

17.31 hrs.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

Income-Tax Officers Examination

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a very very important issue, that is, with regard to the recruitment of income-tax officers.

Sir, it was in the year 1965 that the department advertised for 200 posts and decided to hold a certain examination to fill up those posts. What has actually taken place? In 1966 an examination actually took place, in which 38,000 candidates took part. Sir, it was on the 25th March, 1968 that the results seem to have been declared. The successful candidates who have been selected, i.e., 199 candidates, have been furnished with a cyclostyled note which says: "You are being selected: or you are likely to be selected". But on that, Sir, the lines which indicated that the results had been declared on the 25th of March 1968, have been deleted. That indicates, that the department later on changed its mind and did not want to say that the results had been declared on the 25th of March, 1968.

17.32 hrs.

[Shri Vasudevan Nair in the Chair]

The interviews were completed in the month of October, 1968. And now we learn that 199 candidates have actually been selected. But what has happened in the selection is a sad story. Even those who were among the first ten in the written papers have been ignored. They have not been recruited. They have not been taken. But on the other hand these who were at the lowest rung of the ladder have been selected. In preference to the gazetted officers who have been holding gazetted posts for years together, ordinary clerks, ordinary assistants, from various departments the representatives of which were on the interview board, have been selected. The Public Service Commission had Mr. Kidwai as its representative on the Selection Committee. Mr. Mutto, who is the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance was also on the interview board. There

was another person by name Mr. Raj Singh and yet another Mr. Rajin. They constituted the interview board. And what have they done? They have done something which makes strange history. I have never come across such a naked play of nepotism before. A few officers come together and decide to take people from their own departments and ignore candidates who have come there on merit.

I know, both the Ministers are honest people. But they seem to have been duped by the Department in this matter. Full facts have not been brought to their notice. Otherwise, I am doubtful if the two hon. Ministers would have ever agreed to the scheme adopted for selection of Income-tax officers in which the marks secured by the candidates in the written papers have not been taken into consideration, on the plea that the examination was held only to screen the candidates. How is it that the result of the interview alone has counted for selection in this examination. I charge this Government with a very serious allegation that merit has been ignored. It is our duty to see that experienced and capable people come as income-tax officers to the department, people who can deliver the goods, people who can perform their job efficiently and well. Sir, reply to one of today's Starred Questions, Government have informed that a big amount is in arrears. Rs. 374.2 crores is the amount, which is now in arrears. This amount is not being realised because you recruit income-tax officers not on merit but on considerations other than merit; nepotism has been playing a great part in their selection.

May I also ask why only 199 people are being recruited and not 200 which had been advertised. Not even a waiting list is prepared, even though it is quite possible that some out of those who are selected, may not choose to serve the department and some who join may later on decide not to continue in the department? No arrangement has been made for such contingencies.

I understand there are at present 450 vacancies for ITO's. Considering the huge amount of arrears to be recovered, of about Rs. 400 crores, do we not require the services of 450 more income-tax officers? Now what is being said is that they will

[Shri Shri Chand Goyal]

hold another examination for recruitment. But let us not forget as to what happened in this case? The posts were advertised in 1965. The appointments are being made at the end of 1968. So it has already taken 3 years. Will it not take another 3 years to fill up these new 450 posts which have fallen vacant. Are Government not serious about effecting recovery of arrears of income-tax? Are we not interested in recruiting honest people i.e., men of integrity? Sir, you are aware that in the IAS examinations and in the provincial civil service examinations, in the Audit and Accounts examination and in all other important examinations, it is the written papers and the interview taken together which finally determine the merit of the candidates. But what has happened in the selection of I.T.O.'s? The score of the candidates in the written papers is being ignored completely.

I know a little about the provincial civil service examinations, specially the provincial judicial service examinations. There is no interview in judicial service at all and the score of the candidates in the written papers alone is taken into account. This is why we are able to recruit people of merit without any shadow of nepotism through these examinations. But what is happening here beats all sense. With the same ulterior motive only 200 vacancies are being filled up, when there are 650 vacancies.

May I tell the hon. Minister that in order to accommodate the people of those departments whose officers constituted the interview board have been taken. It is rather strange that the number of people who were to be invited for interview was originally 830 but subsequently was increased to 937, because the candidates in whom the Members of the Board were interested did not figure in the original list of 830. And this is why the number was increased to 970. I am sure the Minister will take note of this serious allegation which I have made with all sense of responsibility.

I am very much pained and grieved at this type of treatment where nepotism has played discriminatory major part in the selection to posts of importance and res-

ponsibility. I am sure he will remedy this mistake that has been done and candidates will be chosen on the basis of their performance in the written papers and in the interview. The matter cannot be left to the discretion of a few persons. Formerly, the members of the Public Service Commission used to be men of eminence, men of undoubted integrity and of high calibre. Now we do not have that type of people. As my hon. friend Shri Fernandes was just saying, that a few members just come together and distribute posts. This is rather serious.

This is a serious warning, for I am sure the hon. Minister, the good man that he is, and also understands the points involved in this, will never allow this naked dance of nepotism in his department and will recruit officers only on the basis of their performance in written papers together with their performance in the interview, and not leave it to the discretion of a few officers who are not behaving properly, specially in this case when they have not done so.

Some hon. Members rose—

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am told by the Deputy-Speaker that now the procedure laid down is that after the Minister replies the hon. members will be allowed to ask questions and then the Minister will reply.

AN HON. MEMBER: The Speaker changed it the next day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is left to the House and the Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): I am in your hands entirely.

श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डीज (बम्बई दक्षिण): सभापति महोदय, घ्रापकी इजाजत हो तो पहले प्रश्न पूछलें, मंत्री महोदय बाद में एक साथ जवाब दे दें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right Shri Fernandes.

श्री आर्ज फरनेन्सीज (बम्बई दक्षिण) : सभापति महोदय, भाई-भतीजावाद कैसे चलता है, यह उसका एक नमूना है। यहाँ पर कोई भी चीज ऐसी नहीं हो सकता है, जिसमें भाई-भतीजावाद न आता हो। इस समय जो प्रश्न विचाराधीन है, उस पर मैं मंत्री महोदय से पांच प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ और चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय मेरे प्रश्नों का सीधा उत्तर दें

मेरा पहला प्रश्न यह है कि यह परीक्षा दिसम्बर, 1966 में हुई और अब दिसम्बर, 1968 है, यानी दो साल हो चुके हैं मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यू०पी०एस० सी० ने आपके पास परीक्षाओं के नतीजे कब भेजे तथा इन नतीजों को आपने जाहिर क्यों नहीं किया? प्रश्न का उत्तर देंतुः आपने कहा है कि—

"The result has been communicated by the UPSC for further necessary action by the Government. It has not been published."

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपने उस को पब्लिश क्यों नहीं किया?

दूसरा—क्या आप उस रिजल्ट को तत्काल पब्लिश करेंगे?

तीसरा—कलकत्ता की हाई कोर्ट में 200 जगहों में से एक जगह को लेकर रिट-पैटीशन दाखिल हुई थी। कौन से महत्व के मुद्दे उस रिट-पैटीशन में उठाये गये थे, जिनको लेकर आपको उन जगहों को भरना असम्भव हो रहा है?

चौथा ऐसा बताया गया है कि 199 लोगों की भरती की गई है, लेकिन असल में उन को अभी तक काम पर नहीं लगाया गया है। मंत्री महोदय ने अपने उत्तर में कहा था कि—

"The remaining 199 posts will be filled up as soon as the medical examination and other necessary formalities are carried out."

इसका मतलब बिलकुल साफ है कि जिन 199 जगहों को आप भाई-भतीजावाद को इस्तेमाल करके भरना चाहते थे, वे अभी तक बरी

नहीं हैं। अब जैसा कि गोयल साहब ने प्रसलियत को पेश किया है, क्या प्राप यू० पी० एस० सी० के नतीजों को जाहिर कर के उन 200 जगहों पर उन्हीं लोगों को भरती करेंगे जिन्होंने सिनियोरिटी से पास किया है।

पाचवाँ—अगर आपका इस रिपोर्ट को जाहिर करने में कोई हरकत है तो क्या आप पार्लियामेंट के सामने उस को तत्काल पेश करेंगे।

श्री शिवशंकर झा (मधुबनी) : सभापति महोदय, इस परीक्षा में जो घाघलियां हुई हैं, जो शिकायतें आई हैं—उन को ट्रिट में रखते हुए क्या आप इसकी थोरो-जाच के लिये कोई कमेटी बहाल करेंगे ताकि मालूम हो सके कि हकीकत क्या है। कहां घाघनी हुई है, कहां नेपोटिज्म है, भाई-भतीजावाद किस डिग्री पर है और भविष्य में इस तरह की बात रिपोर्ट न हो?

दूसरे—1966 में जो टैस्ट हुआ है उस के स्टैण्डर्ड के बारे में, उस के तरीके के बारे में पूछना चाहता हूँ। आपके यहां जितने टैस्ट होते हैं, वे सब सर्व्जैक्टिव होते हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन प्रफसरों का प्रोब्वैक्टिव टैस्ट भी होता है। सभापति महोदय, आप जानते हैं कि सर्व्जैक्टिव टैस्ट और प्रोब्वैक्टिव टैस्ट क्या होता है, इस लिये क्या कोई क्राइटेरियन उन के प्रोब्वैक्टिव टैस्ट का भी आपके यहां है।

तीसरे—सभापति महोदय, आप जानते हैं पो० कैलबोर के अनुसार हिन्दुस्तान में 200 से 300 करोड़ रुपये का टैक्स इवेजन होता है, उस को रोकने के लिये ये प्रफसर लोग उस समाज में जायेंगे। कहीं ये लोग इन बिजनेस वालों में फंम न जायें, टैक्स इवेजन का सिलसिला जारी न रह जाय, इस ट्रिट से जरूरी है कि इस के प्रन्दर सामाजिक भावना हो। इस लिये मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आपके टैस्ट के प्रन्दर सोशल-सर्विस का भी कोई पैपर होता है या कोई टैस्ट होता है। सोशल सर्विस में फिदावी

[श्री शिवचन्द्र भा]

बातें नहीं होती हैं, समाज का प्राज्ञ नया कस्ट्रक्शन हो रहा है, इस लिये किताबी विषयों में ही पास हो जाना काफी नहीं है। हमारे प्रफमरान कहां तक समाज की सेवा करते हैं इस भावना का भी लाना जरूरी हो जाना है। इस लिये सोशल सर्विस का कोई पेपर या टैस्ट उन प्रफमरों का होना है या नहीं—यही मेरा सवाल है।

श्री रणधीर सिंह (रोहतक) : चेरमैन महोदय, मैरिट का नाम लेकर वेस्टेड-इंटेरेस्ट प्रोर सरमायंदारी जर्नियन के प्रादमी बहुत एक्स-प्लायेट करते हैं। इस देश की 80 फीसदी ग्राम-दनी उन गरीब लोगों से है जो देहातों में रहते हैं, लेकिन जितनी भी सर्विसेज हैं रेवेन्यू की इन्कमटेक्स की, प्राई० ए० ए० की, प्राई० पी० ए०, प्राई० एफ० ए० की, उन सब में उन मुट्ठीभर लोगों के लड़के, जो पब्लिक स्कूलों में पढ़ते हैं, बड़िया सूट पहनते हैं, लिये जाते हैं और वही लोग इस को मोनोपलाइज करते हैं, जबकि इस देश में 80 फीसदी दूसरे लोग भी बसते हैं। भा जी ने सोशल सर्विस की बहुत अच्छी बात उठाई है—मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन 200 प्रादमियों में सोशल सर्विस प्रोर रूल बैंकप्रा-उण्ड के कितने लोग लिये गये हैं।

श्री म० ला० सौधी (नई दिल्ली) : अब रूल-प्रबन्धन सब एक ही है।

श्री रणधीर सिंह : मैं इस बात को नहीं मानता—यह दूसरी बात है कि प्राप प्राई० एफ० ए० में निकल गये। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस में रूल एरियाज के, रूल-माइन्डेड जिन्होंने सोशल-सर्विस की है—कितने परसेन्ट हैं ?

दूसरी बात प्राइन्दा जो सर्विसिज का सिलेक्शन होगा—जैसे यू० पी० ए० सी० करती है, क्या उस में कोई परसेन्टेज इस बात का मुकरिर कर रहे हैं कि जो लोग रिटन पेपर के

बाद वाइवा-वोसा में या इन्टरव्यू में आयें, उन में देहात से रूल बैंकप्राउण्ड से आने वाला जो तबका है, उन को इन्सेन्टिव देने के लिये कोई परसेन्टेज मुकरिर करना चाहते हैं या नहीं ? अगर नहीं करना चाहते हैं तो क्यों ? आगे करेंगे या नहीं करेंगे और क्यों नहीं करेंगे ?

तीसरी बात—प्रापने रफी साहब को इन्टरव्यू बोर्ड में रख दिया। लेकिन यू० पी० ए० सी० में भी 80 परसेन्ट प्रादमी, जो कमीशन के मेम्बर हों, वे रूल प्राइडियाज प्रोर बैंकप्राउण्ड के होने चाहिये। उन के साथ जो ज्वाइन्ट सैफ्टेरीज बैठाये जाय, उन में भी वे प्रादमी बैठाये जाय जो रूल-वायस्ड हों। क्या इस किस्म की कोई गवर्नमेंट की पालिसी है या नहीं है ? अगर नहीं है तो क्यों नहीं है ? उस में हरिजन भी आयें, बैकवर्ड भी आयें, किसान भी आयें, मजदूर भी आयें, जो देहात में जा कर काम करें ऐसे नेशनल माइन्डेड लोग आयें, टाई-पेटीवाले या टाटा बिरला के रिस्ते-दार न आयें, जो देश का कमाऊ पूत है उस के बच्चे आयें।

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA (Kaliao-bar) : I think the Minister will agree with me that the greatest care should be taken in the selection of candidates for the posts of income-tax officers not only from the national point of view but also because of the very high requirement of honesty and probity in this case than is usually the case with other services. That is why I want to know why all the care that is usually taken in the selection of the officers for the civil administrative services does not appear to have been taken in the selection of income-tax officers. From the answers given, in the whole selection, it appears that a lot of officers must have had influence. I do not know whether it was a fact, but the point is that the number of people who appeared in the examination and had got the highest marks were not selected. This is a very serious situation. In the administrative services, one can say one needs personality which is tested at the interview. But for income-tax officers, one need not

have personality. What is necessary is honesty. If we have gone by the results at the examination, we would not have selected the people in a very bad way. After all, an income-tax officer need not dominate other people, or, he need not throw his weight about in any case. Therefore, may I know if it is not possible now or in the future to lay down a condition that results in the examination should be given greater weight, because the requirements are that only merit should be there, and so, merit should be the consideration, and therefore, why greater care is not taken in this regard ?

Then, regarding the assessment of the requirements, how can the requirements remain for months and years the same ? Because the Bhoothalingam Committee and other committees which went into the requirements have made major recommendations, and the requirements would have radically changed, and so, how do the requirements remain the same ?

श्री हुकम चन्द्र कछवाय (उज्जैन) : सभापति महोदय, मैंने आपको एक चिट्ठी लिख कर दी है। इनका लम्बा भाषण मैं नहीं दूंगा। दो शब्दों में समाप्त कर दूंगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member knows the rules of the House. Mr. Pant.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) : Sir, I have listened to the questions as well as the speech of my hon. and respected friend, Shri Goyal, I can only say that it would have been better if before casting and aspersions they had had the patience to hear all the facts, because if they had heard all the facts, I think there would have been no room for casting any aspersions, particularly on a body like the UPSC.

Let me given the House the facts. It has been said that there are arrears of income-tax and they ought to be collected quickly. We are all agreed on that, and it was because of these arrears of assessment as well as arrears in the recovery of taxes that the revenue department created in 1964 and 1965, 553 posts of income-tax officers out of which 353 were in Class II, and the cadre is likely to increase still

further in future. This has met Shri Bedabrata Barua's point.

In view of the large-scale expansion it became necessary to bring in new blood by resorting to direct recruitment, especially as large additional requirements could not be met by promotion immediately. Now, according to the recruitment rules regulating the method of recruitment to the income-tax officers service, Class II, the normal method of recruitment is by promotion of qualified inspectors. However, *ad hoc* recruitment by the selection through the UPSC may be made if, in the opinion of the Central Board of Direct Taxes, there is need for such recruitment. In terms of this provision, and in the contingency that had arisen, due to the rapid and considerable expansion of the service, it was decided to resort to direct recruitment of 200 income-tax officers, Class II, from the open market. This decision was approved by the Government. Now, the UPSC was entrusted with this work.

If fair recruitment is wanted and if, as Mr. Barua suggests, we have to recruit men of probity and honesty, I do not know what other institution there is in this country better suited for this purpose than the UPSC. If he can suggest any, I am open to that. It is in the interest of getting honest and fair selection that this matter was referred to the UPSC.

श्री शशि भूषण (खारगोन) : 375 करोड़ रुपया जो नहीं वसूल कर पा रहे हैं, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उस के लिए कितने लोगों को प्रायनिकान रहे हैं।

SHRI K. C. PANT : I am not yielding. This is a serious matter and it should be listened to seriously.

The UPSC advertised for recruitment in October, 1965. The point has been raised why it has taken so long. It is well taken and needs explanation. The closing date of receipt of applications was 6th December, 1965. Conditions of eligibility have been given. I do not need to repeat them. When the usual requisition in the prescribed form was forwarded to the UPSC by Government, they pointed out that as a large number of candidates would apply, it would be necessary to devise an

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effective method of screening the candidates for the purpose of calling them for interview. The Commission accordingly decided that there should be a written test, only qualifying in nature, for screening the applicants. Only those who secured marks above a minimum prescribed by the UPSC were to be called for interview. It has been specifically mentioned in the notification of the UPSC dated 23rd October, 1965, published in the newspapers that,

"The test, details of which are enclosed, will be qualifying in nature, the qualifying standard being such as the Commission may decide at their discretion. The test will operate as an aid to screen candidates for interview".

It was for the Commission to decide the precise method of recruitment. They decided to make the selection of suitable candidates through this method. They select candidates for Government jobs and they have been following similar methods in other similar cases, including the special recruitment for IAS. In doing so, there has been no deviation from the practice of the UPSC in the matter of recruitment by open selection, where written test is considered necessary as an aid to selection. The written test included only 3 papers: One in General Knowledge, one in General English and one in Arithmetic or Law or Accountancy. The test was originally scheduled for June, 1966.

Now we come to the reasons for delay. An upper division clerk working in Andhra Pradesh Government was refused permission by the UPSC to take the written test presumably on the ground that he, was not holding any post in a responsible capacity as prescribed. He filed a writ in the Court at Hyderabad against the rejection of his candidature. An interim order was passed by the High Court directing that the petitioner be allowed to appear for the examination, but the result be withheld pending the disposal of the writ petition. Subsequent to this direction of the court, the UPSC decided to admit all those who had applied, provided they fulfilled the prescribed educational qualifications and their applications were otherwise in order. This necessarily meant postponement of the date of the examination as

originally planned. The examination was actually held on 27th and 28th December, 1966.

The revised decision of the UPSC again created difficulties in the sense that it provoked resentment of those people who had not applied under the impression that they did not fulfil the prescribed qualifications. Two such persons alleged that the subsequent relaxation of the condition by the UPSC, without giving them an opportunity to apply, was discriminatory and they filed writs in the Delhi and Calcutta High Courts. The Calcutta High Court issued an injunction in December, 1966 restraining the UPSC from publishing the results of the examination until further orders.

On the 19th January 1968 the Court removed the injunction and allowed the respondents to bring out the results and fill up the posts, provided one post was kept vacant in case the petitioner succeeded in the writ. Accordingly, the UPSC released the result of the written test on the 21st March 1968. I want Shri Goyal to note that.

18.00 hrs.

The UPSC had considered 25,591 applications and permitted 23,357 candidates to the written test; but only 15,834 applicants actually appeared at the test and only 978 qualified for interview. The interview started in May 1968 and continued until September 1968. The final result was communicated by the UPSC on the 2nd November 1968, recommending the names of 199 candidates for appointment as Income-tax Officers (Class II). The name of one more candidate will be recommended later by the UPSC with due regard to the final orders that may be passed by the High Court of Calcutta on the writ petition referred to above.

Now, the written test in this case is only a qualifying test—I have said that earlier and I would repeat that—and is designed only to screen the candidates. If we were to have an IAS type of examination for 25,591 candidates who had applied and paid fees, it would be a colossal task involving considerable expenditure and organisation of manpower to ensure the

uniform evaluation of standards for such a large number of candidates. And even then, I do not know if Shri Jha's criterion of objectivity would be met. Also, many more papers would have to be prescribed in various subjects. The UPSC has confirmed that whenever *ad hoc* recruitment is required—for instance, special recruitment for IAS—the Commission had followed this method where the qualifying written test was only a screening test and had selected candidates finally and solely on the basis of the performance of the candidates in the interview. The interview board consisted of four members and was presided over by a member of the UPSC and included only one member of the Central Board of Direct Taxes, as representative of the Ministry of Finance. I have the names of the other members. Two members were retired officers of the Government who were not directly connected with any Ministry at the time of the interview.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : Were they previously connected with the Ministry of Finance ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : One member was Shri V. N. Rajan, a retired ICS officer. I do not know which Ministry he last served but, being an ICS officer, he must have served in many Ministries during his career. I am not so suspicious as to look into all their past history of services..... (Interruption). No, I am not yielding. This is a serious enough question without having Shri Basu jumping on it midway. Perhaps, he has not been following the discussion. I do not mind his interruptions but not when a serious subject is being discussed.

The Board thus constituted interviewed all the candidates called for interview and presented themselves for the same. It is understood that the average interview took 20 to 30 minutes and a careful assessment of the candidates was made. Therefore, it is not correct to say that some candidates have been selected who never appeared for the interview. It is somewhat embarrassing even to discuss that nepotism and favouritism played any part at all in the selections which were conducted by the UPSC.

Regarding the number of posts vacant and the number of posts that have been

filled up as a result of the examination, it may be mentioned that, as pointed out earlier, only 200 posts have been filled up by direct recruitment from the open market. The other posts in the cadre of Income-tax Officers (Class II) are being filled up by promotion, which is the normal method of recruitment, as and when vacancies arise.

MR. CHAIRMAN : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a practice that when such recruitments are made apart from the representative of the concerned department and the UPSC members other outsiders are also associated with it ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : I think, that is the usual practice. The presiding officer is a member of the UPSC.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : He has failed to impress us.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH ; He has impressed us.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Keep your impression to yourself.

SHRI K. C. PANT : I am safe if I do not impress Shri Basu.

Then, the point was raised as to when will the result be announced and when they will be appointed and so on. I think, Shri George Fernandes raised that point. As I said, the UPSC has intimated 199 names and the declaration of the list and their posting is awaiting the verification by the police as well as their medical examination. The declaration and the posting will be done within a month or two.

श्री जार्ज फर्नेन्डिस : मेरे प्रश्न का सीधा उत्तर पाये। उसको रक्षित थाप।

SHRI K. C. PANT : I think, that more or less covers the whole thing. The only thing that I would like to say at the end is that the UPSC is a body for which this House, I think, should at least strive to create a sense of respect in the whole country.

श्री जार्ज फरनेग्बीज : हमें तो विश्वास है उनके प्रति, काफी विश्वास है।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : सवाल यह है कि कितने मंत्रियों ने लिख कर प्रभाव डाला। मंत्रियों के भाई और रिश्तेदार कितने हैं।

SHRI K. C. PANT : The point to consider is that the UPSC is a body set up by the Constitution and it is like the Supreme Court. We presume that it acts impartially and it selects officers for the IAS, IFS and for all high positions in Government. You know, Sir, that in the Constitution there are certain provisions which ensure that the UPSC does remain impartial. For instance, the expenses of the UPSC under article 322 are charged to the consolidated Fund of India. They are not debated here; they are charged as a voted part of the Budget. Then the members of the UPSC are not eligible for Government employment so that they are

independent. Their independence is secure. Therefore it is an institution for which this House should inculcate respect in the country and it is our duty to see that at least some of these crucial, critical, important institutions survive in this country. I think that without this institution we also cannot function. We have to have a UPSC which does all these things.

As I have just now told you, this was a case of *ad hoc* selections. This procedure was settled by the UPSC. The whole selection was done by the UPSC. Certain difficulties were created that led to delays but it is very wrong, I think, to ascribe motives either for the delays or for the selection. I think, we should respect the UPSC in this matter and not cast any doubts.

18.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 3, 1968/ Aghrayana 12, 1890 (Saka).