

[Shri K. C. Pant]

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12.22 Hrs.

STATEMENT RE: INDEPENDENCE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF SOUTH YEMEN

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : After more than one century and a quarter of colonial domination, South Arabia today emerges as a free and independent nation—The People's Republic of South Yemen. On this auspicious occasion, we extend our greetings and offer our good wishes to the Government and the people of the new State. We also pay our tribute to the valiant freedom fighters who have laid down their lives during the struggle for their independence.

There have been close and intimate relations for centuries between India and South Arabia. It shall be the earnest endeavour of the Government of India to further strengthen our relations with the independent State and also to extend such economic and technical assistance as we can and which they may need.

As the House is aware, India has consistently supported the right to independence and sovereignty for the people of South Arabia, and for many years now we have made earnest efforts for the achievement of this aim through the United Nations and otherwise. Therefore, it is a matter of great satisfaction and pleasure to us that South Arabia is now an independent nation.

The independence of South Arabia is yet another step towards decolonisation in the world. It is earnestly hoped that the day is not far off when the remaining colonised peoples and countries will also become independent.

The Government of India has extended recognition to the People's Republic of South Yemen and it is our intention to convert our Commission in Aden into

an Embassy with a resident Ambassador. The necessary steps in this regard have already been initiated.

I am sure that all Members of this House, as also the people of India, join me in extending a warm welcome to the new State of the People's Republic of South Yemen in the comity of nations and in wishing it a bright future.

12.25 Hrs.

STATEMENT RE: SITUATION IN WEST BENGAL

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is aware of the action taken by the Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly yesterday, and the observations which he made while adjourning the Assembly *sine die* have been published in the press to-day. While concluding his observations, the Speaker said :

"The matters in issue are of the highest constitutional importance..... It is obvious, therefore, that if I am to find out how exactly I should act so as to preserve and protect the privileges of this House, I should need more time and then only gave a considered ruling on the grave issues at stake. This is why in exercise of my powers under Rule 15 I have adjourned this House *sine die*."

While reserving final judgment, the Speaker has nevertheless expressed his views on a number of issues. I do not wish to comment on the conduct of the Hon'ble Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. But there are certain matters on which I should like to make the stand of the Central Government clear.

According to the best legal advice available to us it was within the constitutional competence of the Governor to dissolve the Council of Ministers headed by Shri Ajoy Mukherji in the circumstances in which the Governor did so . . . . . (Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, No.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : We are further advised that the Council of Ministers headed by Dr. P. C. Ghosh is lawfully constituted..... (Interruptions)

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर) : बिल्कुल नहीं ।

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : We are convinced that this is a correct view and that, notwithstanding the observations..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, Order, please.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : We are convinced that this is a correct view and that, notwithstanding the observations made by the Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Dr. P. C. Ghosh and his colleagues continue to function..... (Interruptions)

श्री राम सेवक यादव (बाराबंकी) : कैसे ?

श्री मधु लिमये : आप को आपकी ही भाषा में उन्होंने जवाब दिया है ।

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : ..... as the lawful Council of Ministers of West Bengal.

The Governor's action in dissolving the Council of Ministers headed by Shri Ajoy Mukherji and installing the one headed by Dr. P. C. Ghosh was based on his judgment that Shri Ajoy Mukherji had ceased to have the support of a majority of Members in the Assembly..... (Interruptions) and that Dr. Ghosh had such support. By adjourning the sitting of the Assembly *sine die* the Speaker did not allow it to be tested by a vote of the Assembly..... (Interruptions) whether Shri Ajoy Mukherji or Dr. P. C. Ghosh had the support of the majority. But the events yesterday have made it clear that Dr. P. C. Ghosh has the majority.

MANY HON. MEMBERS FROM THE OPPOSITION rose—

MR. SPEAKER : Will you kindly resume your seats? Some hon'ble Members have given me this morning—that is natural—a substantive motion in connection with this. I discussed with the hon'ble Members of the Opposition—

Mr. Mukherjee, Mr. Banerjee, Dr. Ranen Sen, Mr. Indrajit Gupta and Mr. S. N. Dwivedy and yourself also—the substantive motion that :

"This House recommends to the President that he be pleased to dismiss the present Governor of West Bengal for his unconstitutional act of dismissing the ULF Ministry in West Bengal."

That was the motion given in the name of five hon'ble Members.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (बलरामपुर) : आज गृह मंत्री जी ने एक महत्वपूर्ण वक्तव्य दिया है। उस वक्तव्य पर सदन को विचार करने का अवसर मिलना चाहिये। एक तरीका विचार करने का अवसर देने का यह है कि आप एक ऐसा संकल्प स्वीकार करें जिस में गृह मंत्री के वक्तव्य पर चर्चा उठाई जा सके और उस प्रस्ताव के वैकल्पिक संकल्प के रूप में ये प्रस्ताव आ सकते हैं। गृह मंत्री के वक्तव्य पर विचार करने के बाद सदन राष्ट्रपति को जो भी सिफारिश करना चाहे कर सकता है।

MR. SPEAKER : Does the hon'ble Member want a separate discussion? I think we can club both.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : चर्चा एक ही हो।

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस प्रस्ताव का और श्री वाजपेयी ने जो सुझाव दिया है, उस का मैं विरोधी भी नहीं हूँ। लेकिन मैंने आप को एक काम-रोको प्रस्ताव दिया है। उस का और इस प्रस्ताव का कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है। अगर आप कृपया मेरे काम-रोको प्रस्ताव को पढ़ेंगे, तो आप देखेंगे कि मैंने उस में कहा है.....

MR. SPEAKER : Whatever it is, I have not accepted it. There is no point in discussing it.

श्री मधु लिमये : मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस काम-रोको प्रस्ताव पर भी बहस हो, क्योंकि इस सरकार ने पहले अनुमान नहीं लगाया कि

[ श्री मधु लिमये ]

संविधान के अनुच्छेद 164 और पश्चिम बंगाल विधान सभा के नियम 15 के जो परस्पर-विरोधी भाष्य किये जा रहे हैं, उस से संवैधानिक आपत्ति उत्पन्न होगी, संविधान पर अमल नहीं होगा और एक संकट पैदा होगा। इस लिए हम इस सरकार की असफलता के लिए उस की आलोचना करना चाहते हैं। आप इन के प्रस्ताव को भी ले लीजिए और काम-रोको प्रस्ताव को भी ले लीजिए, क्योंकि सरकार की संवैधानिक असफलता, कांस्टीट्यूशनल फेल्युर हुआ है।

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY (Kendrapara) : You had read out some motion, but the motion which I had given notice of was slightly different from it. I did not mention the word 'dismissal' etc. in my motion, but I had only suggested 'recommend to the President to remove' . . .

MR. SPEAKER : It is a difference of only one word, but substantially it is the same.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY : I have not suggested outright dismissal etc. I had referred to the present situation. I do not know whether this has been referred to in the motion which you have been pleased to accept.

MR. SPEAKER : Let me explain the position. A number of distinct motions had come. It is not as though the same wording was there in all of them; the wording may have been a little different in each one of them, but the substance is the same, namely removal of the Governor. My point was this. The statement of the Home Minister will have to be discussed, as Shri A. B. Vajpayee has said.

SHRI A. K. SEN (Calcutta—North—West) : We support it.

MR. SPEAKER : Apart from that, suppose on an adjournment motion we begin discussing whatever has happened in an Assembly, then I do not know where it will lead to, tomorrow it may be Madhya Pradesh and day after tomorrow it may be some other State where the Speaker may adjourn the

House or something else may happen. We are not competent to discuss what happens in the Assembly.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (उजैन) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, . . .

MR. SPEAKER : After I go home, Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai can teach me; and I would like to take some lessons from him also, but here unfortunately I am in the Chair and he should listen to me. If we begin discussing what has happened in an Assembly, on an adjournment motion, then it will be a dangerous thing, because so many Assemblies are there. But I do admit that the Home Minister's statement will have to be discussed, and opportunity must be given for that; there is no doubt about it. The Home Minister has just now made a statement, and it is the property of the House today, and it must be discussed. I am fixing up some time for it tomorrow. I did consult the Opposition leaders and I suggested that we could discuss it for about a couple of hours tomorrow. I have fixed up the time for this tomorrow. . . .

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Please make it 3½ hours.

MR. SPEAKER : For this evening I have already allowed a discussion on the situation in Kashmir. Between this evening and tomorrow morning, there is not going to be much of a material change either in the Governor or in the Government there. Therefore, I have admitted this discussion for tomorrow, and we can certainly discuss it tomorrow.

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI (Berhampore) : In your wisdom you have allowed a discussion on the statement made by the Home Minister and also on the substantive motion of Shri Surendranath Dwivedy and others. But I think you have not perhaps given consideration to this fact namely that a situation has arisen in West Bengal where there is some kind of a constitutional impasse. The Central Government here have taken one view that the Government headed by Dr. P. C. Ghosh there is perfectly legal and constitutional.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member can discuss all this tomorrow.

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI : It is true that we can discuss all that tomorrow. But at the same time it has been our experience that in these matters we cannot always go by the opinion of the Law Ministry and the Home Ministry which has referred it to the Law Ministry. I would only refer you to the celebrated Berubari case. The Government here had taken the view and the former Attorney-General also had said the same thing that the Government had the right to cede any area to other countries.....

MR. SPEAKER : He can discuss it tomorrow. Now he is going into the merits. What is his suggestion?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The Governor there should be dismissed.

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI : My suggestion is that this aspect of the matter namely whether there is a constitutionally and properly constituted government functioning in West Bengal.....

AN. HON. MEMBER : It has already been decided.

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Who has decided it?

Article 355 lays upon the Government here the responsibility for seeing that the government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER : That is exactly what he will discuss tomorrow on the statement of the Home Minister.

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI : That cannot come under the substantive motion that you have read out, calling upon the Government.....

MR. SPEAKER : The Home Minister's statement also will be before the House.

श्री मधु लिमये : काम-रोको प्रस्ताव को भी लिया जाये ।

MR. SPEAKER : Why does he want to complicate it further? I have already allowed the discussion.

श्री राम सेवक यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, भारत सरकार एक एक कर के ऐसी कार-गुजारियां दिखा रही है , . . . .

MR. SPEAKER : He is going into the merits.

श्री रामसेवक यादव : . . . . .जिनसे सारे देश का वातावरण क्षुब्ध हो रहा है अंग्रेजी लाने और भारतीय भाषाओं की उपेक्षा को ले कर आज उत्तर प्रदेश में आग लग रही है ।

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. The language issue in UP cannot be raised here.

श्री रामसेवक यादव : उस को ले कर मैं ने एक काम-रोको प्रस्ताव दिया है । अंग्रेजी लादी जा रही है और भारतीय भाषाओं की उपेक्षा हो रही है ।

MR. SPEAKER : The language Bill is coming here. If he wants to condemn English or Hindi or whatever he wants, he could do it then.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : उस बिल की वजह से तो उत्तर प्रदेश में आन्दोलन हो रहा है । आप कह रहे हैं कि बिल आ रहा है । उस से आन्दोलन और बढ़ेगा । उस बिल को रोकना चाहिये ।

MR. SPEAKER : I know. I cannot help it. The State Government is there. (Interruptions) It is a bad principle that so many hon. Members should get up and begin speaking. I have not permitted any of them to talk about Hindi or the agitation in Banaras.

If the agitation in Banaras is permitted to be referred to here, lathi charge somewhere else will be raised. No please. If we allow that, there will be no end (Interruptions).

श्री मधु लिमये : बनारस विश्वविद्यालय का मामला केन्द्रीय मामला है । माननीय सदस्य लखनऊ और इलाहाबाद का मामला नहीं उठा रहे हैं । वह बनारस का मामला उठा रहे हैं ।

श्री रामसेबक यादव: मेरी बात एक मिनट में खत्म हो जायेगी। अध्यक्ष महोदय, . . .\*\*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing that is being said will be recorded. Shri Khadilkar.

12.36½ HRS.

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL  
EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION  
OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRI KHADILKAR (Khed) : I beg to move :

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be further extended upto the first day of the next session".

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be further extended upto the first day of the next session".

*The motion was adopted.*

12.37 HRS.

MOTION RE : FOOD SITUATION  
IN THE COUNTRY—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER : Further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Annasahib Shinde on the 29th November 1967, namely :—

"That the food situation in the country be taken into consideration", along with the amendments moved.

Shri P. K. Deo may continue.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi): Yesterday I was saying that the mess in our food and agriculture sector is the culmination of the persistent pursuit of wrong policies by Government all these years since independence. A faulty order of priorities in planning, neglect of agriculture and irrigation, excessive taxation and suffocating controls with attendant corruption and waste and lastly, the expropriatory land reforms—all these together have been responsible

for bringing about disaster on the food and agriculture front. This has resulted in our overdependence on foreign food aid.

In the beginning of every Plan, we have been told parrot-like that we shall attain self-sufficiency at the end of the Plan. But it has turned out to be a complete moonshine. Our dependence on foreign food aid is bad, but this is inevitable under the present circumstances. Foreign food aid is increasing from Plan to Plan. From an annual average of 2.4 million tonnes in the First Plan, it had gone up to 13 million tonnes last year, and this year we estimate that we shall be importing 7.5 million tonnes.

12.40 HRS.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

In this regard, I would like to pay our grateful thanks to the foreign countries, especially Australia, Canada and USSR, and particularly USA, which gave aid in the shape of P.L. 480, for their timely aid to help us turn this tight corner.

Our achievement in the field of food production is far from satisfactory. Our food production has not kept pace with the growth of our population. Every day we add 24,000 people to our population, and 12 million people, the total population of Australia, is added every year. It is like climbing a greasy pole. For every foot of height gained in climbing, we lose three feet.

In crop yield also, we are one of the lowest in the world. In wheat we produce 898 kg. per hectare, whereas the UK produces 3,930 kg. and Netherlands 4,230 kg. Similarly, in the case of rice, our production figure is also very low. It is 1,530 kg. per hectare, whereas in Netherlands it is 4,230 kg. and in Spain 6,360 kg. There have been some startling revelations in the ECAFE report so far as our economic growth is concerned. It has stated that if we proceed at this rate; it will take 139 years for us to reach the Japanese level of today, and it will take 205 years to reach the stage of New Zealand.

It is because of these wrong priorities that there has been a complete neglect of our basic industry, that is agriculture. We are glad that our campaign to

\*\*Not recorded.