्रश्न नहीं है। उसका सम्बन्ध भारत सरकार की भाषा नीति जो

[श्री राम सेवक यादव]

संविधान की व्यवस्था के विरुद्ध है उस से है और वह उसके लिए जिम्मेदार है जो स्थिति पैदा हो रही है। इसलिए यह काम रोको का प्रश्न है और उस पर चर्चा होनी चाहिए। वहां जलें जा रही हैं.....(ब्यवधान).....

एक माननीय सदस्य : इनकी सरकार वहां गोली चला रही है, विद्यार्थियों को कैद कर रही है और यह यहां प्रश्न उठा रहे हैं। अपनी सरकार को कहें.....

श्री राम सेवक यादव : यह हमारी सरकार और उन की सरकार का प्रश्न नहीं है। काम रोको का प्रश्न है और इस पर चर्चा होनी चाहिए।

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have taken to wrong methods now, raising any point any day. This is a wrong thing that you are following. I am really sorry. I can only sit when you are getting up. If you simply get up and go on like this, I do not want to object. When one side does like this, the other side also does, it is a question of action and reaction. How can we help it? It is not in my hands.

Now, papers to be laid.

12.28 Hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF THE TARIFF COMMISSION ON PRICES OF COAL ETC.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of following papers under sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951 :—

- (1) Report (1967) of the Tariff Commission on Prices of Coal and Soft Coke and pricing system for Washed Coal and Washery By-products.
- (2) Government Resolution No. C5-12(18)/67, dated the 27th November, 1967.
- (3) Statement showing the reasons why the documents mentioned at

(1) and (2) above could not be laid on the Table within the period prescribed in the said Act. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1839/67].

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha :—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bills, 1967, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th November, 1967".
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Insecticides Bill, 1967, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th November, 1967".

BILLS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA LAID ON THE TABLE

SECRETARY : Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha :

- (1) The Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1967.
- (2) The Insecticides Bill, 1967.

12.29 Hr.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE NINTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : I beg to move :

"That this House agrees with the Ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on 1st December, 1967".