

[Shri P. C. Sethi]

(ii) G. S. R. 923 published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd April, 1969, together with an explanatory memorandum.

4. A statement showing reasons for delay in laying the Notification mentioned at (3) (i) above. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—829/69*]

12.51 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE  
ANNOUNCEMENT RE INDUSTRIAL  
LICENSING POLICY

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH (Pali) : Sir, I am sorry that I have to raise this subject. But I do not know how long this House can continue to be an idle spectator to the cavalier attitude of the Government and its merry trotting by-passing the privileges of this House. This short of attempt has been made by the Government to by-pass the House and to treat it with contempt in matters of policy and amendments thereto often in the past, and the Speaker, the Chair, on all those occasions has ruled that policy decisions and amendments thereto should first be announced in the House if the Parliament is sitting.

In this connection,—since it relates also to certain important subjects,—I refer to the industrial licensing policy—

MR. SPEAKER : That is excepted by everybody.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Yes, there is reason for my raising it. (*Interruption*) From the working of this Government during the last two years that I have been here, I can say that the Minister in his reply would say that this was not a policy decision but it is a change of rule in the industrial licensing policy. And that is why I wanted to protect myself and I proceed to quote the position in regard to this matter. The *Practice and Procedure of Parliament* by Kaul and Shakhder says :

“In order to keep the House informed about matters of public importance or to state the Government’s policy, in regard to a matter of topical interest...”

This industrial licensing policy is also a matter of topical interest—and

“In order that the House may come to know at the earliest opportunity about all serious occurrences, a convention is being followed that Ministers make statements in the House regarding such occurrences *suo motu*.”

In continues to say :

“It has also been held that policy statements should first be made on the floor of the House, when the House is in session, before releasing them to the Press or the public.”

You were pleased to say a few minutes back that everybody knows this. But during the last two or three months of the working of this Government, you will see that apparently they have not been following this convention. Just now, the Plan was mentioned. We do not know why it was not placed or could not be placed on the Table of the House ; we read that it was being discussed in the National Development Council. We do not know why it could not be placed here before. The NDC had discussed it earlier. Similarly, in the matter of the industrial licensing policy—

SHRI NATH PAI (Rajapur) : What is the *locus standi* of the NDC ?

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Similarly, we read in the papers sometime back that the Government had taken a decision on cement decontrol and it was only after 10 days of that decision did the Minister place it on the Table of this House. It was a month back, probably, when at the meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh had announced certain concessions and extensions of amenities while the House on that particular day was discussing the demands of the Railway Ministry. Even this morning, we have sent you a telegramme in which it has been mentioned as to how Dr. Ram Subhag Singh has made certain announcements regarding the railway extension programme in Banaskantha where an election campaign is going on now.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Shame, shame.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : There have instances after instances where such things have been done. (*Interruption*) I now come to the industrial policy announcement.

The newspapers say, "The new industrial licensing policy to be followed up to next year was announced by the Government of India today after a review of the progress in the past one year in different engineering and non-engineering industries" etc.

AN HON. MEMBER : Read the heading.

SHRI S. K. P. TAPURIAH : My indignation will not go away by this. As if it is a gift to the nation during the Gandhi Centenary Year, the heading says "Beer taken off the banned list for licence". The question arises whether this matter is an announcement of policy or not.

I would submit, Sir, that it is a policy matter, as the title of the notification suggests. It is analogous to the Import Control Policy, the rules of which are revised every year and presented to the House first these are one matter of considerable national importance for the industrial development of the country and the House should have the first right to be seized of this matter.

My most serious objection is, why was this announcement made at this particular time? Could it not have been made a few weeks back, so that the House, while discussing the Demands of the Ministry of Industrial Development, could have discussed it.

Nobody can believe, Sir, not even you, that this Government whose anthem of life is delay and indecision could have formulated the new policy overnight. These things are happening very often and I request you to pull up the Government for its cavalier attitude and for the contempt it shows to Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER : So far as the plan is concerned, this has been the practice

for years. Whether the NDC has any *locus standi* or not, etc. are important matters which can be discussed later. I cannot go into the merits now. (*Interruptions*).

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंनेर) : ऐन० डी० सी० जरूर डिस्कस करें, इस पर इतराज नहीं है। सवाल यह है कि पहिले सदन के सामने भ्रानी चाहिये।

MR. SPEAKER : In the NDC, the Chief Ministers of various States are present. This practice has been going on. This is not the first time it is done. This is the fourth Plan. We can discuss this matter when we discuss the plan. Don't mix it up with the industrial licensing policy. So far as the industrial licensing is concerned, the Minister can answer it now. But whether the plan can go before the NDC or whether it is to be discussed by Parliament first, whether Chief Ministers should be consulted or not, etc. can be considered during the plan discussions.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : As you have rightly pointed out, today we are concerned with the specific matter which deals with my ministry. It is unfortunate that the hon. member mixed it up with two other matters concerning the Prime Minister and the Railway Minister. I would confine himself to the two issues he has raised with regard to my ministry. I think he has himself given the reply to the question which he has posed. There is no desire on our part to keep anything from Parliament where a matter of policy is concerned. But what has happened is the publication of a list, which is not a policy matter. It only gives the category of certain items which are banned and certain items which are not banned. I will mention two or three items to indicate that no question of policy is involved. For example, the existing entry says, "Internal combustion engines above 50 HP". What we have said now is "Internal combustion engines above 50HP excluding marine engines". We are giving more details, so that people who are applying for licence may not be put to any

[Shri F. A. Ahmed]

difficulty. It is not a question of policy. It is only by way of clarification.

श्री मधु लिमये : इमानदारी से कह देते कि गलती हो गई, आइन्दा नहीं करेंगे।

13 hrs.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : This is only for the purpose of clarification for the entrepreneurs so that they may not be in difficulty when they are filling their application for licences. These lists were periodically published twice a year before 1966 and once a year since 1966. In 1967 they were published and in 1968 also they were published when the House was in session and because they did not concern policy matters we did not place them before the House. We think it is not a matter with which any policy is concerned. It is only for the purpose of giving an indication of those particular items which are banned and those which are not banned that these lists are published.

One of the purposes of publishing these lists is that in respect of those items where we have reached the capacity indigenously if we find that in the course of two or three months we have reached that capacity we put those items in the banned list. If for that purpose for every item we have to come to this House and place the matter before the House it will mean that all those matters which are dealt with in an executive capacity and which have nothing to do with the policy, as these lists are, will come before this House. Therefore, this was not placed before the House. The question of cement was raised. May I say that the earliest opportunity after the Government had taken a decision was availed of to place a statement regarding that policy before this House. If some newspaper got some information somewhere, for that Government is not responsible.

SOME HON. MEMBERS *Rose*—

MR. SPEAKER: We adjourn for lunch now and we will meet again at 14.00 hours when the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting, and Communications will reply to the debate on the Demands for Grants relating to his Ministry.

13.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till fourteen of the clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

DEMANDS\* FOR GRANTS—*contd.*

(THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING.)

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरी आपसे गुजारिश थी कि पिछले दस-न्यारह दिन से बिहार में शिक्षकों और प्रोफेसरों की हड़ताल चल रही है। इसमें पहली बात तो यह है कि इस तरह की लड़ाई और संघर्ष शुरू हो गया है। दो सौ से अधिक प्रोफेसर जेल जा चुके हैं और उन्होंने कहा है कि हमारा एक-एक आदमी जेल जायेगा। उसके बाद हमारी बीवियां भी जायेंगी और बच्चे भी जायेंगे। मैं मानता हूँ कि शिक्षा राज्य के अधीन आती है। लेकिन आप यह जानते हैं कि उच्च शिक्षा हायर एजुकेशन, केवल केन्द्र सरकार के दायरे में आता है जिसके लिए युनिवर्सिटी ग्रांट्स कमीशन है। युनिवर्सिटी ग्रांट्स कमीशन के द्वारा जो सुभाव दिये गये, जो सिफारिशें की गई हैं, उनके ऊपर राज्य सरकार भ्रमल नहीं कर रही है तो ऐसी हालत में क्या शिक्षा मंत्री डा० वी० के० आर० वी० राव, जो स्वयं एक शिक्षक रह चुके हैं, उनसे आप अपील करेंगे कि वे तत्काल पटना जायें और राज्य सरकार और शिक्षकों के बीच में समझौता कराने की कोशिश करें। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, दो सौ प्रोफेसरों का जेल जाना कोई मामूली बात नहीं है। 40 हजार छात्र इस वक्त पढ़ाई

\* Moved with the recommendation of the President.